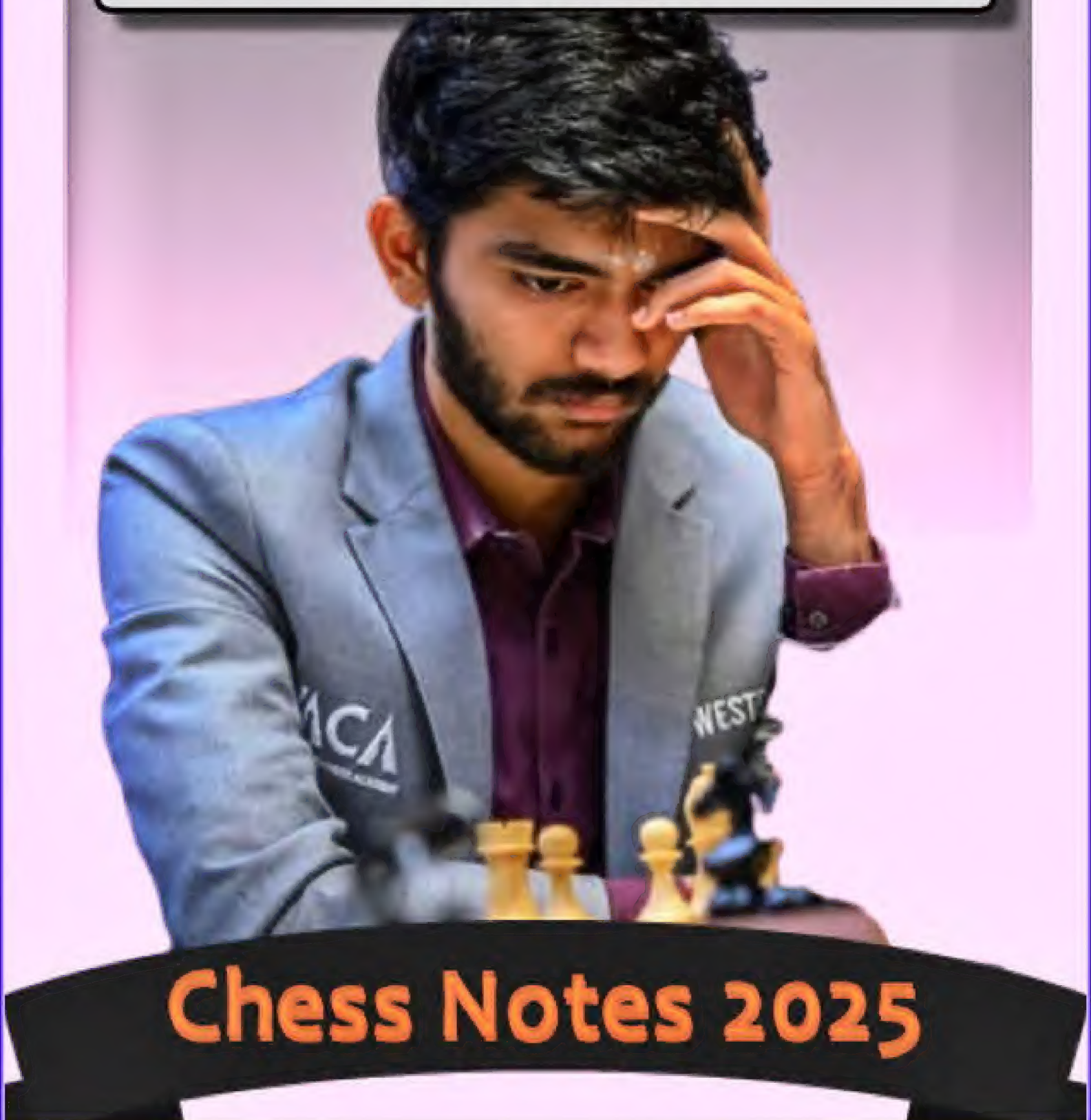
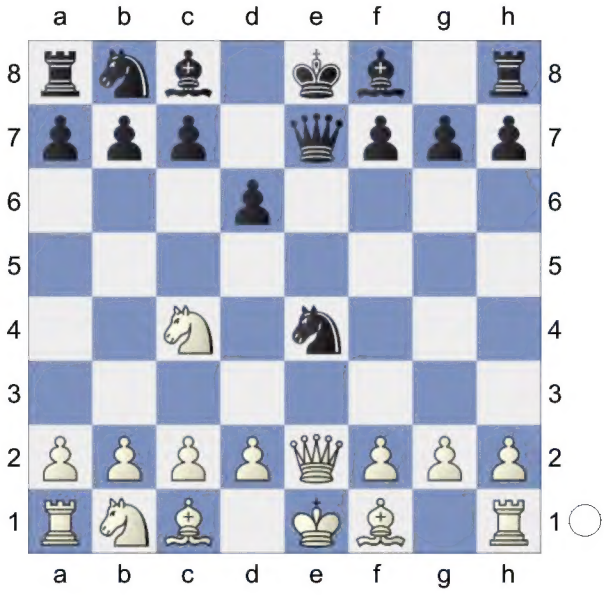
How Gukesh Plays Chess
205 Games



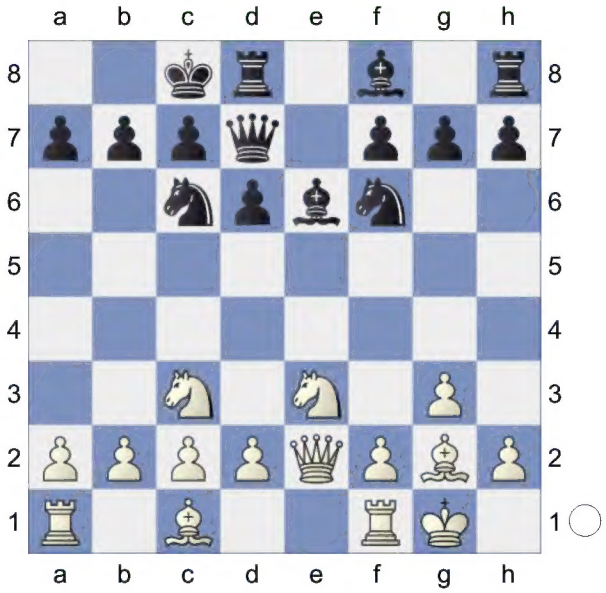
Chess Notes 2025

1 **C42**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
■ **Erigaisi,Arjun** **2801**
87th Tata Steel Masters (13.5) 02.02.25
[TA]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves
Pelea a cuchilladas entre los dos jóvenes más prometedores de la élite. Ambos reyes parecían muertos, pero Rapport erró, y Yi Wei convirtió su osadía en victoria. Defensa Petrov (C42): **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nc4 Nxe4 5.Qe2 Qe7**

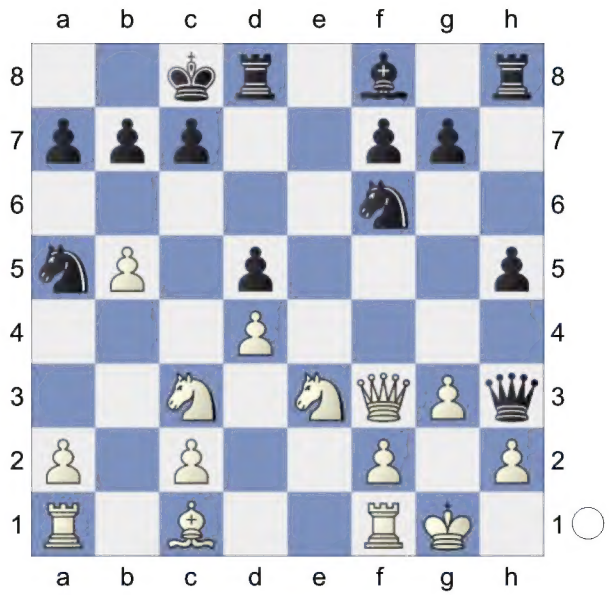


6.Ne3 Nf6 7.Nc3 Be6 8.g3 Nc6 aiming for ...d5.
[8...d5 9.Bg2 c6 10.d4 g6 11.0-0 Bg7 12.f4 Na6 13.a3 Nc7 14.Bd2 0-0-0 15.Rae1 Rde8 16.Qd3 Qd8 17.f5 Bd7 18.Na4 Ne4 19.Bb4 Nb5 20.c3 Bh6 21.fxg6 fxg6 22.c4 Bxe3+ 23.Rxe3 Kovalev,V (2664)-Smirnov,A (2549) Batumi 2018 playchess.com [TA] 1-0 (73)]
9.Bg2 Prevents d5. The position is equal. **9...Qd7 10.0-0N**
[10.b4 d5 11.b5 Nd4 12.Qd3 c5 13.0-0 0-0-0 14.Re1 h5 15.h4 g5 16.b6 a6 17.hxg5 Ng4 18.Ncxd5 h4 19.Nc7 h3 20.Bxb7+ Kxb7 21.Qxa6+ Kc6 22.Nxg4 Bxg4 23.b7+ Kxc7 24.Qa5+ Kb8 Salman,F (2702)-Chapter,W (2706) Cesko (ch) 70/512 2017 Inf 68 [Hens, Bernhard] 0-1 (32) *(24...Kd6 25.Qb6+ Kd5 26.Re3 h2+ 27.Kh1 Qc6 28.Rb1 Qxb6 29.Rxb6 Bd6 30.Bb2 Rde8* 0-1 (32) Rapport,R-Wei,Y LXXIX Tata Steel (6). Wijk aan Zee 2017 *)*]
10...0-0-0



11.b4 With the idea b5. **11...d5 12.b5 Na5** Hoping for ...d4.
[12...Ne7!?]
13.d4! Bh3 14.Bxh3 0.01/15
[14.Bf3!± 0.37/11 deserves consideration.]
14...Qxh3= 15.Qf3 h5!

(Diagram)



16.Nexd5 h4 17.Nxf6 gxf6 18.Rd1 -0.96/14

[18.Qg2!= 0.10/9 Qxg2+ 19.Kxg2]

18...hxg3∓ 19.hxg3

[19.Qxg3? Qh5 20.Rd3 *(20.Bf4? Bd6-+)* 20...Bd6-+]

19...Nc4!→ White must now prevent ... Bb4. Black goes for the king.

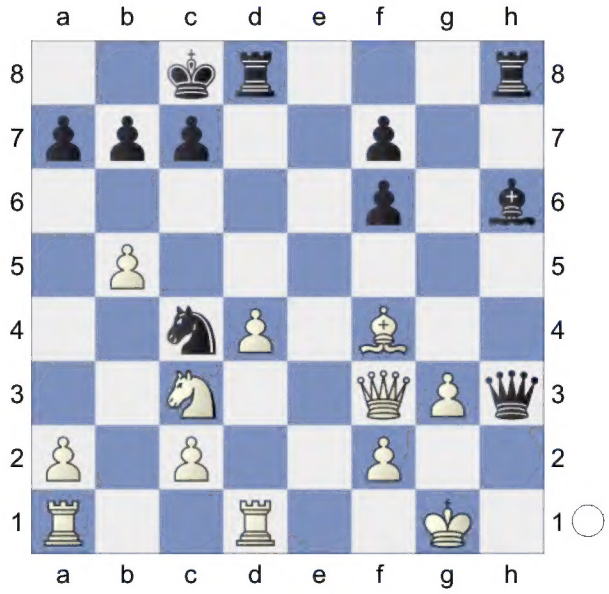
[19...Bb4?! 20.Na4=]

20.Bf4 -1.69/11

[20.Qg2?! Qf5∓]

[20.Rb1∓ -0.83/9]

20...Bh6!-+



Threatens to win with ...Bxf4. **21.Bxh6**

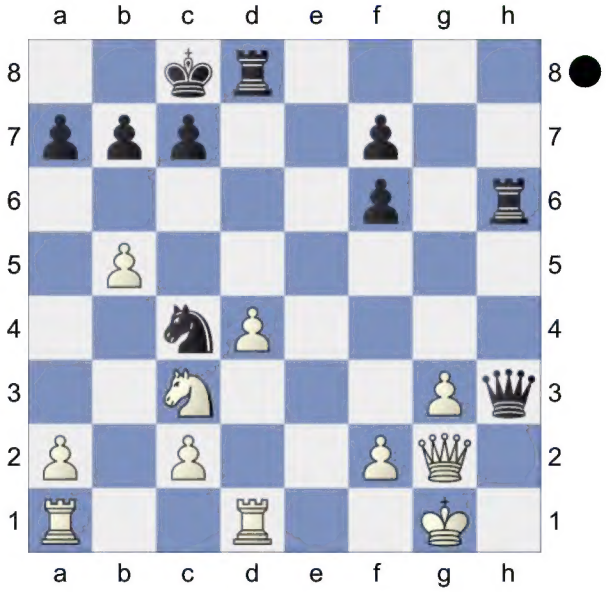
[21.Bxc7 Kxc7 22.Qg2 Bd2 23.b6+ axb6 24.Nb5+ Kd7-+]

21...Rxh6

[21...Qxh6 22.Qf5+ *(22.Qg2? Ne3-+)* 22...Kb8 23.Kg2∓]

22.Qg2 -2.30/10

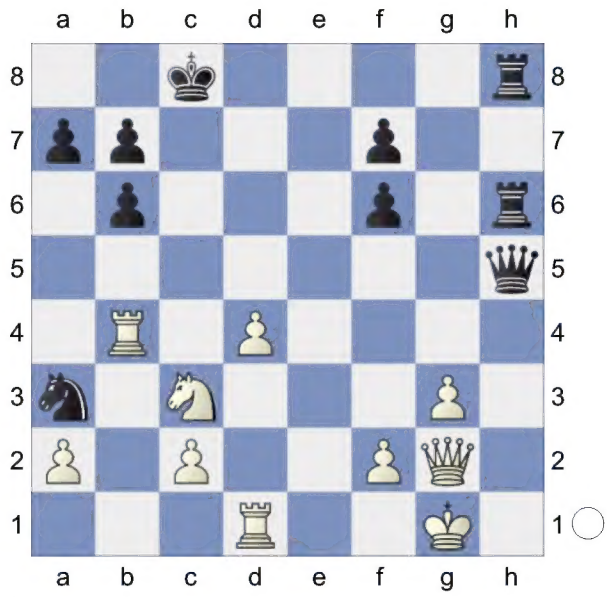
[22.Rab1∓ -1.57/9 was called for.]



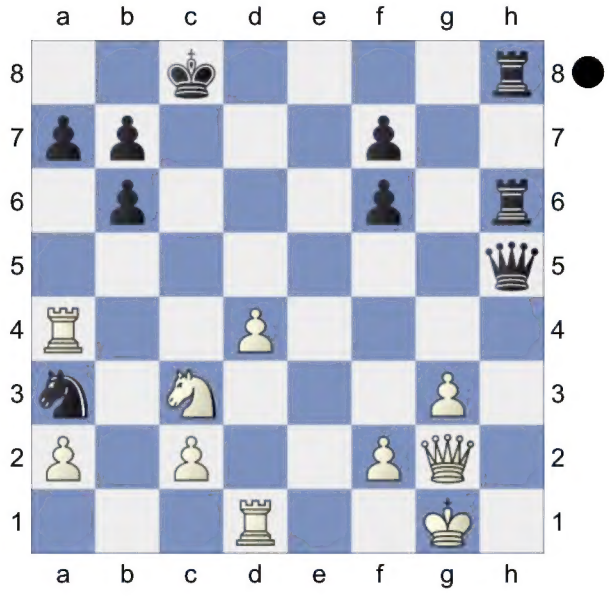
22...Qh5! 23.Rab1 Rdh8 24.Rb4 Na3 25.b6 cxb6

[25...axb6 26.Ra4 Nxc2 27.Ra8+ Kd7 28.Rxh8 Rxh8 29.Qxb7∓]

(Diagram)



26.Ra4



Nb5

[Worse is 26...Nxc2 27.Rxa7 Qh1+ 28.Qxh1 Rxh1+ 29.Kg2 Ne1+ 30.Rxe1 R8h2+ 31.Kf3 Rxe1 32.Ra8+ Kd7 33.Rf8∓]

27.Rd3 Nxc3 -4.67/13 Chess con chili.

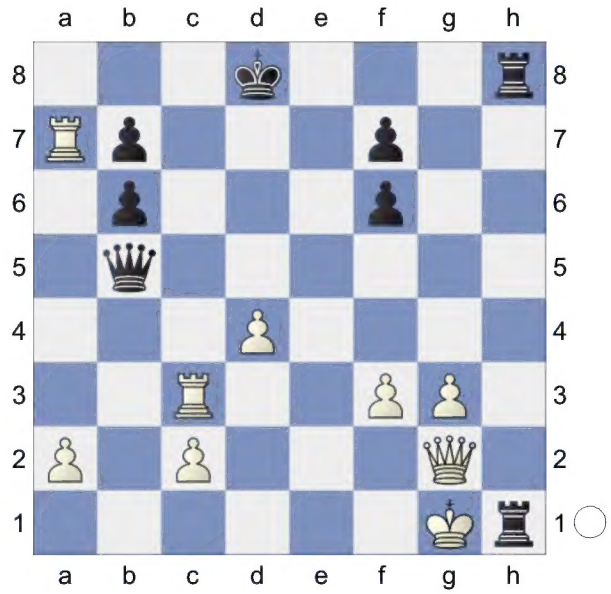
[⌓27...Re8 -3.11/10 (-> ...Re1+) 28.f3 Re1+ 29.Kf2 Rh1]

28.Rxc3+ Black is clearly winning.

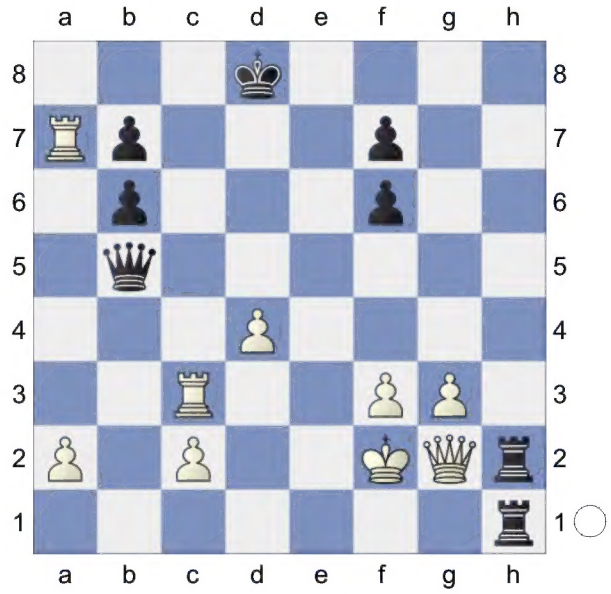
28...Kd8

[Stronger than 28...Kb8 29.g4 Qh1+ 30.Qxh1 Rxh1+ 31.Kg2 R8h2+ 32.Kg3 Rh3+ 33.Kg2 Rxc3 34.Kxh1-+]

29.f3 Qb5 30.Rxa7 Rh1+



31.Kf2 R8h2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.01 (flawless)

0-1

2 **D02**
□ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2741**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
Tata Steel Masters TB blitz (3) 02.02.2025 *[TA]*

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4N

[3.e3 c5 4.b3 Nc6 5.Bb2 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0

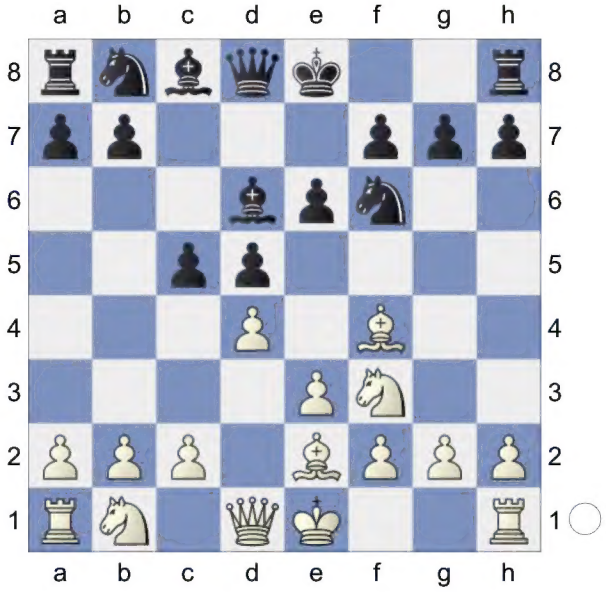
A) 7...Bd6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.c4 *(9.h3 Bh5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.c4 Qe7 12.Ne5 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Rfd8 15.Rad1 Rac8 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.cxd5 Rxd5 18.Ne4 Qd8 19.Rxd5 exd5 20.Rd1 Qe8 21.Nxc5 Rxc5 22.b4 Rb5 23.Qg4 Qe6* 3..Nf6 (2530)-F: 5 Nf3 Ng6 6 h4 (2405) Pula 1991 Telechess CBM 89 [BCM 1916 p182] 1-0 (42)*)* 9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Bxe2 11.Qxe2 Qe7 12.Rac1 Ba3 The Zukertort System-N,N Rašt The;

B) 7...cxd4 8.exd4 Bd6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Re1 a5 12.Ne5 Bxe2 13.Qxe2 a4 14.c4 Bb4 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Rec1 Qa5 17.Nf3 a3 Primbetov,K (2156)-Aditya,M (2486) Chess.com INT 2022 0-1]

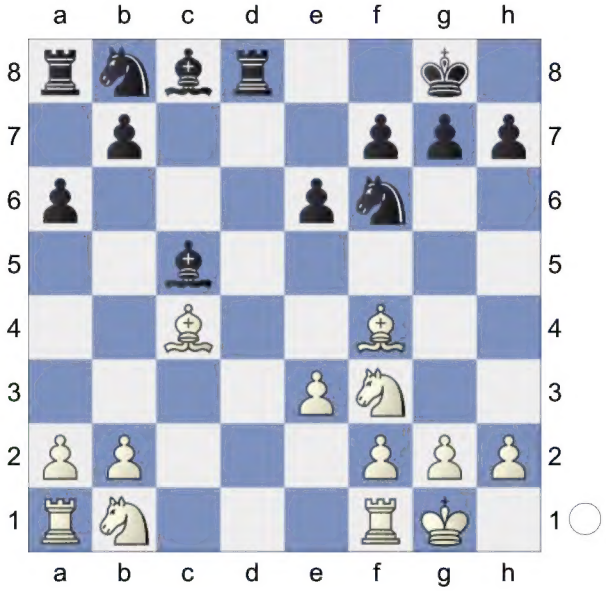
[3.c4 c6 4.e3 e6 5.b3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.Bb2 b6 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.f4 c5 12.Qe1 cxd4 13.exd4 Bb4 14.a3 Bxd2 15.Qxd2 Ne4 16.Qe3 f6 17.Rac1 Qd8 Savchenko,B (2569)-Caruana,F (2620) Plovdiv 2008 CI1-130 [RR]]

[3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Nc3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Nc6 10.Be3 Bf6 11.Qd3 Qa5 12.Rfd1 Rd8 13.Bg5 Bxg5 14.Nxg5 g6 15.Qf3 Qc7 16.dxc5 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Ne5 Venskaya,N (1871)-Sovetbekova,N (1940) FIDE Online Arena INT 2024 1-0 (51)]

3...e6 4.e3 c5 5.Be2 Bd6

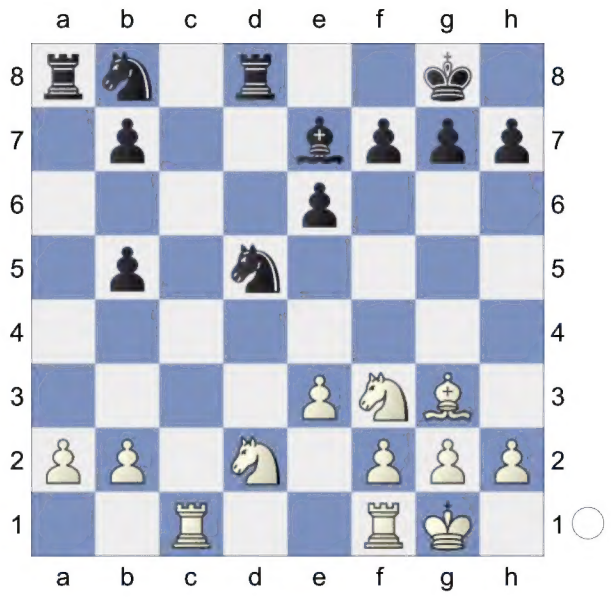


6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 White has an edge. **8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 a6 10.Qxd8 Rxd8**

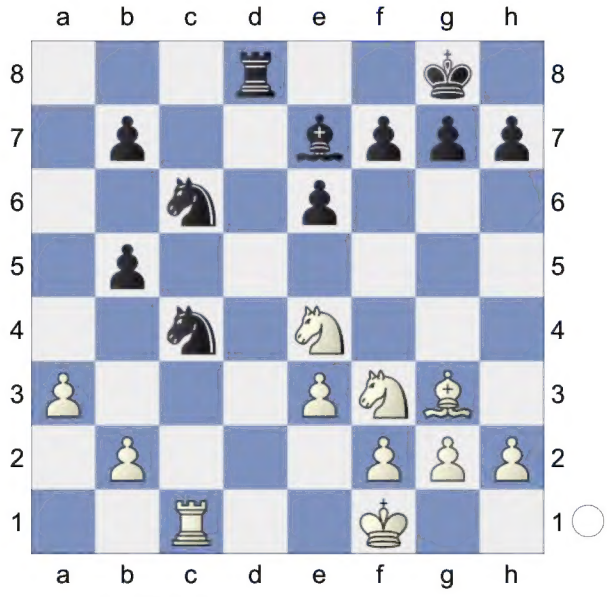


11.Nbd2 Bd7 12.Rac1 Be7 13.Be2 Nd5 14.Bg3 Bb5! 15.Bxb5 axb5

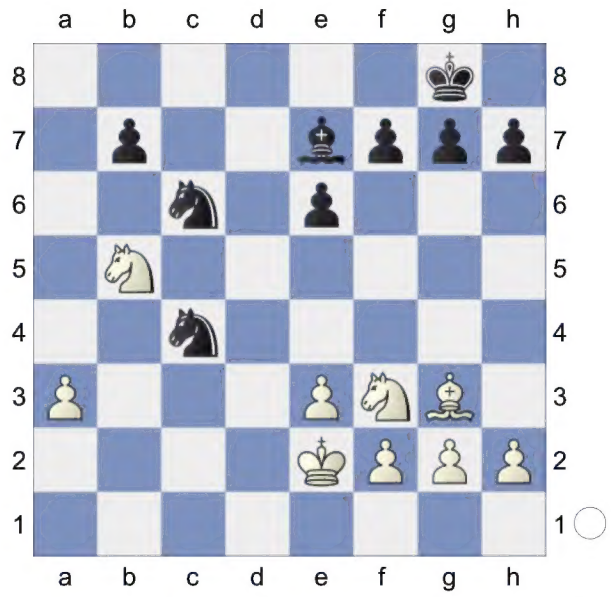
(Diagram)



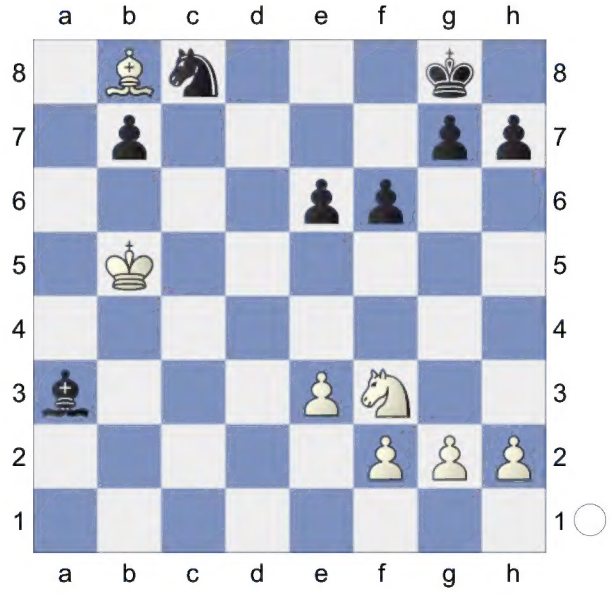
16.a3
[16.e4!? Nb4 17.Rc7=]
16...Nc6 17.Rfd1 Rac8 18.Kf1 Nb6 19.Ne4 Nc4 20.Rxd8+ Rxd8 0.92/13
[20...Nxd8= 0.08/10 21.Ke2 Nc6]



21.Rc2 -0.05/11
[21.a4!± 0.92/13]
21...Rd1+= 22.Ke2 Rb1 23.Nc3 -0.62/16
[23.a4!= 0.02/13 Nb4 24.Nfd2]
23...Rxb2∓ 24.Rxb2 Nxb2 25.Nxb5 Nc4

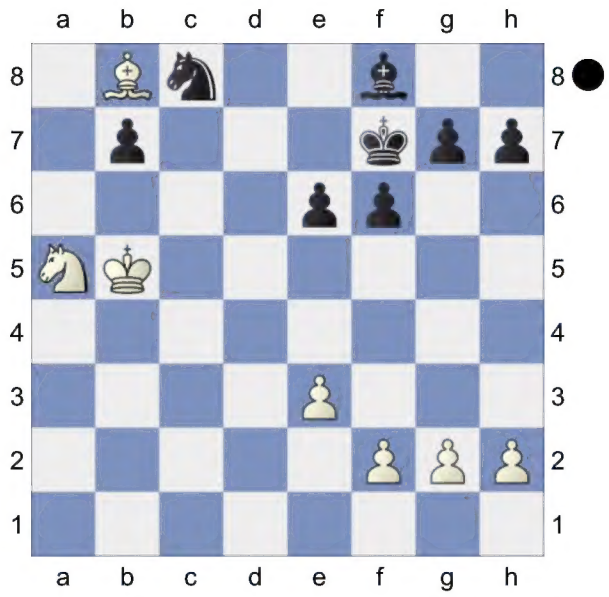


Inhibits Bd6. **26.Kd3 Nxa3 27.Nxa3 Bxa3∓** Endgame KBN-KBN **28.Kc4 Na7 29.Bb8 Nc8 30.Kb5** -1.37/13
[⌓30.Nd2 -0.94/11]
30...f6 -0.83/14
[⌓30...Bd6 -1.37/13 31.Bxd6 Nxd6+ 32.Kb6 Ne4 33.Kxb7 Kf8]

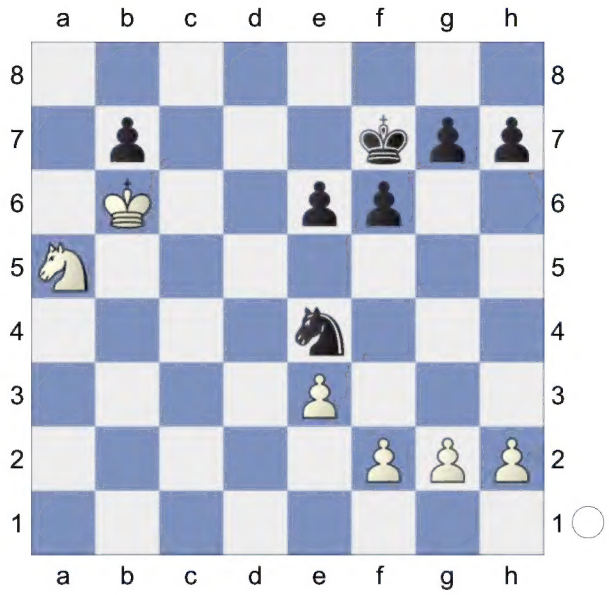


31.Nd2 Kf7 32.Nc4 Bf8 33.Na5

(Diagram)

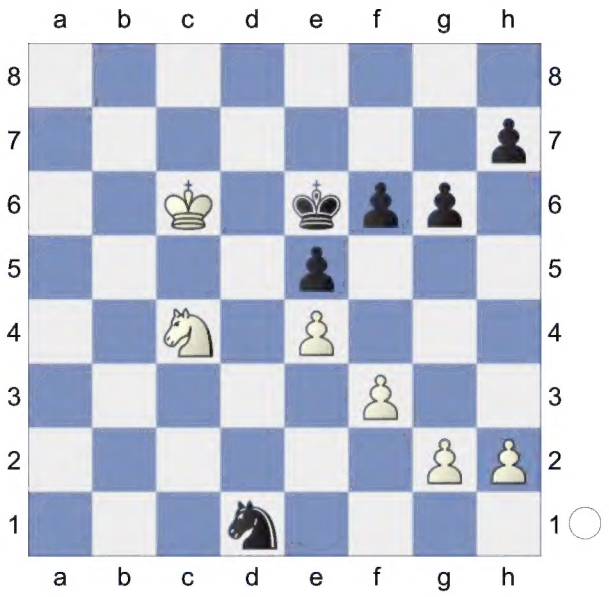


Bd6! 34.Bxd6 Nxd6+ KN-KN **35.Kb6 Ne4**

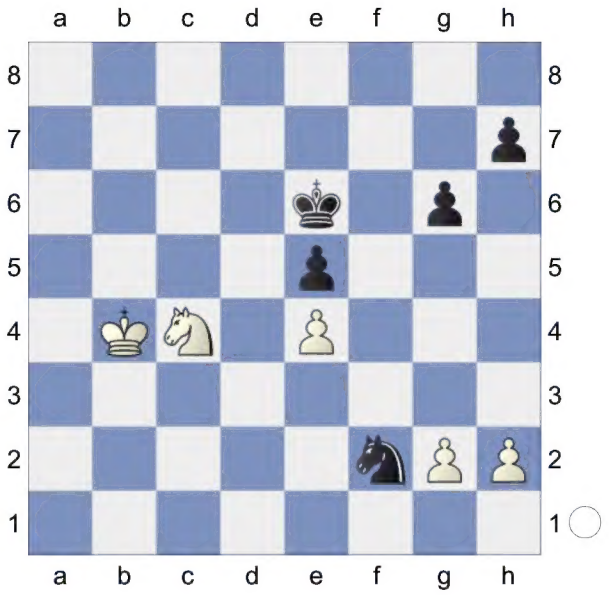


36.f3 Nc3 -0.22/9
[36...Nd2∓ -0.86/11]
37.Kxb7= e5 38.Kc6 Nd1 39.Nc4 Ke6 40.e4 g6

(Diagram)

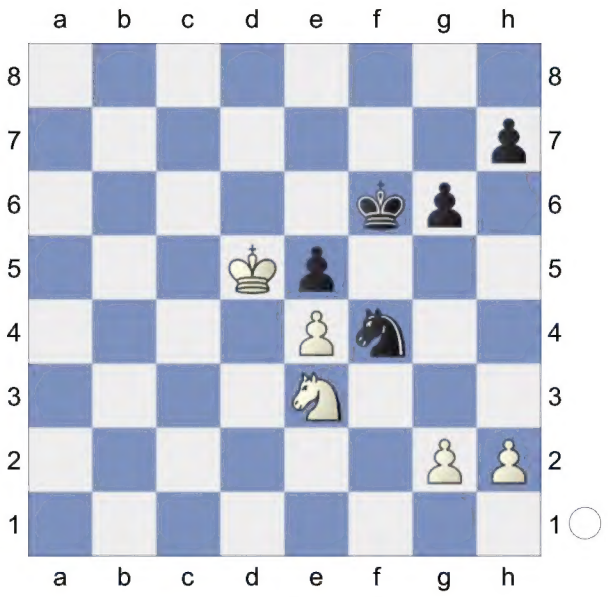


41.Kc5 f5 42.Kb4 fxe4 43.fxe4 Nf2 44.Nd2 Kd6 45.Nc4+ Ke6

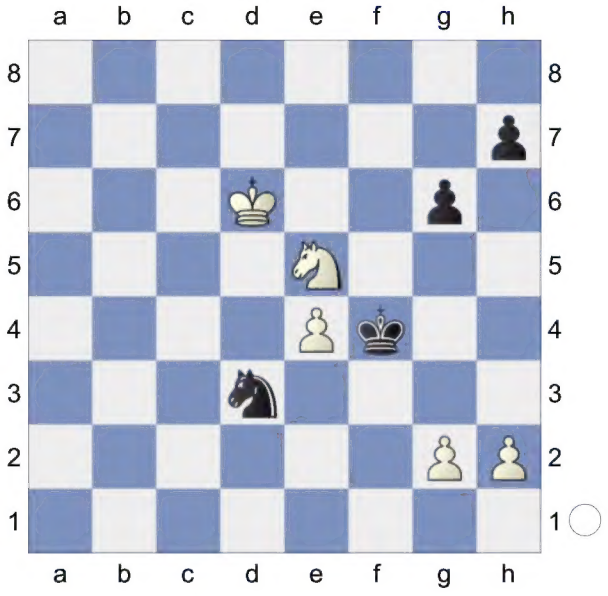


46.Nd2 Kf6 47.Kc4 Ng4 48.Nf1 Nf2 49.Kd5 Nd3
[49...Nd1!?]
50.Ne3 Nf4+ 0.46/17
[50...Nf2= 0.12/10]

(Diagram)

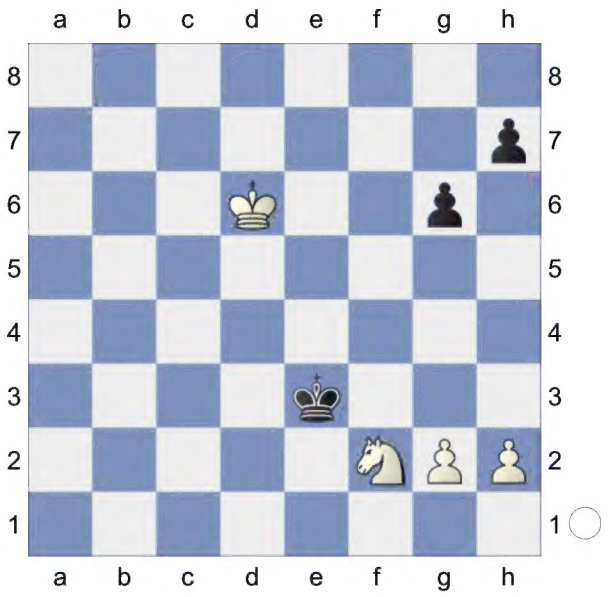


51.Kd6± Strongly threatening Nd5+.
51...Nd3 1.62/13
[51...h5± 0.44/16]
52.Ng4++- Kg5 53.Nxe5 Kf4? 6.86/10
[53...Nb2± 1.58/10 54.g3 Kf6 55.Ng4+ Kf7]

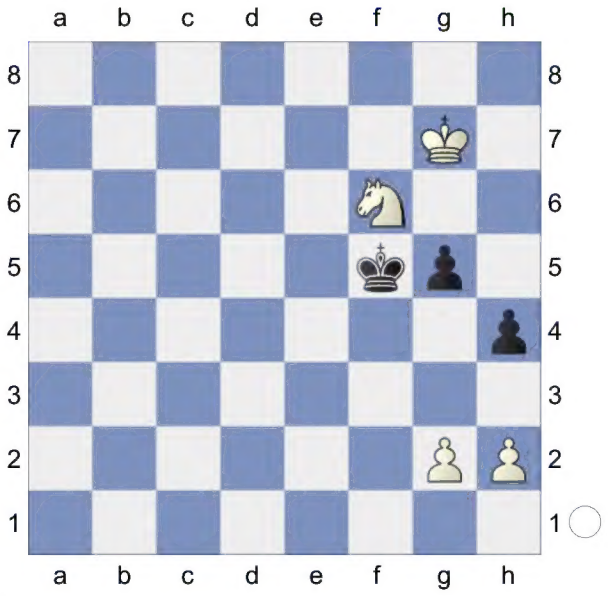


Black cannot hold the game after this.
54.Nxd3+ Kxe4 KN-KPP **55.Nf2+ Ke3**

(Diagram)

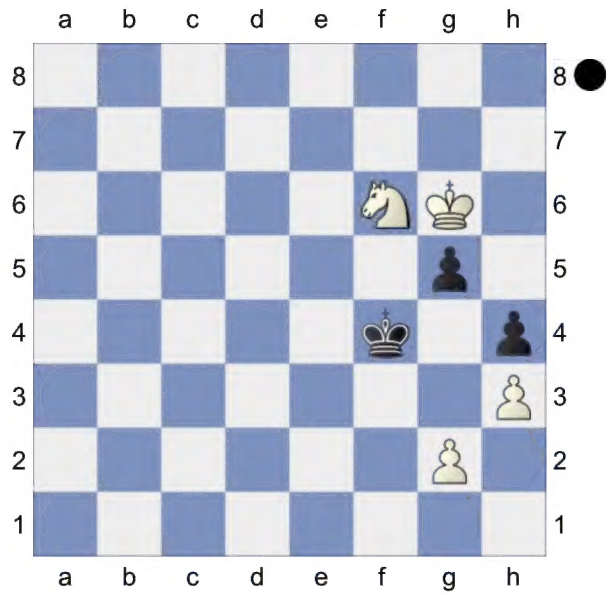


56.Ng4+ Kf4 57.Nf6 h5 58.Ke6 h4
59.Kf7 Kf5 5.11/9
[59...h3 3.62/9 keeps fighting.
60.gxh3 Kg5]
60.Kg7 g5 5.82/8
[60...h3 3.71/9 is a better defense.
61.gxh3 Kg5]



61.h3 Kf4 62.Kg6

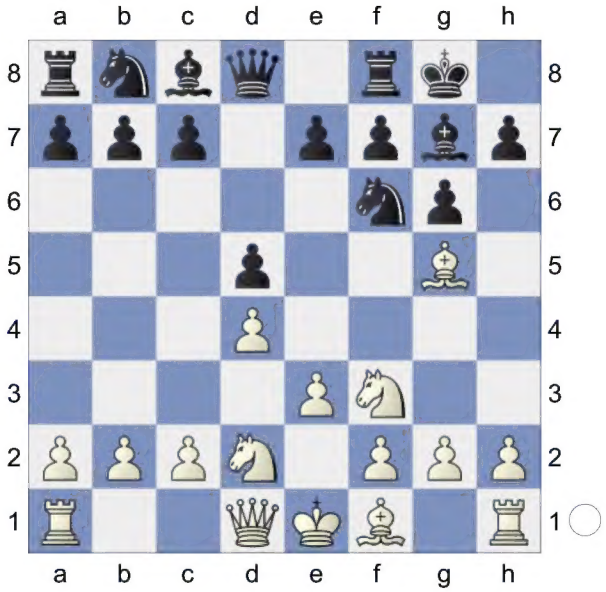
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.36
1-0

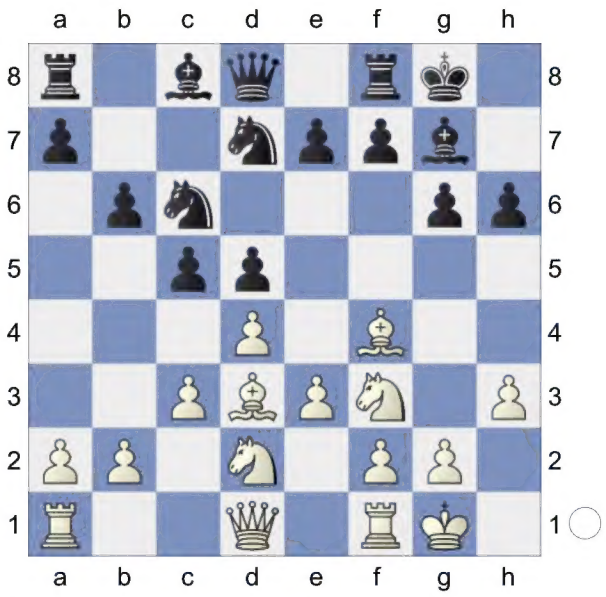
3 **A45**
□ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2741**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
Tata Steel Masters TB blitz (2) 02.02.25
[TA]

D03: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Bg5, including Torre Attack with early ...d5
A43: Schmid Benoni **1.d4 Nf6**
[1...d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c3 b6 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.Bd2 Qc8 10.Be1 Ba6 11.Bh4 Qb7 12.Ne5 Bxd3 13.Nxd3 Ne4 14.f5 Nc6 15.Nd2 c4 16.Nf4 Abdulla,A (2359)-Rausis,I (2525) Calcutta 2001 CBM 82 [Ernst] 0-1]
2.Bg5 d5N
[2...c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Qd2 *(6.f3 0-0 7.Qd2 a6 8.a4 Re8 9.Nge2 Nbd7 10.g4 Ne5 11.Bg2 Rb8 12.h4 b5 13.axb5 axb5 14.h5 b4 15.Nd1 b3 16.c3 e6 17.hxg6 fxg6 18.Bh6 Bxh6 19.Rxh6 exd5 20.exd5 Qe7* George Samir,D (2272)-Akhmetov,A (2417) Doha QAT 2024 [Kitty Kat] 0-1*; 6.f4 0-0 7.Nf3 a6 8.a4 Nh5 9.f5 Nd7 10.Be2 Rb8 11.0-0 Nhf6 12.Qe1 Re8 13.Qh4 c4 14.Be3 Qc7 15.Kh1 b6 16.g4 Nc5 17.g5 Nfd7 18.Bd4 Ne5 19.Nxe5 dxe5 20.Be3 b5* Trompowsky Attack-1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.d5 d6 Survey 2012 Lexikon12 [Ftacnik] *21.axb5 axb5 22.Qf2* 8.♗d3 ♘f4 9. ef4-14. ♗xg5 ♕xb2 15.c4 Budapest 2012 The Week in Chess 401 [Lane, CCYB6] *)* 6...0-0 7.Bh6 Bxh6 8.Qxh6 a6 9.Nf3 Nbd7 10.Ng5 Re8 11.Be2 Nf8 12.h4 b5 13.h5 e5 14.dxe6 Bxe6 15.hxg6 fxg6 16.0-0-0 Qe7 17.f4 Deacon,F-02 Mainline 9.Nbd2 and 12.Ne4 Soviet Union 200 Traps In The Opening [John Watson]]
3.e3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Nbd2 0-0

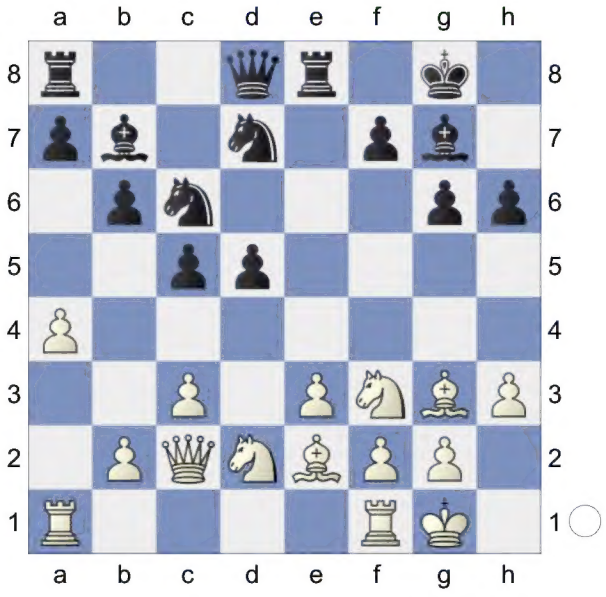


6.h3 c5 7.c3 b6 8.Bd3 White has an edge. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 h6 10.Bf4 Nd7**

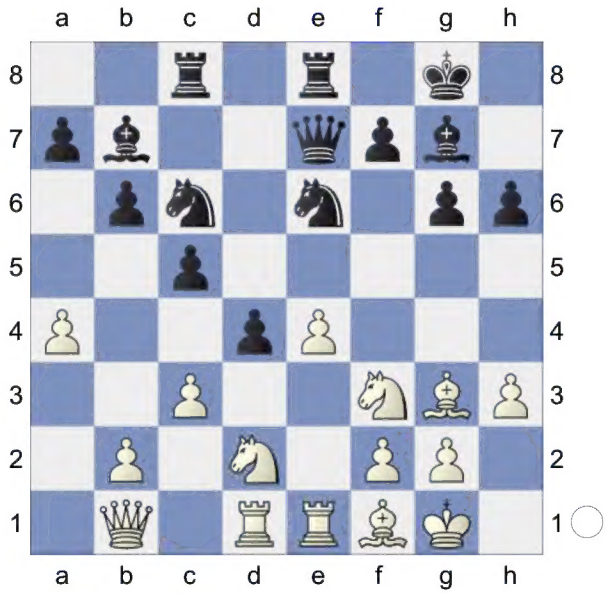
(Diagram)



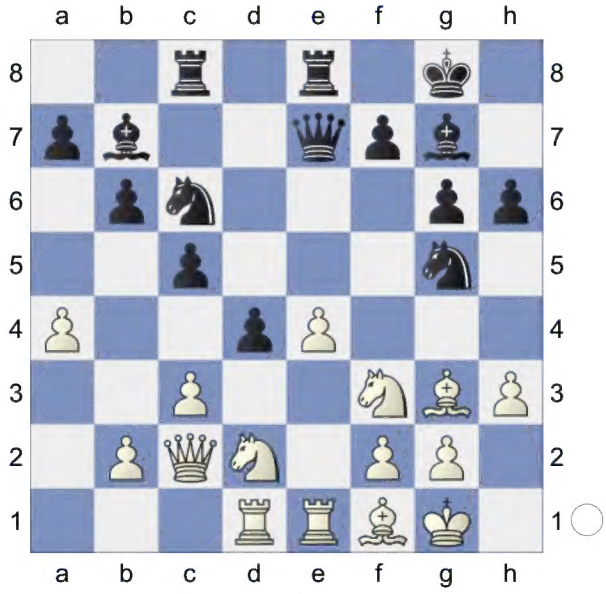
11.Bg3 Bb7 12.Be2 e5 13.dxe5 Ndxe5 14.a4 Nd7 0.31/10
[14...Re8= -0.18/8]
15.Qc2 -0.11/8
[15.e4!± 0.31/10 feels stronger.]
15...Re8



16.Rfe1 Rc8 17.Rad1 Qe7 0.61/15
[Black should try 17...Nf6= -0.02/9]
18.Qb1 -0.09/8
[But not 18.Bb5?! a6 19.Bf1 f5=]
[18.e4!± 0.61/15 dxe4 19.Qxe4!]
18...Nf8 0.76/10
[18...Nf6= -0.09/8]
19.Bf1 Ne6 1.25/12
[19...Ne5± 0.54/12]
20.e4!± d4



21.Qc2 0.63/10
[21.e5!± 1.21/10]
21...Ng5 0.95/12
[21...Na5± 0.63/10]



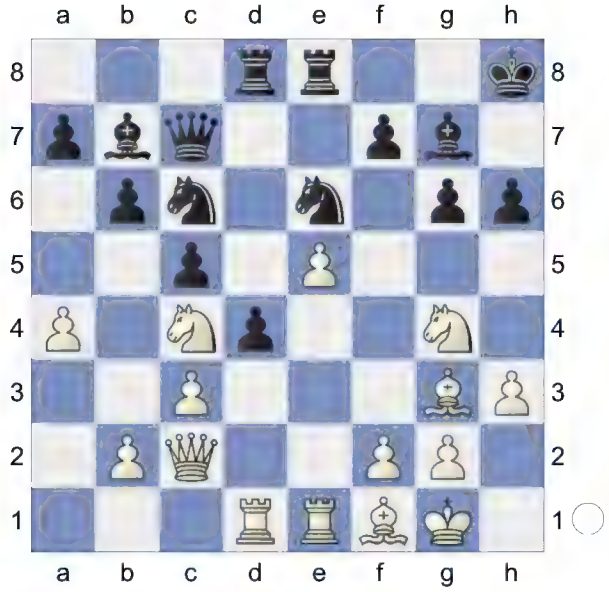
22.Nh2! Rcd8 23.e5 Qc7 2.22/12
[Less strong is 23...Bxe5 24.f4±]
[23...Ne6± 0.89/11 was necessary.]
24.Ng4? -0.64/11
[24.e6+- 2.22/12 Qc8 25.exf7+ Nxf7

26.Rxe8+ *(26.Qxg6 Ne7±)* 26...Rxe8 27.Qxg6]

24...Kh8? 2.73/11

[24...Nxe5∓ -0.64/11 stays ahead. 25.Nxe5 Bxe5 26.Rxe5 Rxe5]

25.Nc4+- Ne6



26.Nd6 Rf8 27.Bc4 Threatens to win with Bxe6. **27...Ne7 28.Qc1** 1.60/12

[28.Nf6+- 3.29/8 is more deadly.]

28...Qc6? 3.23/12

[28...Nf5± 1.60/12]

29.Nxb7 Active counter play! **29...Qxb7**

30.Nxh6 Nd5

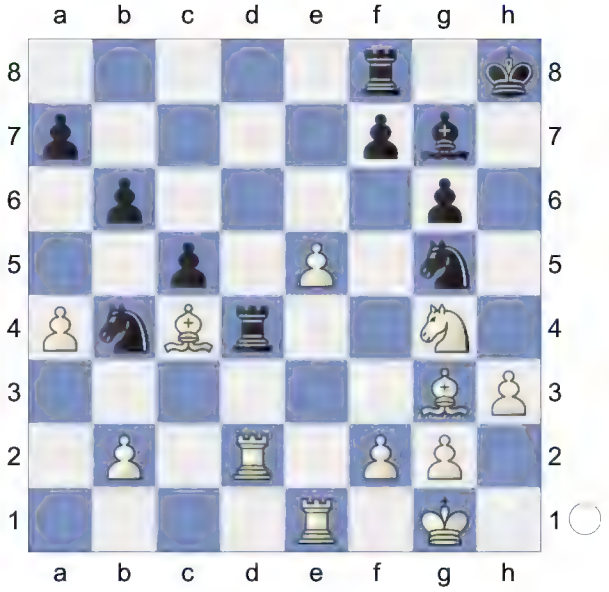
31.Ng4 aiming for Bh4. **31...Qe7** Against Bh4 **32.Rd3 Qg5?** 6.82/10

[32...Kg8 3.89/7 33.Rdd1 Rfe8]

33.Qxg5 Nxg5 34.cxd4 3.35/13

[⌓34.Bh4 7.49/8]

34...Nb4 35.Rd2 Rxd4



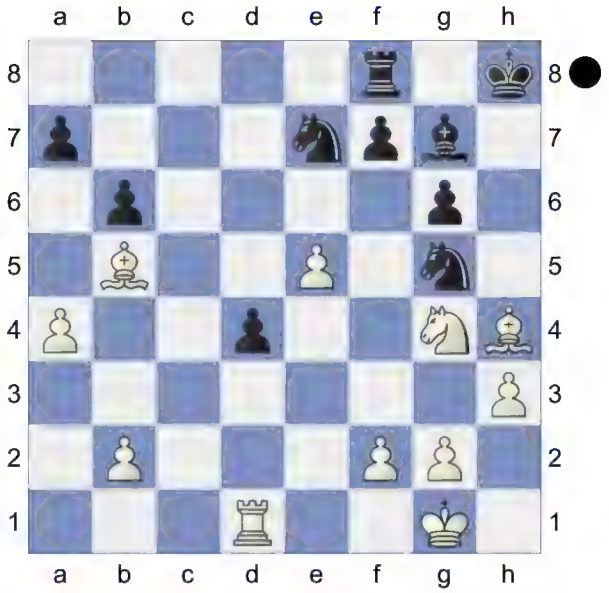
36.Rxd4 cxd4 37.Rd1 Nc6 4.83/9

[37...d3 3.11/9 was worth a try. 38.Bh4 *(38.Bxd3 Rd8+-)* 38...Rc8]

38.Bb5 Ne7 18.50/8

[⌓38...Rc8 4.20/9 39.Rc1 Ne7]

39.Bh4

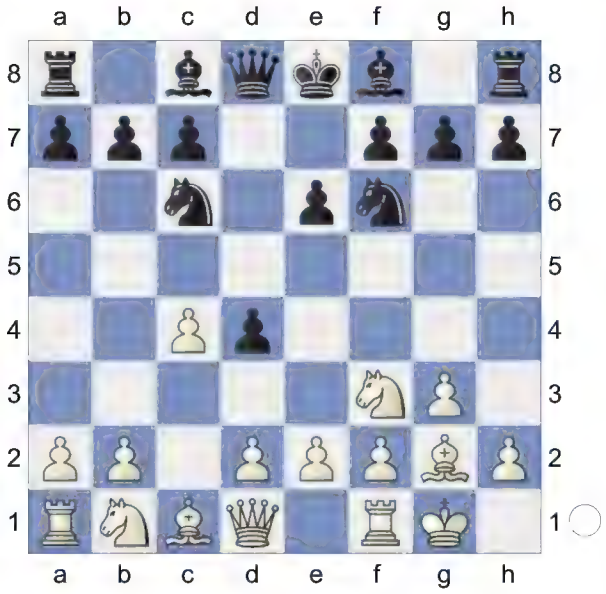


Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/

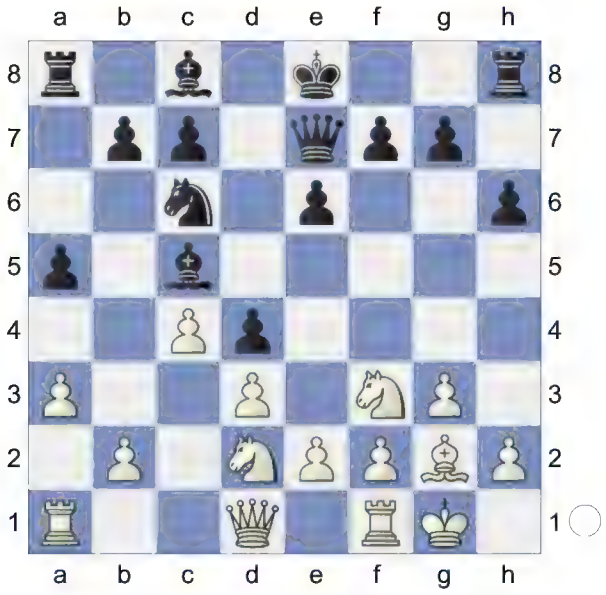
Black=0.68
1-0

4 **A13**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2741**
Tata Steel Masters TB blitz (1) 02.02.25
[TA]

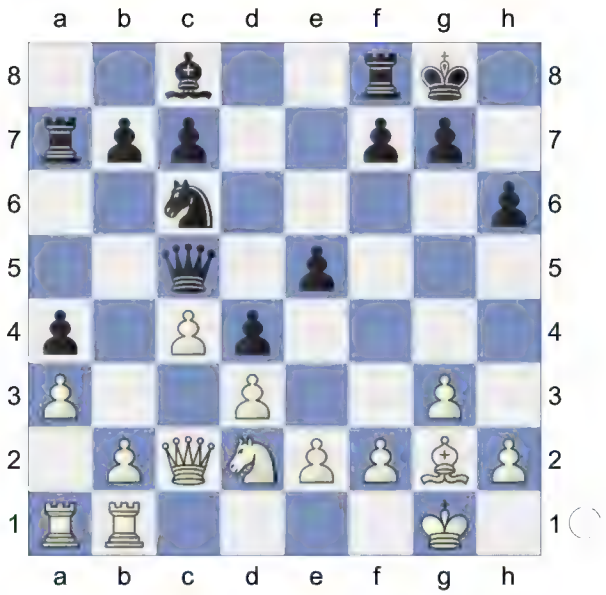
A13: English Opening: 1...e6
1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d4 5.0-0 Nc6



6.d3 Bc5 7.a3N 0.01/21
[7.Nbd2± 0.33/22]
[7.Bg5 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Nbd2 Qd8 10.Ne1 0-0 11.f4 a5 12.a3 a4 13.Nc2 Bd7 14.Qe1 Na5 15.Qf2 Bc8 16.Kh1 Ra6 17.Ne4 Ba7 18.Nb4 Rb6 19.Nc5 Rd6 20.Ne4 Rd7 21.c5 Nb3 Duda,J (2724)-Carlsen,M (2853) Warsaw 2023 Opening Encyclopaedia 25 [Ris, Robert] 0-1 (90)]
[7.Na3 0-0 8.Nc2 e5 9.a3 a5 10.Bd2 e4 11.Nfe1 Qe7 12.Bg5 Bf5 13.Rb1 Rfe8 14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 Nxb4 16.Nxb4 Bxb4 17.dxe4 Bxe1 18.exf5 Bc3 19.Bxb7 Ra2 20.Bf3 h6 21.Bf4 Ne4 Yuffa,D (2654)-Hovhannisyan,R (2630) Eforie Nord ROU 2025 [GM Alexey Dreev] ½-½ (88)]
7...a5!= 8.Bg5 h6 The position is equal.
9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nbd2 Qe7



11.Ne4 a4 0.32/25
[11...Ra6= 0.01/24]
12.Nxc5± Qxc5 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Qc2 e5 15.Rfb1 Ra7



16.b4 axb3! 17.Rxb3 Qe7 0.20/24

[17...Bd7 -0.23/23 might be stronger.]

18.Rb5 -0.20/22

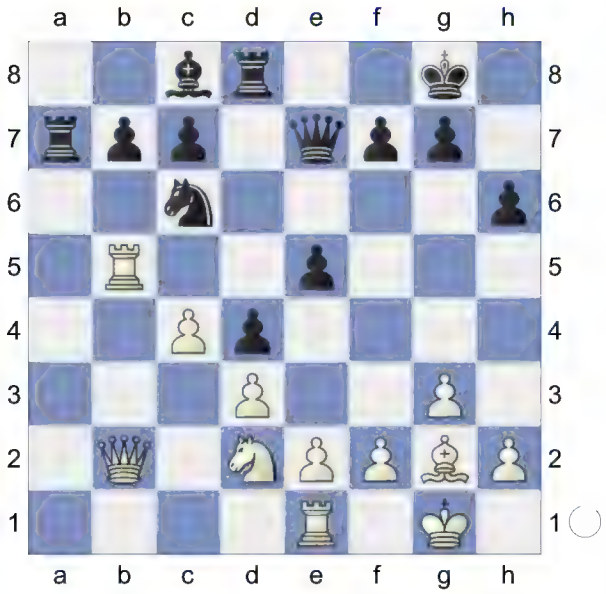
[18.Qb2 0.20/24 should be considered.]

18...Rxa3= 19.Re1 -0.64/23

[19.Rxa3= -0.17/23 Qxa3 20.Qb1 *(20.Bxc6 bxc6 21.Qb2 Qc3∓)*]

19...Ra7 20.Qb2 Rd8 -0.01/23

[20...Nd8∓ -0.67/23]



21.h4 -0.59/23

[21.Ra1= -0.01/23]

21...Nb8 22.e3 -0.77/24

[22.Ra1!∓ -0.34/24 feels stronger. Rxa1+ 23.Qxa1]

22...c6∓ 23.Rb3 Black must now prevent exd4. **23...Qc7 24.Nf3** -1.19/23

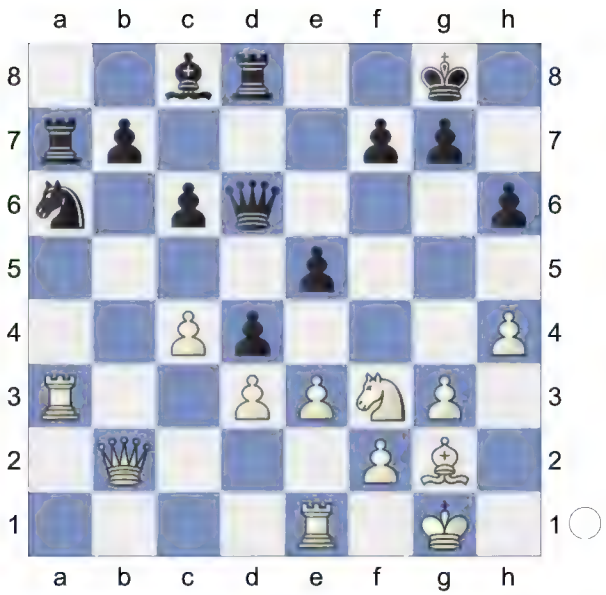
[24.exd4∓ -0.64/22 exd4 25.Ne4]

24...Na6 0.29/26

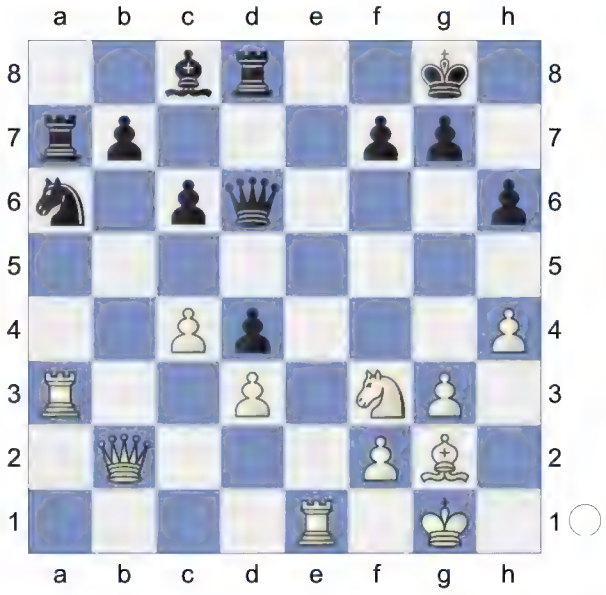
[Black should play 24...c5!∓ -1.19/23 And now ...Nc6 would win. 25.Nd2 Nc6 26.Bxc6 Qxc6]

25.Ra3 Qd6

(Diagram)



26.exd4 exd4

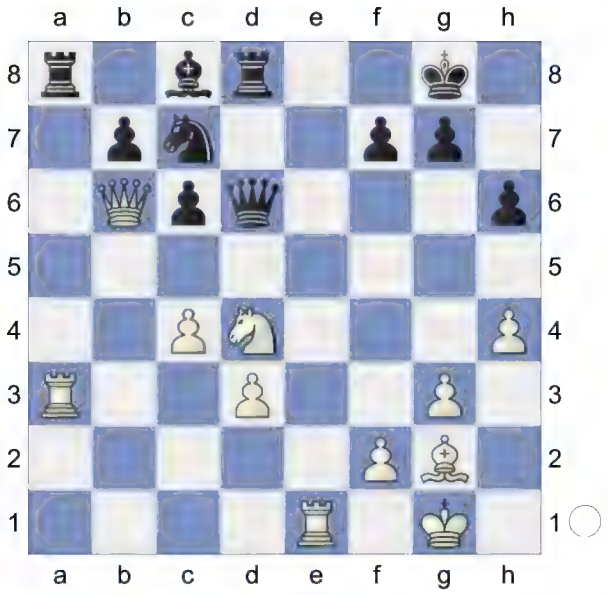


27.Qb6! c5 is the strong threat. **27...Ra8 28.Nxd4 Nc7?** 2.56/30

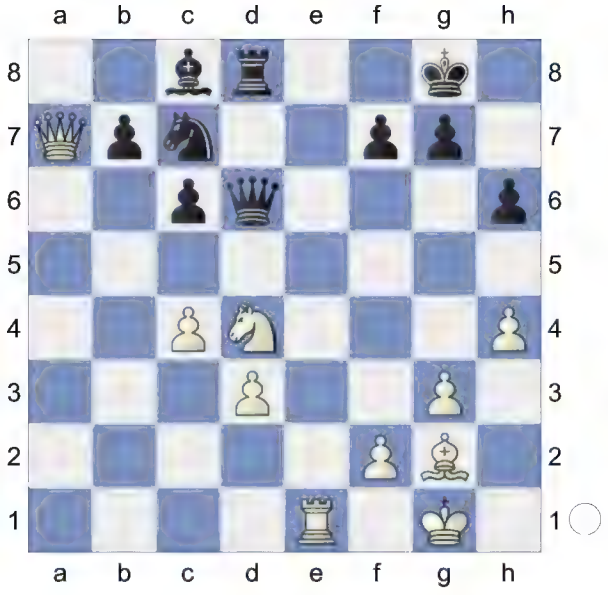
[28...Qxd4? 29.Re8+!! Rxe8 30.Qxd4+-]

[28...Bd7± 0.78/22 29.Nc2 Rab8]

(Diagram)

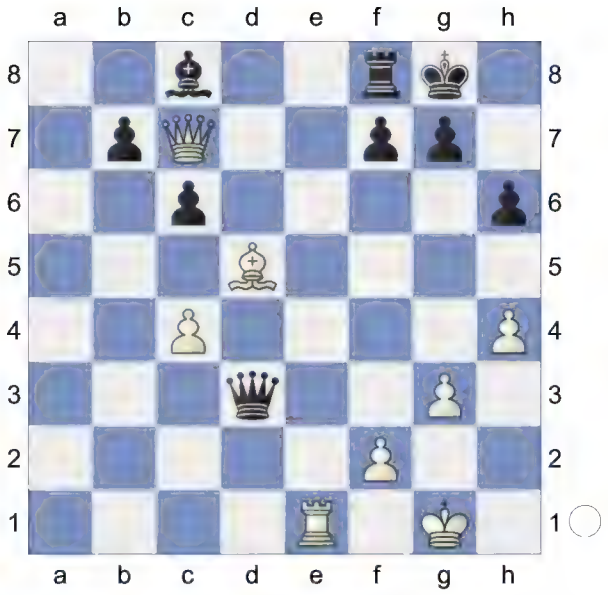


29.Rxa8? 0.01/23
[29.Nb5!+- 2.56/30 cxb5 30.Qxd6 Rxd6 31.Rxa8 Nxa8 32.Re8+ Kh7 33.Rxc8]
29...Nxa8= 30.Qa7 Nc7

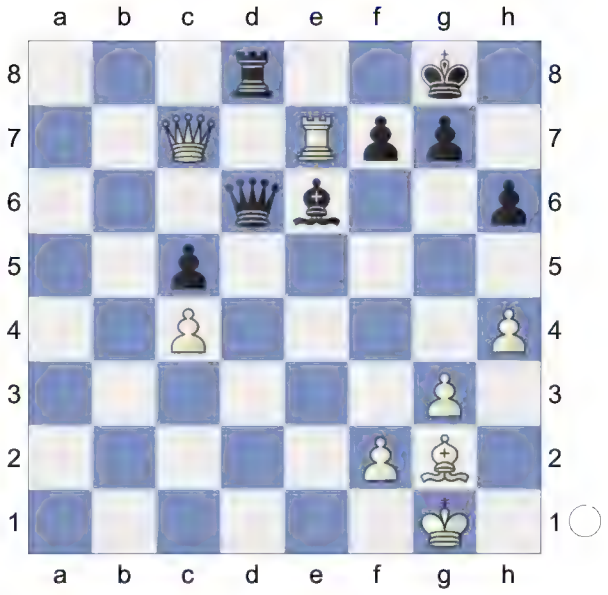


31.Qa5 Qxd4 32.Qxc7 Qxd3 0.44/29
[32...Rf8= -0.01/26]
33.Re7 -0.48/28
[White has to play 33.Bd5!± 0.44/29 Rf8

(Diagram)

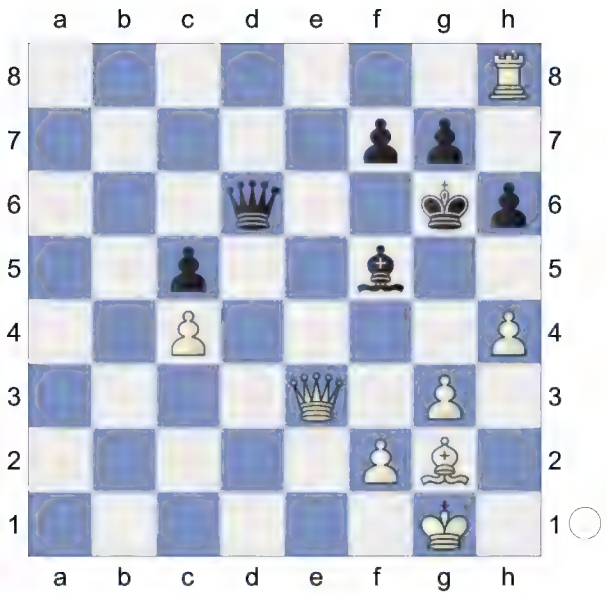


34.Bxf7+! Kh8 35.Qe7]
33...Be6 -0.01/26
[33...Rf8!∓ -0.48/28]
34.Qxb7 c5 35.Qc7 Qd6? 7.74/27
[35...Qd1+= -0.01/27 36.Kh2 Qd4]

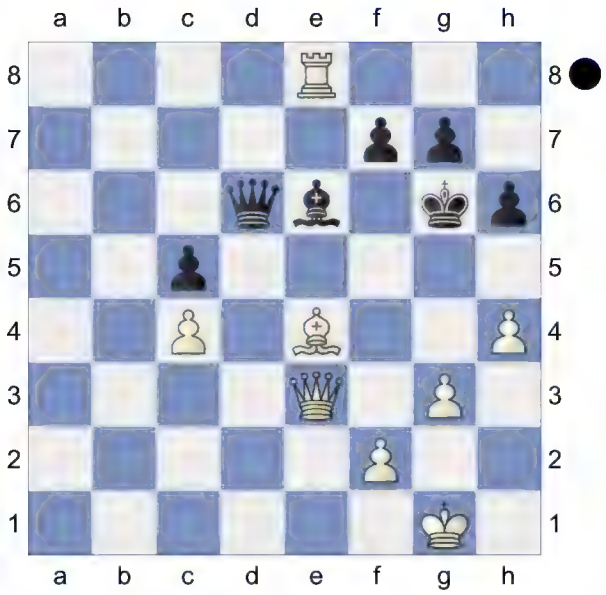


36.Re8+!+- White is clearly winning.
36...Kh7
[36...Rxe8 37.Qxd6]
37.Qxd8 Qe5 38.Rh8+ Kg6 39.Qd3+ Bf5 40.Qe3 Qd6

(Diagram)



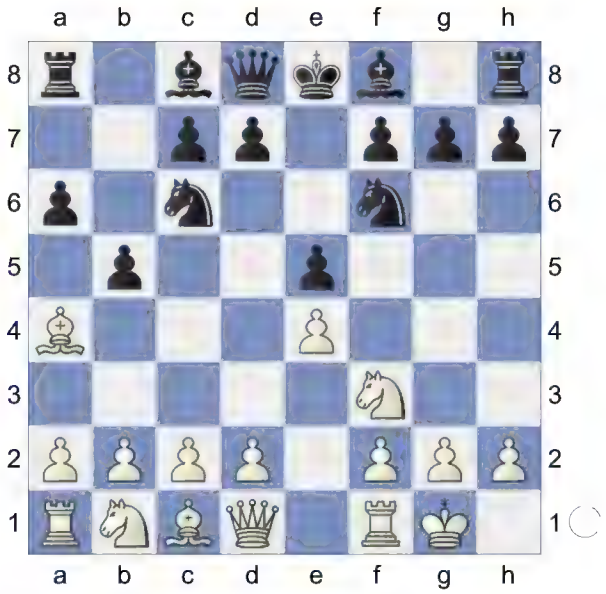
41.Re8 Threatens to win with Bd5.
41...Be6 42.Be4+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.38
1-0

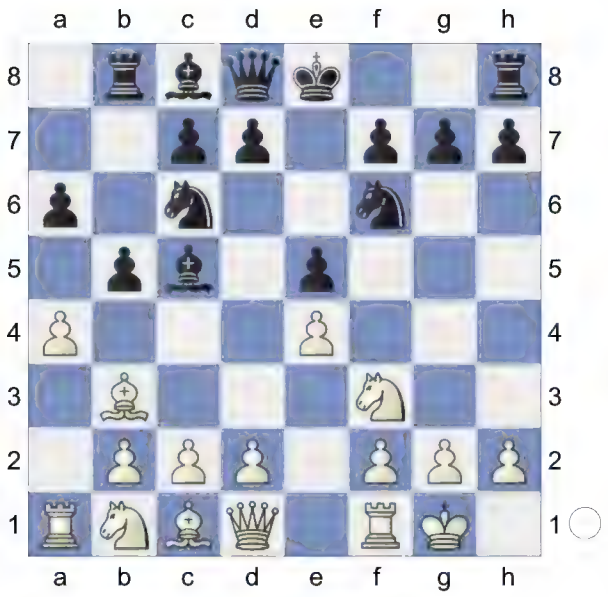
5 **C78**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
■ **Mendonca,Leon Luke** **2639**
87th Tata Steel Masters (9.3) 28.01.2025
[TA]

C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5



6.Bb3 **Bc5** is the new trend. ist der neue Trend. **7.a4** Black must now prevent axb5. **7...Rb8**
[7...Nxe4? 8.axb5 Nxf2 9.Qe2+- *(9.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 10.Kxf2 Nd4+-)*]

(Diagram)



8.d3 0.11/10

[8.Nxe5!± 0.42/14 Nxe5 9.d4 Bxd4 10.Qxd4 d6 11.axb5 axb5 12.f4 Nc6 13.Qd3 0-0 14.Nc3 Re8 15.e5 dxe5 16.Qxd8 Rxd8 17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.Bf4 Re8 19.Rae1 Nc4 20.Bxc7 Rxe1 21.Rxe1 Rb7 22.Rd1 Bd7 23.Bd8 Ng4 24.Ne4 Nepomniachtchi,I (2792)-Firouzja,A (2754) Stavanger 2021 CBM 204 [Firouzja,Alireza] ½-½ (31)]

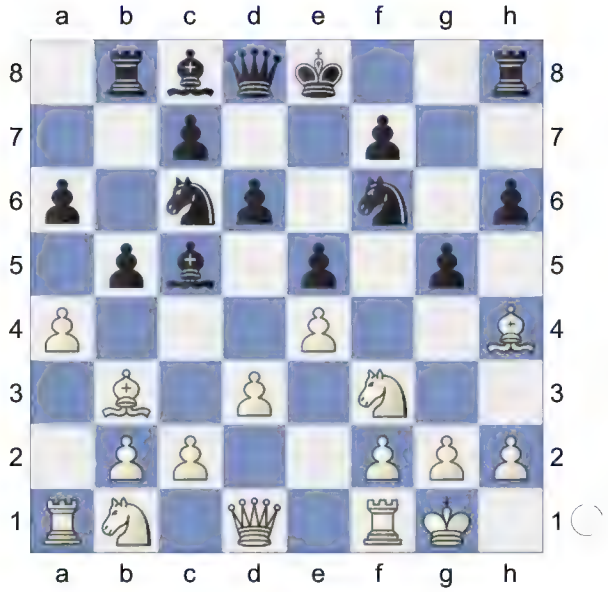
8...d6=

[8...h6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Nd5 d6 11.axb5 axb5 12.h3 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Ne7 14.Bb3 Ng6 15.c3 Qf6 16.Be3 Bb6 17.Bxb6 Rxb6 18.Kh2 Nf4 19.Ng1 Be6 20.Bxe6 Nxe6 21.Qf3 Qe7 22.Qe3 b4 23.Ra7 Ivic,V (2585)-Kleiman,J (2399) Chess.com INT 2023 1-0]

9.Bg5N Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade.

[9.axb5 axb5 10.c3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Bb6 12.Re1 Ng4 13.Re2 Kh8 14.h3 Nh6 15.Nf1 f5 16.d4 Qf6 17.Bd5 Bd7 18.Bg5 Qg6 19.Qd2 f4 20.dxe5 Nxe5 21.N1h2 Nhg4 22.hxg4 Nxf3+ 23.Nxf3 Bxg4 Thorn,M (2546)-English Reti E6 (2419) Game 1 2010 CBM 12 [Dragan Solak] 1-0 (53)]

9...h6 The position is equal. **10.Bh4 g5**



11.Bg3 0-0 12.c3 Bb6 13.Na3 Ne7N

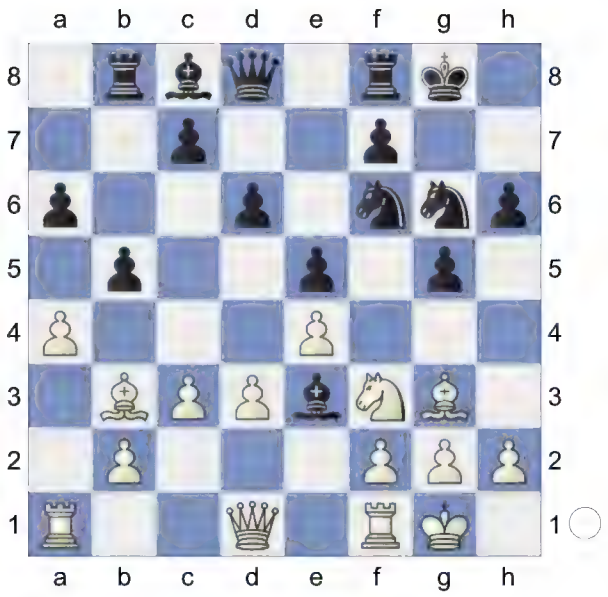
[13...b4 14.Nc4 bxc3 15.bxc3 Na5 16.Nxa5 Bxa5 17.Qc2 Nh5 0.32/9 *(17...Qe8=* 0.00/8 deserves consideration.*)* 18.Nd2 -0.19/7 *(18.d4!±* 0.32/9 *)* 18...c6 0.21/10 *(⌓18...Bb6* -0.19/7 *)* 19.Nc4= Bc7 ½-½ Balogh,C (2583)-Lalic,B (2393) CRO-chT1A 30th 2022 (4.1)]

14.Nc2 -0.03/9

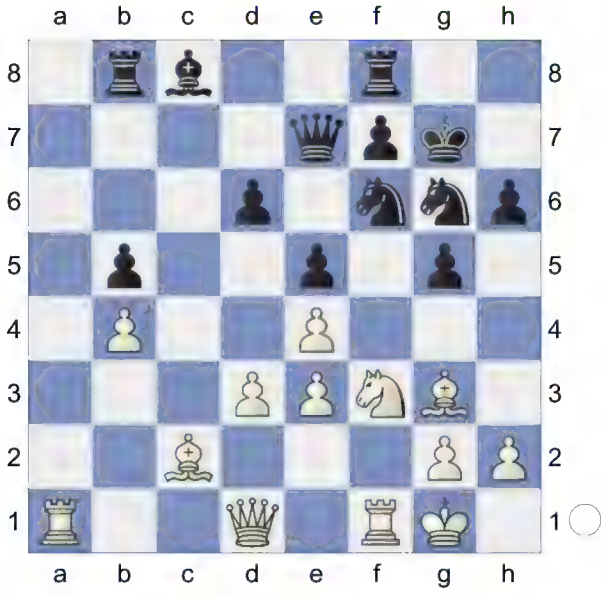
[14.Re1± 0.35/9]

14...Ng6= 15.Ne3 Bxe3

(Diagram)

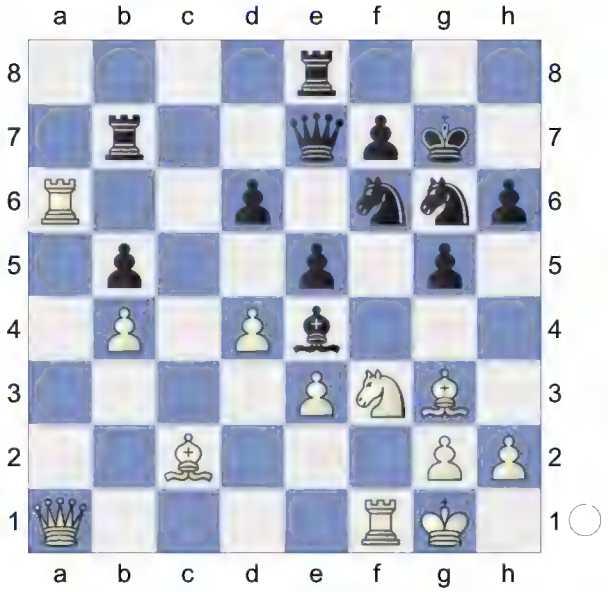


16.fxe3 Kg7 17.Bc2 -0.49/8
[17.axb5= -0.04/8 is more appropriate. axb5 18.h3]
17...c5 -0.06/10
[17...bxa4∓ -0.49/8 is superior. 18.Qc1 Nh5]
18.axb5 axb5 19.b4 cxb4 0.02/11
[19...c4!∓ -0.42/9 feels stronger.]
20.cxb4 Qe7

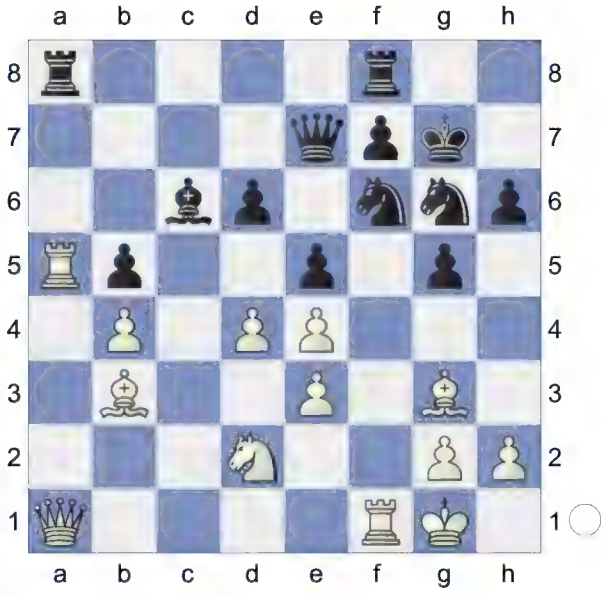


21.Ra5 Bd7 0.36/11
[21...h5= 0.00/9 was preferrable.]
22.d4↑ White is more active. **22...Bc6**
23.Qa1 Rfe8! 24.Bb3 0.00/13

[24.Ra7± 0.52/11 Rb7 25.Ra6 Bxe4

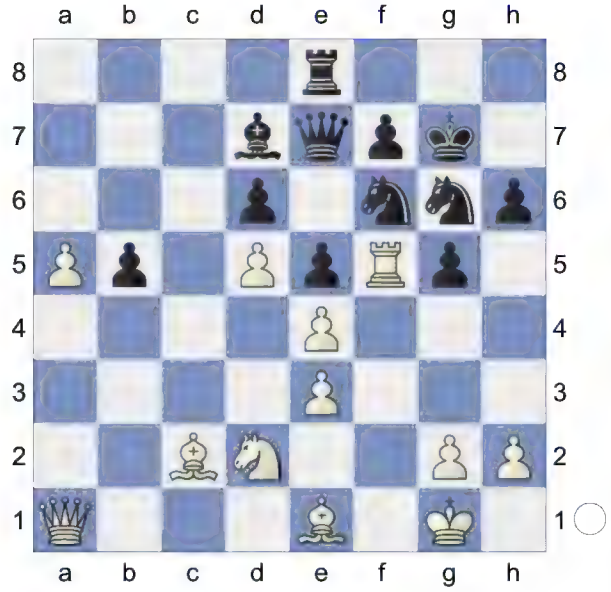


26.dxe5! dxe5 27.Nxe5! Nxe5
28.Raxf6 Bxc2 29.Rxf7+ Qxf7
30.Rxf7+ Rxf7 31.Bxe5+ Kh7
32.h3]
24...Ra8
[24...Nxe4? 25.dxe5 Nxg3 26.exd6+ Qf6 27.Qxf6+ Kxf6 28.hxg3+-]
25.Nd2 Rf8



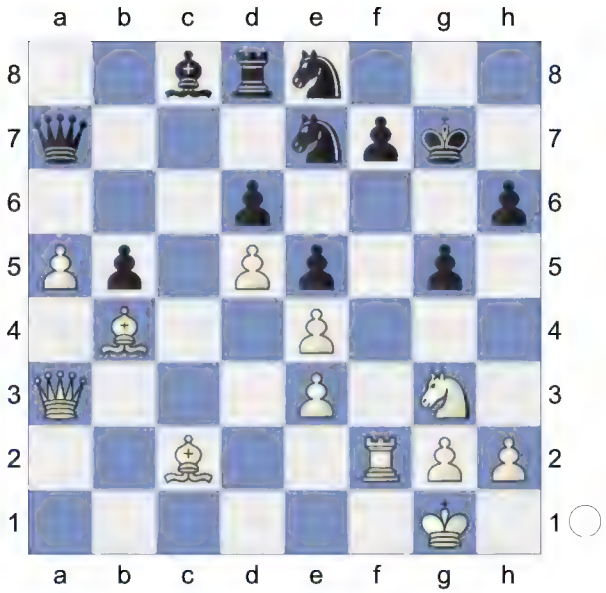
26.Bc2 Nh5 0.37/9
[26...h5= 0.03/9 should be considered.]
27.Be1 Nf6 0.61/11

[27...Qb7= 0.24/8]
28.Rf5 -0.02/12
[28.d5!± 0.61/11 Bb7 29.Nb3]
28...Rxa5 29.bxa5 Re8 0.66/9
[29...Qc7= 0.17/9]
30.d5 Bd7

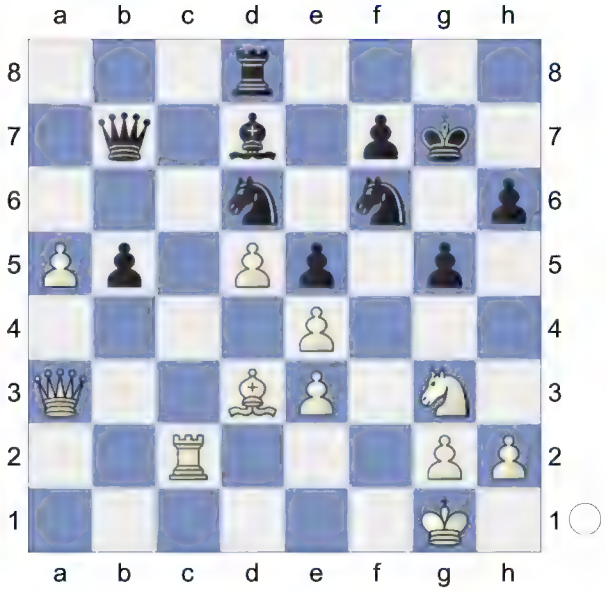


31.Rf2 Bc8 1.50/12
[31...h5!± 0.55/10]
32.Nf1± Qa7 1.87/10
[32...Ng4± 1.42/10]
33.Qa3 1.45/14
[33.Bb4+- 1.87/10]
33...Rd8 2.51/9
[33...Ng4± 1.45/14]
34.Bb4+- Ne8 35.Ng3 Ne7

(Diagram)

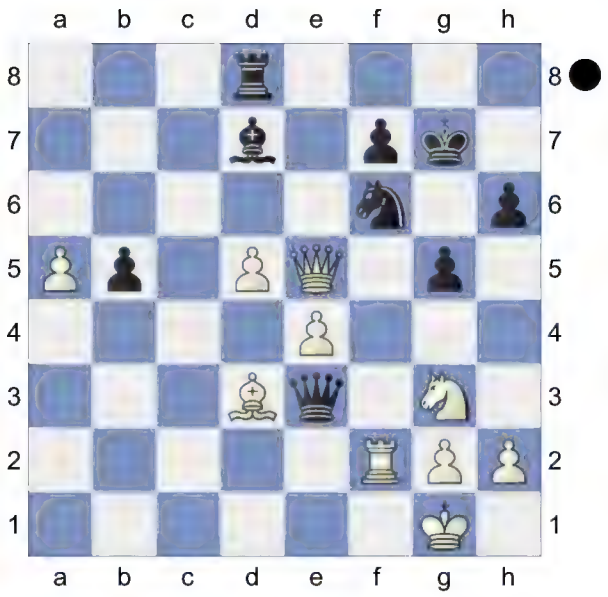


36.Bd1 Ng8 37.Be2 Qb7 38.Bd3 Ngf6 39.Rc2 Bd7? 5.26/12
[39...h5 1.61/10 is tougher. 40.a6 Qxa6]
40.Bxd6 Nxd6



41.Qxd6 Qa7 7.52/9
[⌓41...Qb8 4.04/10 42.Rc7 Bg4 43.Qxe5 Re8]
42.Qxe5 Threatens to win with Rf2.
42...Qxe3+ 43.Rf2

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.34
1-0

6 **C65**
□ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2741**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
87th Tata Steel Masters (8.4) 26.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

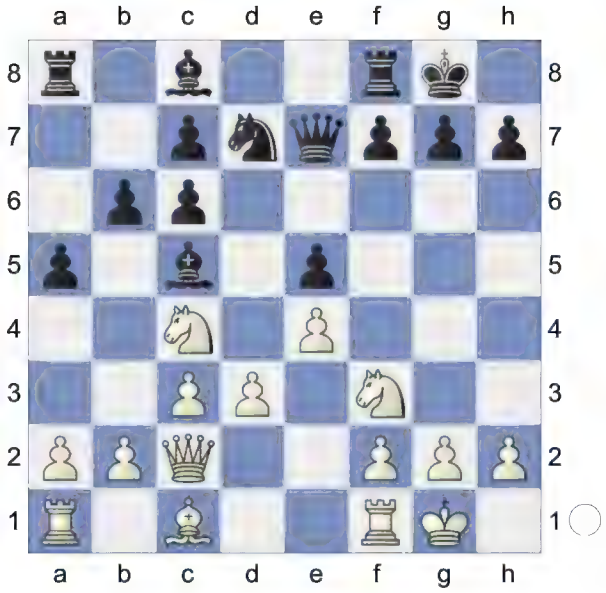
C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6

(Diagram)

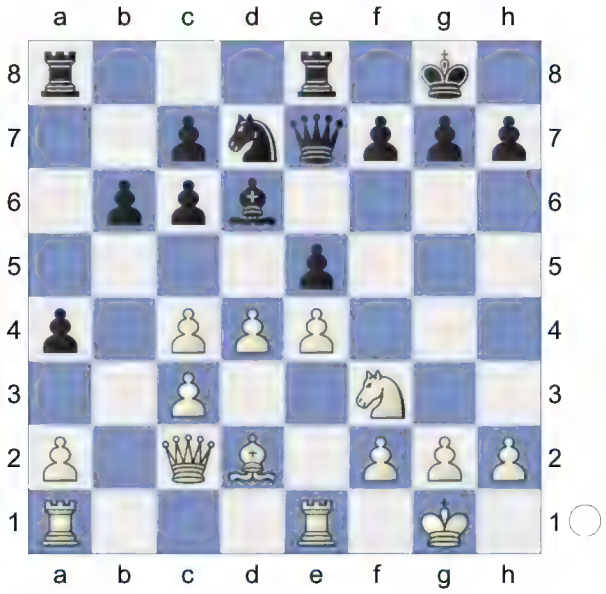
6.0-0
[6.Nxe5? is the wrong capture. Qd4 7.Qe2 Qxe5-+]
6...Qe7 7.Nbd2 a5 0.34/21
[7...Bg4!= -0.14/20 8.Nc4 *(8.h3 Bh5 9.a3 a5 10.Nc4 Nd7 11.g4 Bg6 12.b4 Bb6 13.bxa5 Bxa5 14.Bb2 f6 15.Nxa5 Rxa5 16.Nh4 0-0 17.Nf5 Qe6 18.Kh2 c5 19.h4 c4 20.h5 Bf7 21.Rg1 cxd3 22.cxd3 Rb5* 1-0 (45) Darvishi,M-Febland,J Jugoslavija 46/444 1988*)* 8...Nd7 9.Be3 Bd6 10.h3 Bh5 11.a4 f6 12.c3 b6 13.Re1 0-0 14.Bc1 Rfd8 15.Ne3 Qf7 16.Nf5 Bf8 17.Be3 Nc5 18.Bxc5 Bxc5 19.a5 b5 20.Ng3 Bg6 21.Qc2 Qe6 22.b4 Bf8 0-1 (59) 8.♕e2 cd4 9.♖d1 77046 (2560)-9.♗f3 ♕c7 10.♗e3 70261 (2630) 73/(229) Moscow 1998]
8.Nc4± White is slightly better. **8...Nd7 9.c3 0-0 10.Qc2N** 0.01/19
[10.d4± 0.37/19
A) 10...exd4 11.cxd4 b5 12.Nxa5 *(12.Ncd2 Bb6 13.a4 Bb7 14.Re1 f5 15.exf5 Qf7* Chapter-5.Bxc6 Anti Berlin 6.00 and 6 2024*)* 12...Rxa5 13.dxc5 Ra4 Ruy Lopez

Anti Berlin-Anti-Berlin 4.d3 Bc5 - 6...;
B) 10...Bd6 11.a4]

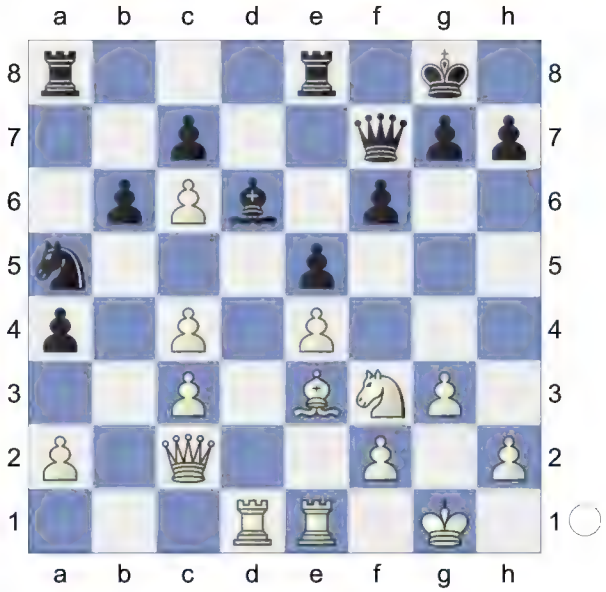
10...b6



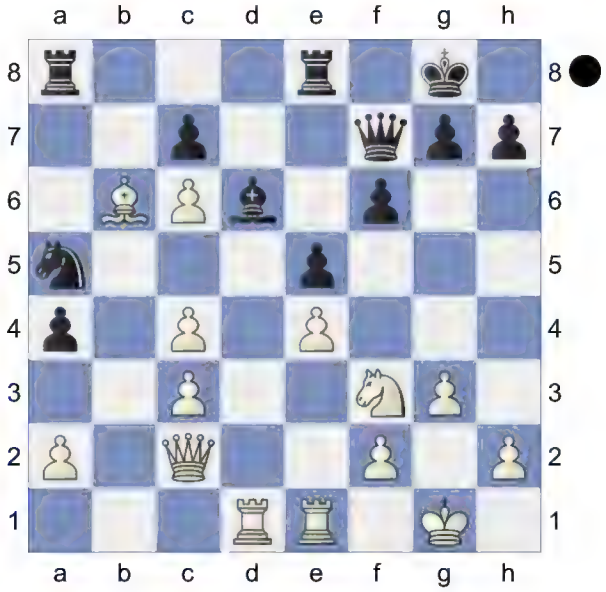
11.Re1 Ba6 12.b3 -0.15/20
[⌓12.Ne3 0.30/23]
12...Rfe8 0.33/21
[12...a4= -0.15/20]
13.d4 Bxc4 14.bxc4 Bd6 15.Bd2 -0.24/20
[15.Qa4 0.14/20
is more appropriate.]
15...a4=



16.Rad1 f6 17.g3 Qf7 18.d5 Nc5 19.Be3 Nb7 20.dxc6 Na5

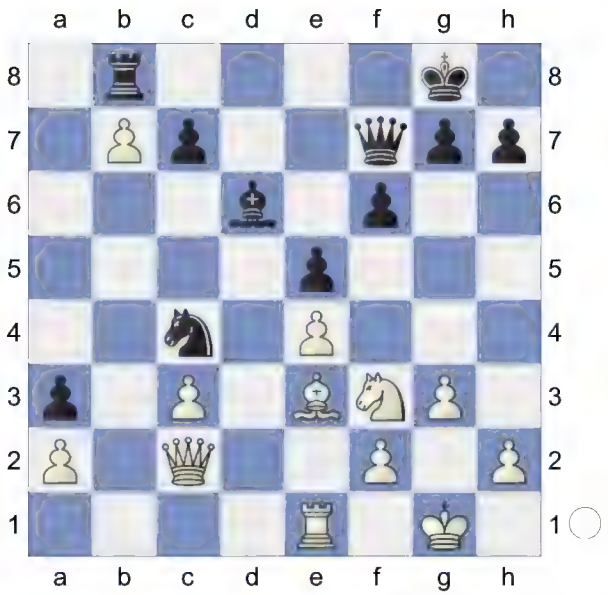


21.Bxb6

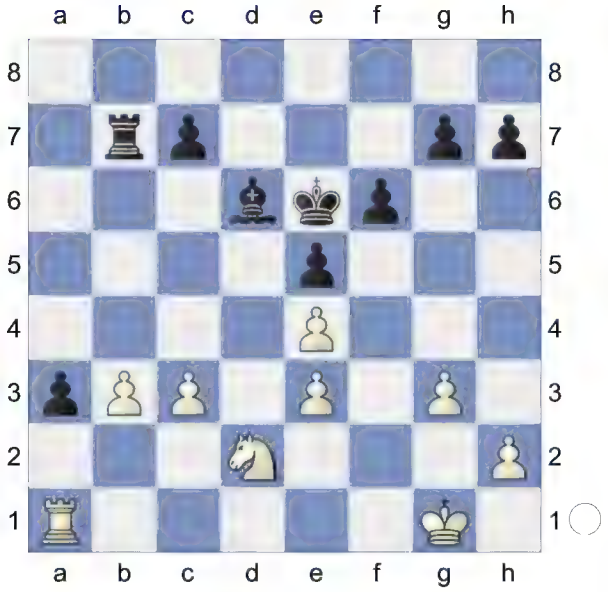


Black must now prevent c5!. Deflection
21...Nxc4 22.Be3 Reb8 23.Rb1
Prevents Rb2. **23...a3 24.Rb7 Rxb7 25.cxb7 Rb8**

(Diagram)

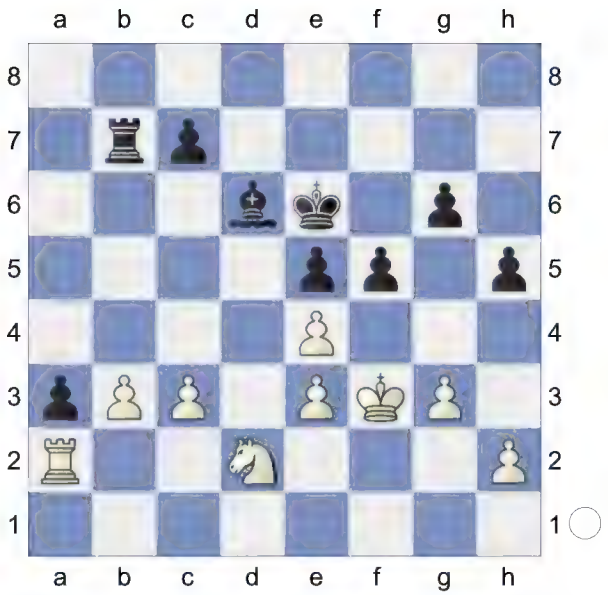


26.Qb3 -0.18/23
[⌓26.Rb1 0.21/25 Nb2 27.Ra1]
26...Nxe3 27.fxe3 Qxb3 28.axb3 Rxb7 KRB-KRN **29.Nd2 Kf7**
The position is equal. **30.Ra1 Ke6**



31.Kf2 g6 32.Ra2 f5 33.Kf3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
33...h5

(Diagram)

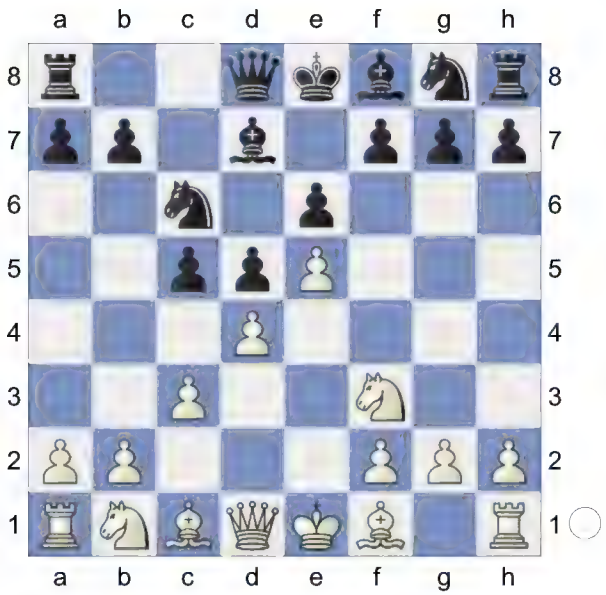


½-½

7 **C02**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
■ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2695**
87th Tata Steel Masters (7.5) 25.01.2025
[TA]

C02: French: Advance Variation
CC HeaderStart CC Giri – Carlsen CC HeaderEnd CC FTX Crypto Cup, Miami 2022 **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7**

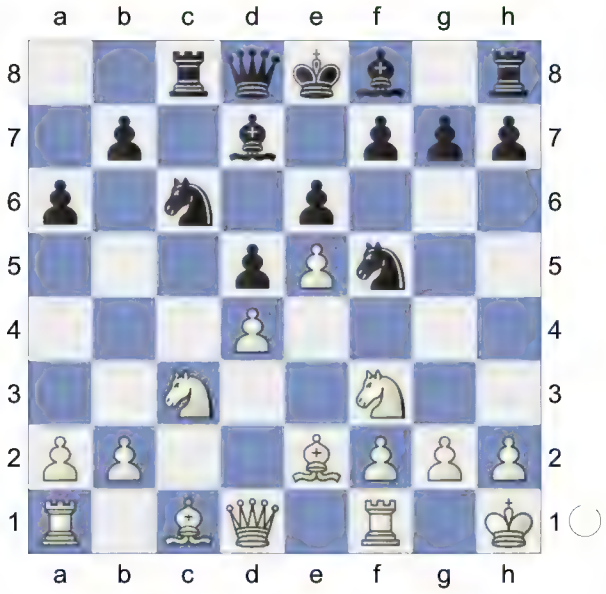
(Diagram)



6.Be2 Nge7 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Nc3 a6 10.Kh1

[10.Bg5 Qb6 11.Na4 Qa7 12.Be3 b5 13.Nc3 Be7 14.Bd3 Nxe3 15.fxe3 0-0 16.Ne2 f5 17.h4 Be8 18.Nf4 Qd7 19.g4 fxg4 20.Ng5 Bxg5 21.hxg5 Nb4 22.Bb1 Bg6 23.Nxg6 Rxf1+ 24.Qxf1 Qd8 Grube,J (2711)-Fuchs,P (2556) Sollentuna 2012 A Ferocious Opening Rep. [FM Egor Lashkin] 1-0 (42)]

10...Rc8!



11.Rb1N 0.19/24 An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante.

[11.g4± 0.53/18

A) 11...Nfe7 12.Bd3 h5 *(12...Na5 13.Rg1 Nec6 14.Rg3 Qb6 15.Na4 Qa7 16.a3 b5 17.Nc3 Nxd4 18.Be3 Bc5 19.b4 Nxf3 20.bxc5 d4 21.Ne4 Bc6 22.Nd6+ Ke7 23.Rxf3 dxe3 24.Be4 Bxe4 25.Nxe4 Nc4 26.Nd6 Qa8 27.Kg1* 3.Nd2 Nbd7 4.Ngf3 (2320)-Kolmakov,S (2520) Hastings 1993 Telechess CBM 89 [Hillarp Persson, T] ½-½ (51) *)* 13.gxh5 Rxh5 14.Ng5 g6 15.Be3 C 02/23;

B) 11...Nh4 12.Nxh4 Qxh4 13.f4]

[11.Bg5 Qb6 12.Na4 Qa7 13.Be3 Be7 14.a3 b5 15.Nc3 0-0 16.Bd3 Nxe3 17.fxe3 b4 18.axb4 Nxb4 19.e4 Nxd3 20.Qxd3 dxe4 21.Nxe4 h6 22.Rfe1 a5 23.Qd2 Bc6 24.Qf4 Qb8 25.Re2 a4 Musterpartien-6 | Anish Giri – Magnus Car (34)]

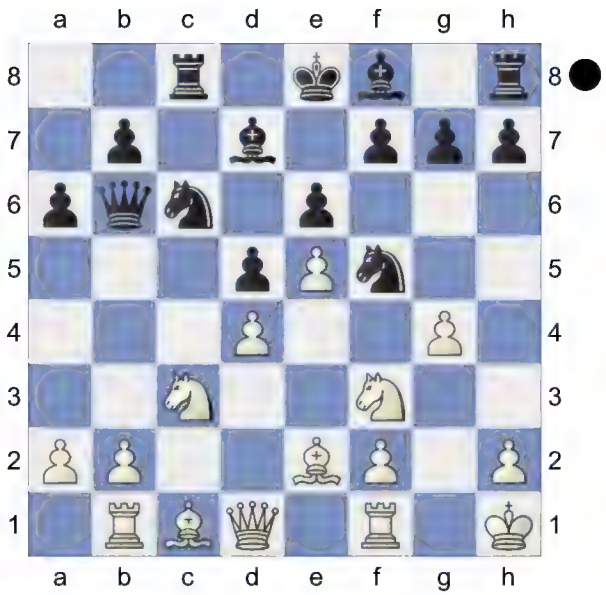
[11.a3 h6 12.Be3 Be7 13.Bd3 Nxe3 14.fxe3 0-0 15.Rc1 Na5 16.Qe2 g6 17.Nd2 b5 18.Rf3 Kg7 19.Bb1 f5 20.exf6+ Rxf6 21.Rcf1 Be8 22.Rxf6 Bxf6 23.Qg4 Qd6 24.e4 h5 25.Qf3 Bg5 Mahdavi,R (2436)-Tabatabaei,M (2669) Moscow 2025 0-1 (48)]

11...Qb6N The position is equal.

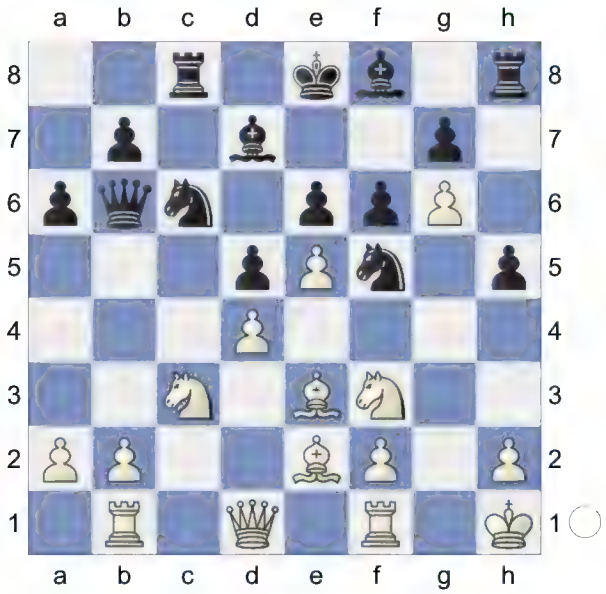
[11...b5 12.g4 Nh4 13.Bg5 Be7 14.Be3 -0.68/25 *(14.Bxh4= -0.09/21 Bxh4 15.Bd3)* 14...Nxf3 *(14...b4!? 15.Na4 Nxf3 16.Bxf3 Na5∓)* 15.Bxf3 0-0 16.Be2 -0.95/20 *(16.Ne2∓ -0.49/19* deserves consideration.*)* 16...f6!∓ 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Qd2 1-0 Sjugirov,S (2705)-Mekhitarian,K (2559) Titled Tuesday intern op 17th Oct Late blitz 2023 (10)]

12.g4

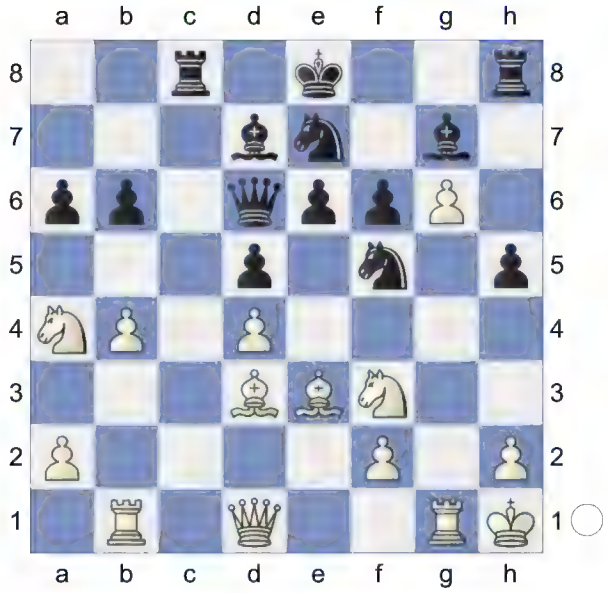
(Diagram)



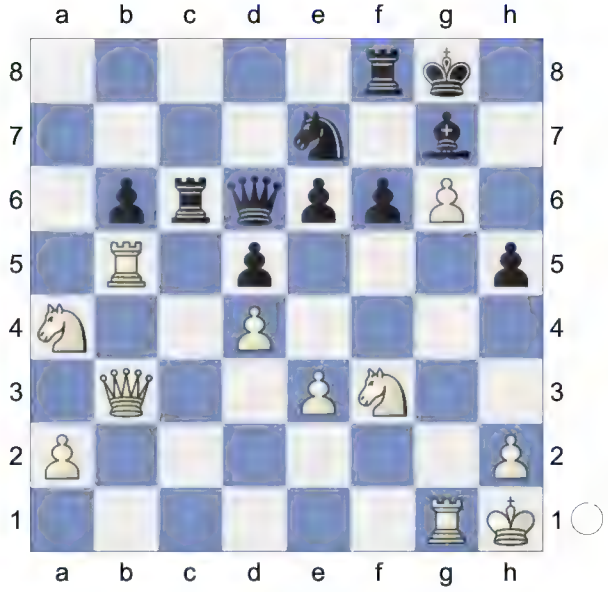
Nfe7 0.58/22
[12...Nfxd4? 13.Be3+-]
[12...Ncxd4!= -0.09/21 13.gxf5 Nxf3]
13.Be3± h5 14.g5 Nf5 0.96/20
[14...g6± 0.49/20 feels stronger.]
15.g6!± f6
[15...fxg6?! 16.Rg1=]



16.exf6 gxf6 17.Bd3 Nce7 18.Rg1 Bg7 19.Na4 0.10/21
[19.Bf4± 0.53/19]
19...Qd6 0.71/20
[19...Qb4!= 0.10/21 remains equal.
20.Nc5 Nxe3 21.fxe3 Rxc5]
20.b4 0.15/22
[Better is 20.Nc5± 0.71/20]
20...b6=

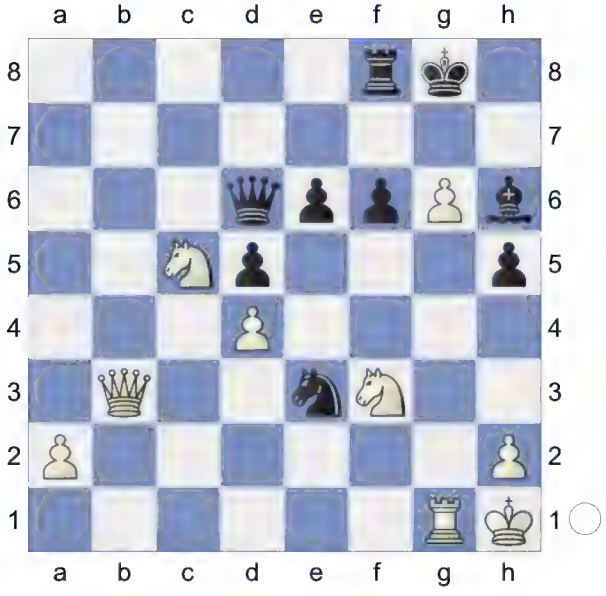


21.b5 axb5 22.Bxb5 Bxb5 23.Rxb5 Nxe3 0.55/20
[23...Rc6= 0.20/24 is superior.]
24.fxe3± Rc6 25.Qb3 0.42/25
[25.Nh4± 0.82/24]
25...0-0!

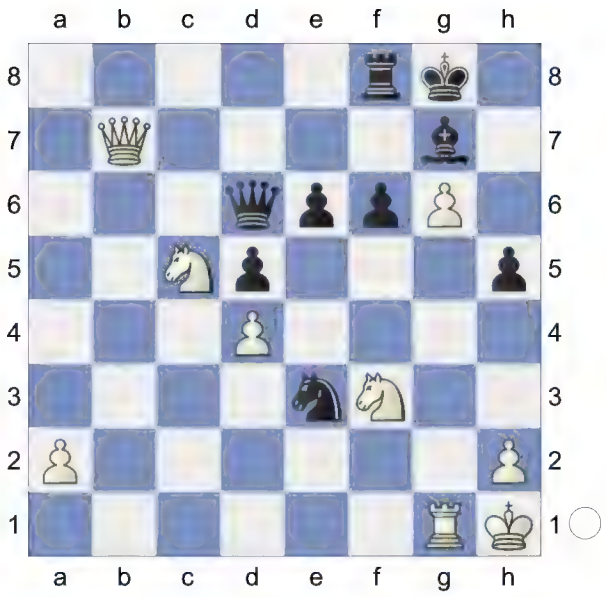


26.Nxb6 Bh6 1.14/20
[26...Nf5± 0.48/21]

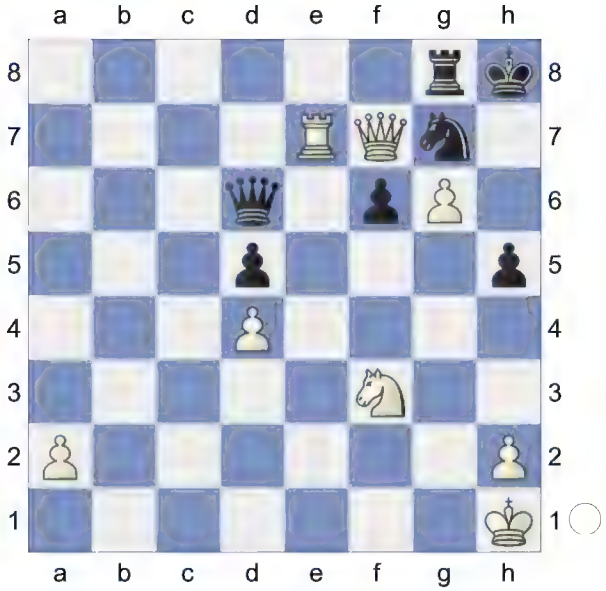
27.Na4 0.27/18 &Bianco is more active.
[27.Re1!± 1.14/20]
27...Nf5= **28.Rc5!** Qb7 is the strong threat. **28...Rxc5** **29.Nxc5→** White has some attack. Pair of Knights!
29...Nxe3? 5.05/22
[29...Rb8 30.Qa4 *(30.Nb7? Qc7-+)* 30...Qe7 31.Qc6±]
[29...Bxe3± 0.70/20 30.Qb7 Ng7]



This costs Black the game. **30.Qb7!+-** White is clearly winning. **30...Bg7**
(Diagram)

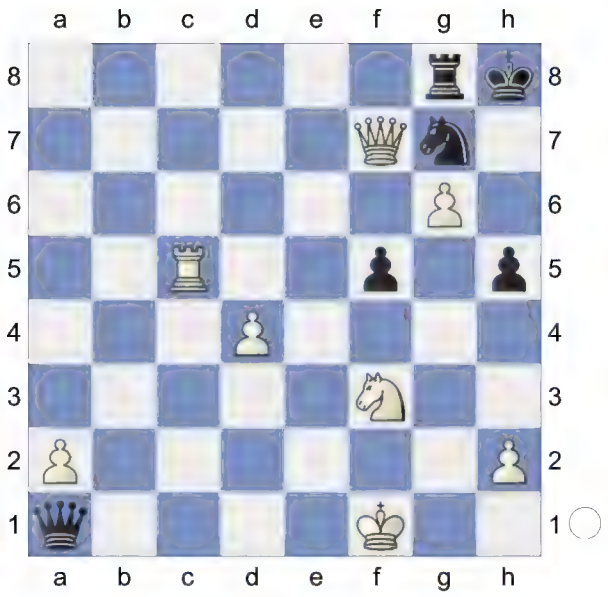


31.Re1 **Nf5** 7.23/23
[⌓31...Qf4 4.66/18 32.Qxg7+ Kxg7 33.Nxe6+ Kh6 34.Nxf4 Nf5]
32.Nxe6 **Rb8** **33.Qf7+** **Kh8** **34.Nxg7** **Nxg7** **35.Re7** **Rg8**



36.Rd7 **Qb6** **37.Rxd5** **Qb1+** **38.Kg2** White threatens Rxh5+! and mate.
38...f5 **39.Rc5** Against Qc2+ **39...Qb2+** **40.Kf1** **Qa1+**

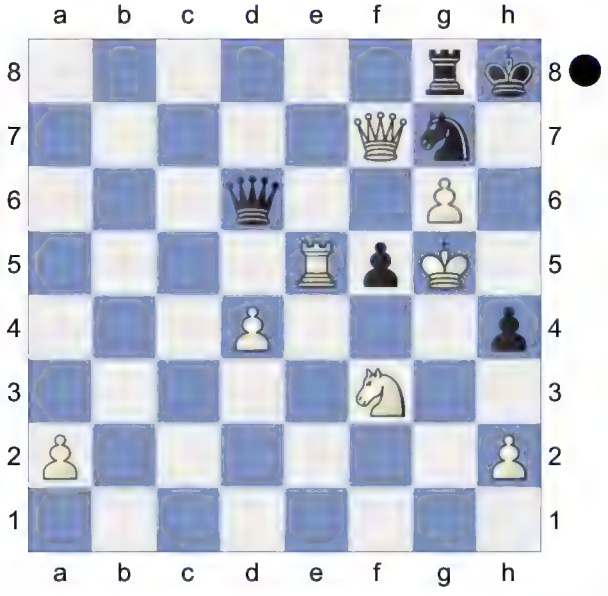
(Diagram)



41.Kf2 **Qb2+** **42.Kg3** Strongly threatening Qf6. **42...h4+** **43.Kf4** Qf6 would kill now.

[43.Nxh4 Qe2 44.Nxf5 Nxf5+ 45.Rxf5 *(45.Qxf5 Rxg6+ 46.Kf4 Qxh2+ 47.Ke3 Rg3+ 48.Ke4 Qg2+ 49.Ke5 Rg5=)* 45...Rxg6+ 46.Qxg6 Qxh2+ 47.Kf3 Qf4+ 48.Kg2 Qh2+ 49.Kf3 Qf4+ 50.Kg2 Qh2+ 51.Kf3=]

43...Qb8+ **44.Re5** Hoping for Qf6. **44...Qd6** Against Qf6 **45.Kg5**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.20

(precise) /Black=0.50

1-0

8 **C50**

□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2768**

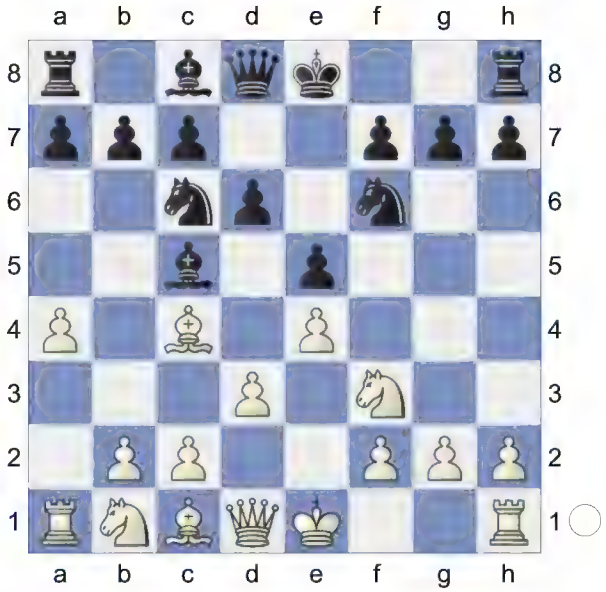
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**

87th Tata Steel Masters (6.4) 24.01.2025

[TA]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.a4 Nf6 5.d3 d6



6.a5 Bb4+N

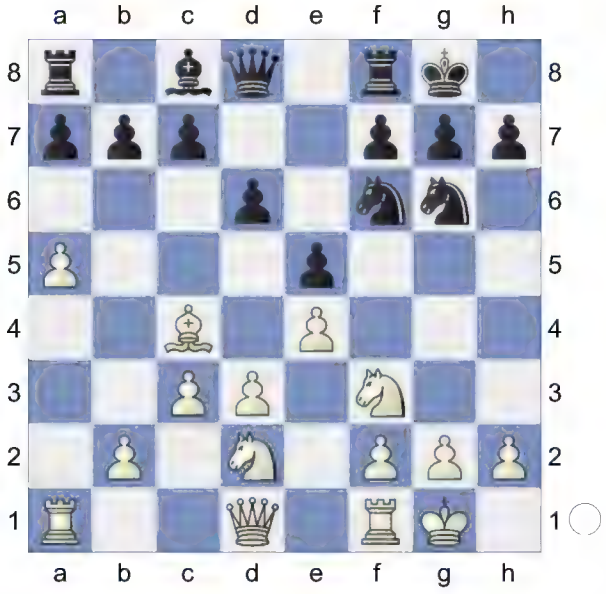
[6...a6 7.c3 h6 8.0-0 0-0

A) 9.h3 Ba7 10.Be3 Be6 *(10...d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Bxa7 Rxa7 13.Re1 Nf4 14.Nxe5 Qg5 15.Ng4 Nxa5 16.Ba2 h5 17.Ne3 Bxh3 18.Qf3 Be6 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Nf1 Nb3 21.Ra3 Nc5 22.d4 Ncd3 23.Re4 Nxf2 24.Re5 Qg6 25.Qg3* Alekseenko,K (2686)-Lazavik,D (2544) Chess.com INT 2023 0-1 *Qxb1)* 11.Nbd2 Bxc4 12.Nxc4 Re8 13.Bxa7 Rxa7 14.Re1 Ra8

15.Ne3 Rb8 16.b4 d5 17.Qc2 d4 18.Nc4 Qd7 19.Rab1 Rbd8 20.b5 axb5 21.Rxb5 dxc3 22.Qxc3 Qxd3 23.Qxd3 Rxd3 Siddharth,J (2515)-Kaustuv,K (2409) Chennai IND 2025 The Week in Chess 1574 [Kitty Kat] ½-½;

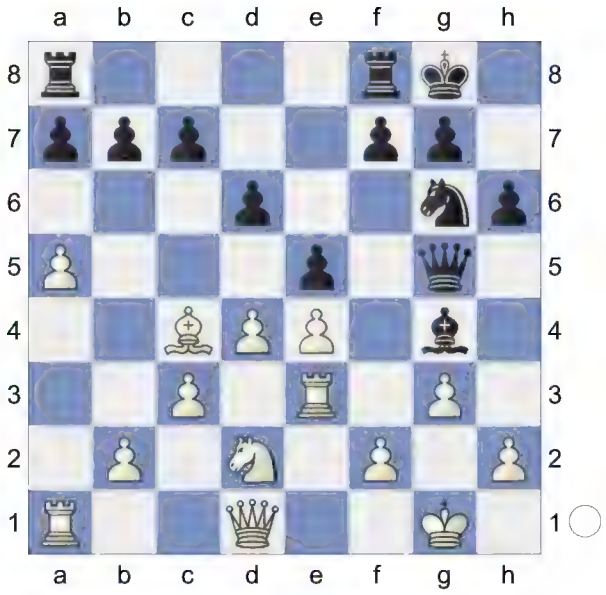
B) 9.b4 Ba7 10.Be3 Bxe3 11.fxe3 Be6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Nbd2 d5 14.Qb3 Kh8 15.Rad1 Qe7 16.Qb1 dxe4 17.dxe4 b5 18.Nb3 Nd7 19.Rd2 Rae8 20.Qe1 Rf7 21.Qg3 Wei,Y (2762)-Yakubboev,N (2655) Almaty KAZ 2024 Mega2024 Update 40 [Kitty Kat] 1-0 (43)]

7.Bd2! Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 White has an edge. **8...0-0 9.0-0 Ne7 10.c3 Ng6**



11.Re1 h6 12.d4 Nh7 13.Re3 Ng5 14.Nxg5 Qxg5 15.g3 Bg4

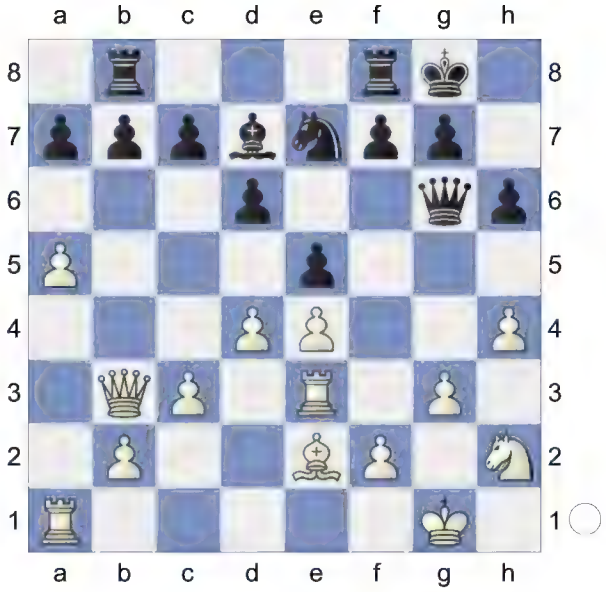
(Diagram)



16.h4 Qh5

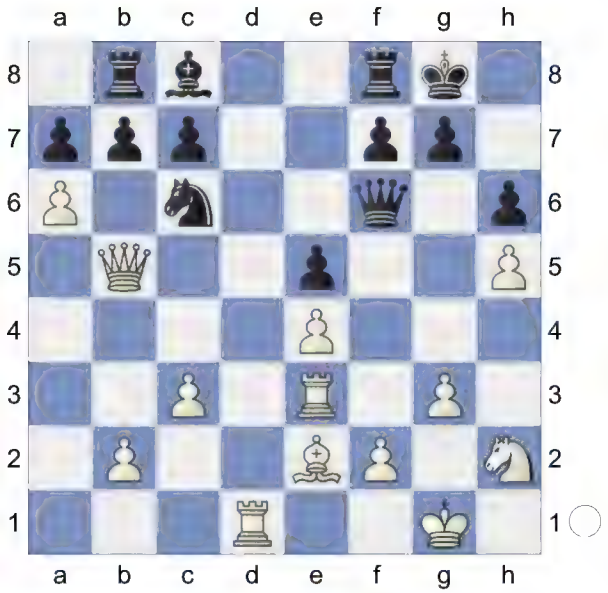
[16...Qxe3? 17.Qc2 *(17.Qc1 Qe2+-)* 17...Qxd2 18.Qxd2+-]

17.Qb3 Rab8 18.Nf1! Ne7 19.Nh2! Bd7 20.Be2! Qg6



21.dxe5 dxe5 22.Rd1 Be6 23.Qb5 Nc6 24.a6 Bc8 25.h5 Qf6

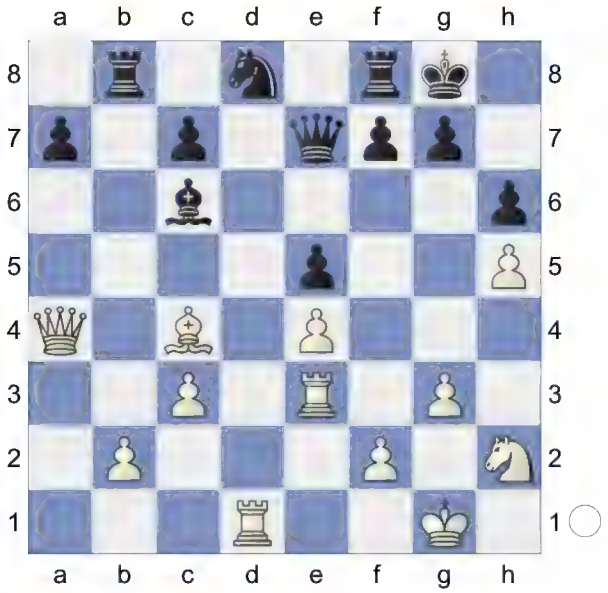
(Diagram)



26.Rf3 Qe6 27.Bc4 Qe7 28.Qa4 0.44/13 0x0.002fd1a72e1ddp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed.

[White should play 28.Rfd3!± 1.20/11]

28...Nd8!± 29.axb7 Bxb7 30.Re3 Bc6

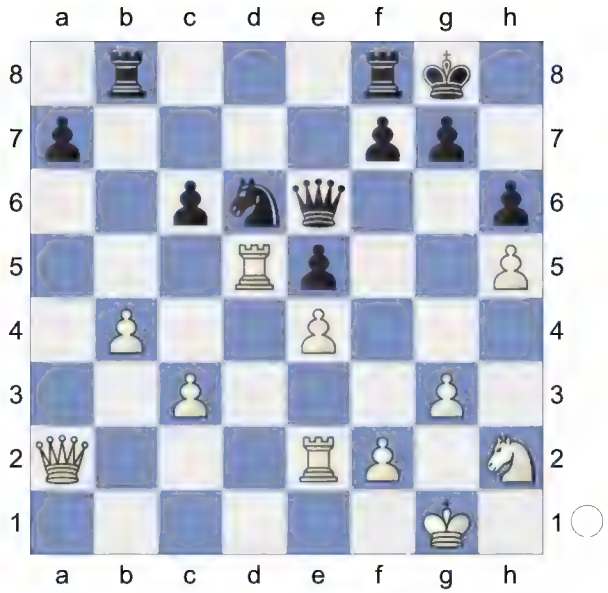


31.Qa2 Nb7 32.b4

[Not 32.Qxa7? Ra8 33.Qxa8 Rxa8-+]

32...Nd6 33.Bd5 Bxd5 34.Rxd5 Qe6 35.Re2 c6 0.87/11

[35...Rfc8± 0.37/9]



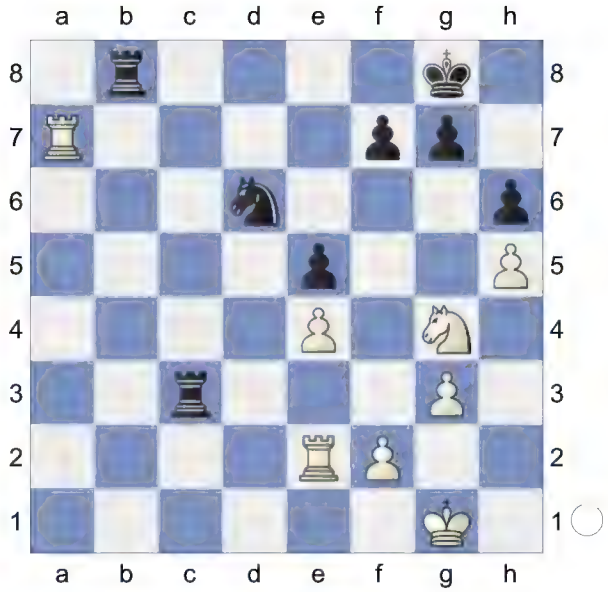
36.Ra5 0.40/13

[36.Rc5!± 0.87/11]

36...Qxa2 37.Raxa2 Rfc8 38.Ng4 c5 39.bxc5

[Of course not 39.Rxa7 Nb5 40.Ra5 Nxc3∓]

39...Rxc5 40.Rxa7 Rxc3

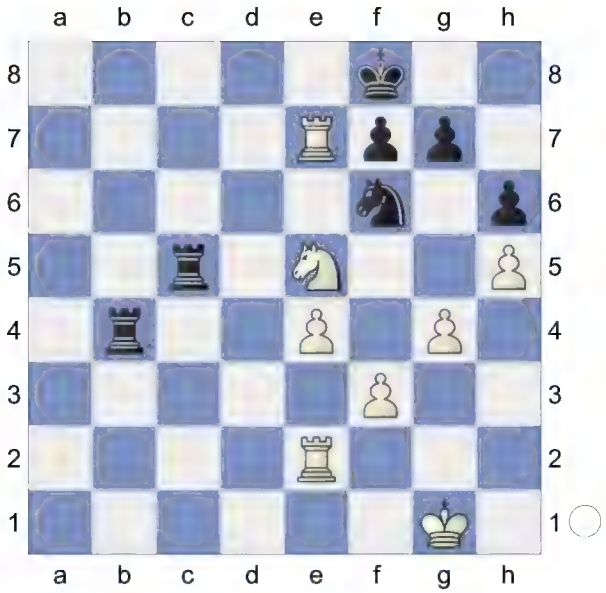


41.Rd7 Ne8 42.Nxe5 Nf6 White must now prevent ...Re8. **43.Re7 Rb4** 1.10/10

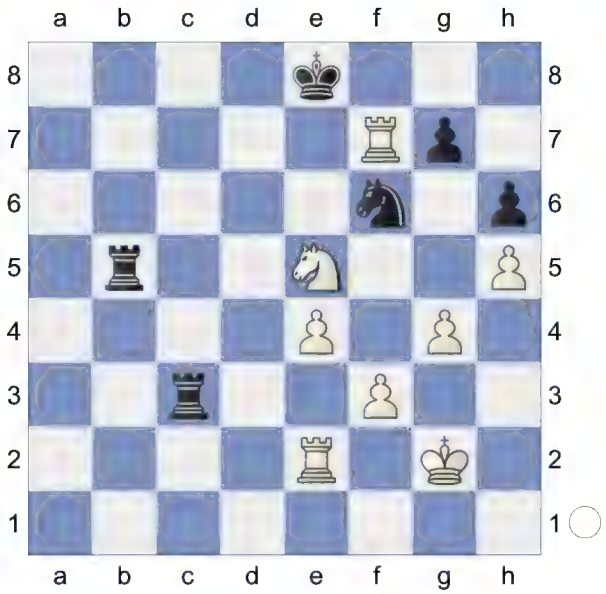
[43...Rf8± 0.64/9]

44.g4 Rc5 45.f3 Kf8 1.50/18

[⌓45...Rb3 0.97/13]

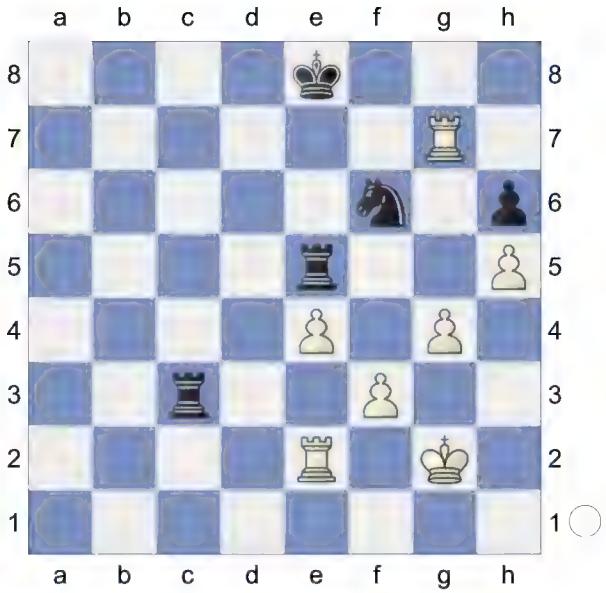


46.Rxf7+± Ke8 47.Nd3 Rb1+ 48.Kg2 Rc3 49.Ne5 Rb5

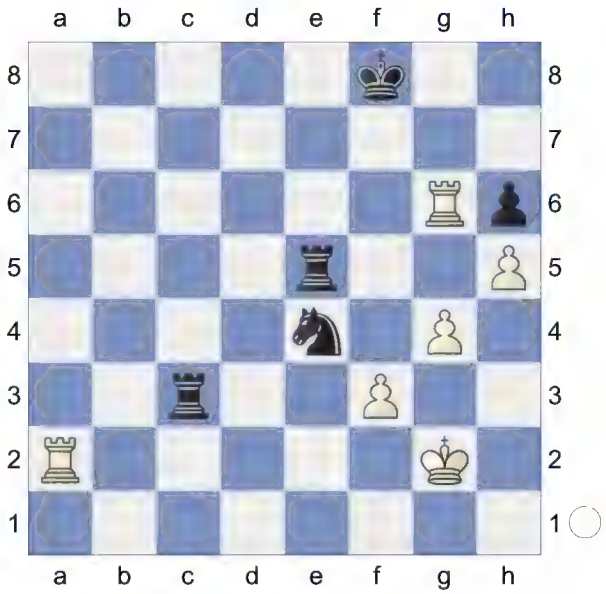


50.Rxg7! Rxe5

(Diagram)

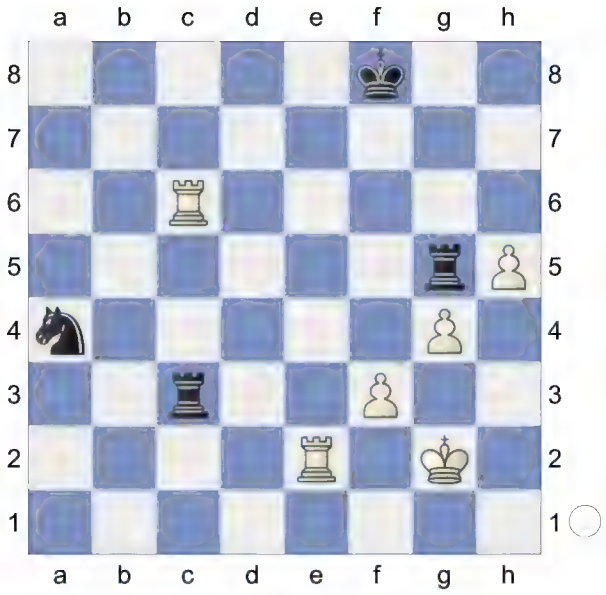


51.Ra2 Threatening mate with Ra8+.
51...Kf8 52.Rg6 Nxe4

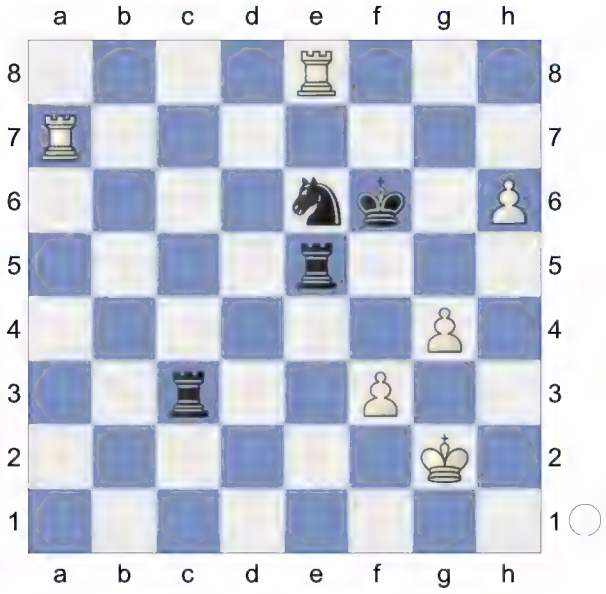


53.Re2! Pin
[Don't do 53.Rxh6 Ng5±]
53...Rg5 54.Rxh6 Nc5 55.Rc6
White has strong compensation.
55...Na4

(Diagram)

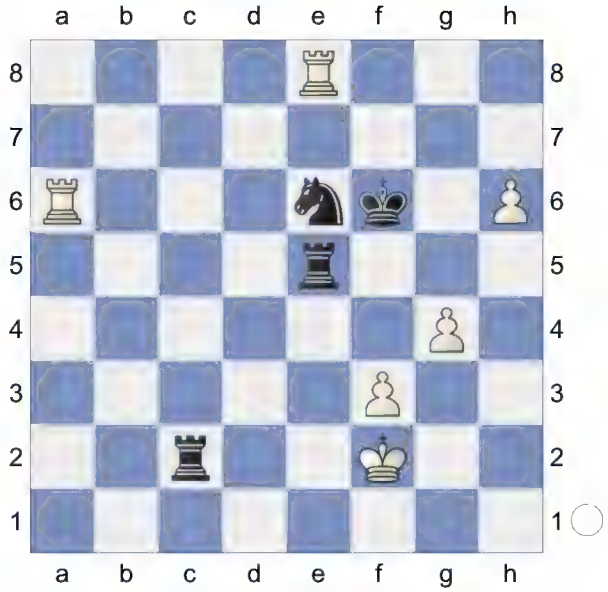


56.Ra6 Nc5 57.Ra8+ Kf7 58.Ra7+ Kf6 59.Re8 0.46/11
[White should try 59.Ree7± 1.14/10]
59...Ne6!± 60.h6 0.07/9
[60.Kg3± 0.55/9 should be considered.]
60...Re5=

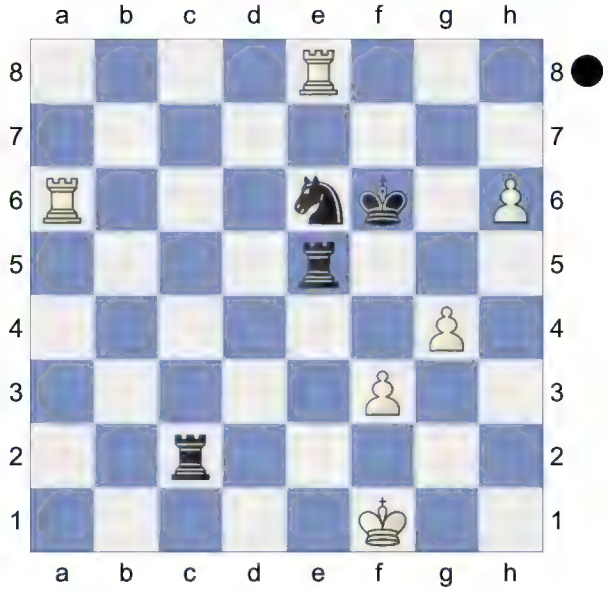


The position is equal. **61.Ra6⇄**
White puts up resistance **61...Rc2+**
62.Kf1 aiming for h7. **62...Rc1+ 63.Kf2!**
Strongly threatening h7. **63...Rc2+**
64.Kf1 And now h7 would win. **64...Rc1+**
65.Kf2! Threatens to win with h7.

65...Rc2+



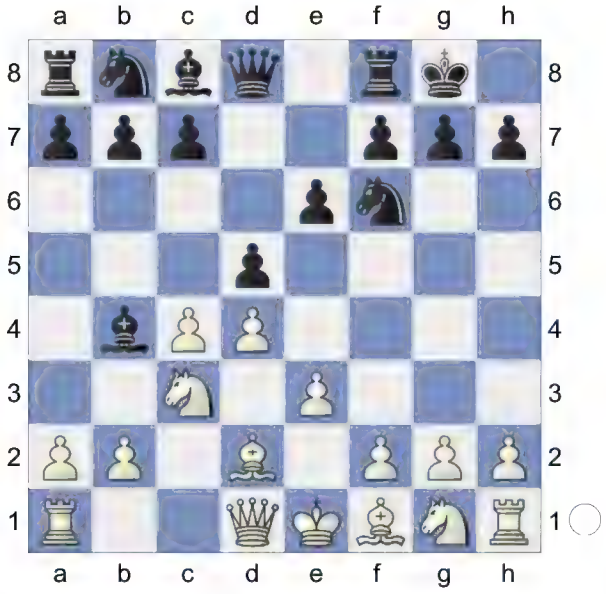
66.Kf1



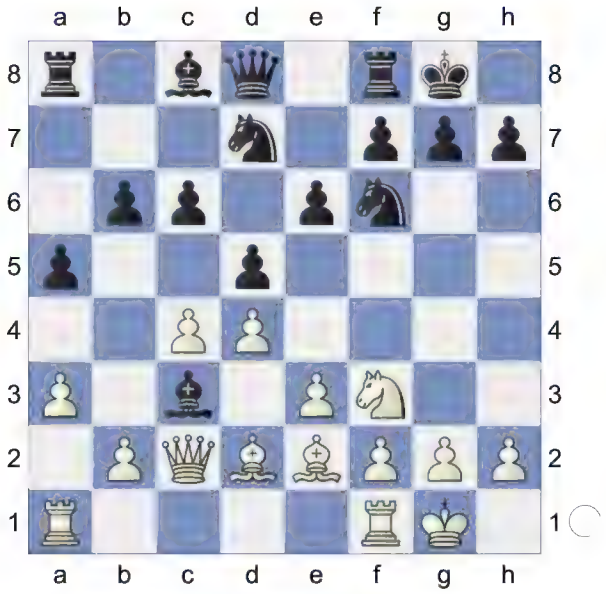
White really could win this.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

9 **E46**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2733**
87th Tata Steel Masters (5.6) 22.01.2025
[TA]

D45: Semi-Slav: 5 e3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd2 d5

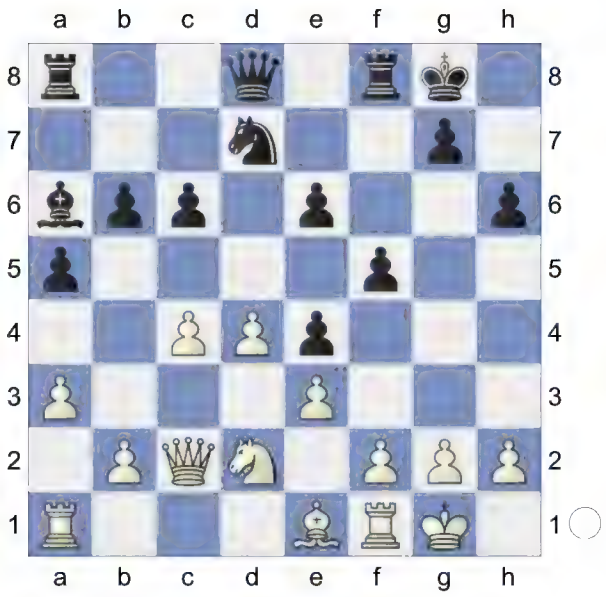


6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Qc2
[7.Rc1 c6 8.Bd3 Qe7 9.0-0 dxc4 10.Bxc4 e5 11.Qc2 Bd6 12.h3 Nb6 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.Bd3 Rd8 16.Rfd1 Be6 17.Ne2 h6 18.b3 a5 19.Bc3 Qg5 20.f4 Qh5 21.e4 a4 Moroni,L (2575)-Moussard,J (2639) Budva MNE 2023 [John Emms] 1-0]
7...c6
[7...Re8 8.a3 Bf8 9.Bd3 c5 10.0-0 b6 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Ng5 g6 13.f4 Bg7 14.f5 Nf8 15.fxg6 hxg6 16.dxc5 Be6 17.c6 Ng4 18.e4 Qd6 19.Bf4 Qc5+ 20.Kh1 dxe4 21.Ngxe4 Qh5 22.Be2 Bursic,E (2398)-Shreyans,K (2492) 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Qd7 2023 CT-2292 [John Watson] 1-0 (38)]
8.Be2N
[8.Bd3 Qe7 9.0-0 Bd6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Rfe1 Qd8 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Be7 14.Nc5 h6 15.a4 Nxc5 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Qxc5 Qxd3 18.Bb4 Be6 19.Rad1 Qg6 20.Ne5 Qf5 21.Bc3 Ne4 22.Qe3 Nxc3 Meszaros (2561)-Posizione (2597) Beer-Sheva 95/161 2012 OPN, C00 [Krasenkow,M/Primel,D] 0-1 (36) 23.Qxc3 Rfe8 24.a5 a6 25.f3 Rad8 26.Ng4 Qb5 27.h3 c5 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 29.Re5 Rd1+ 30.Kh2 Qb4 31.Qxb4 cxb4 32.Re4 b3 33.Rb4 Rd2 34.Rxb7 Rxb2 35.Ne5 Rd2 36.f4 b2 0-1 (36) Manolache,M (2561)-Zubarev,A (2597) Metz 2012 EXT 2013 [Metz Alekhine/Primel,D]]
8...b6 9.0-0 a5 10.a3 White is slightly better. **10...Bxc3**

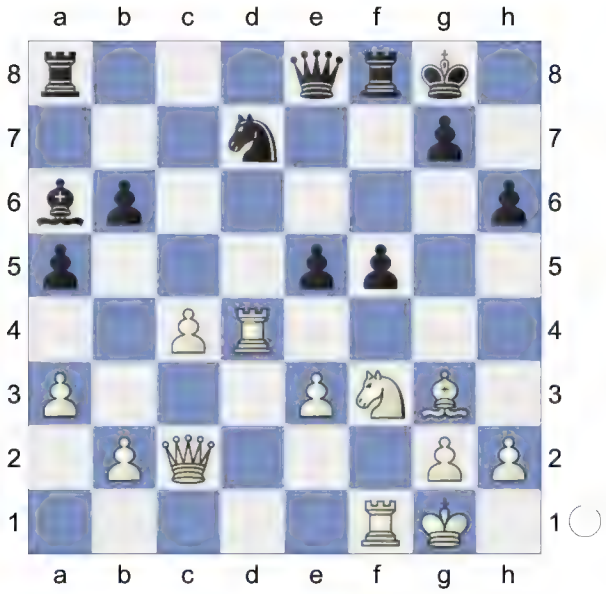


11.Bxc3 Ne4 12.Be1 0.11/10
[12.Rfc1± 0.45/8]
12...Ba6= 13.Bd3 h6 14.Bxe4 dxe4 15.Nd2 f5

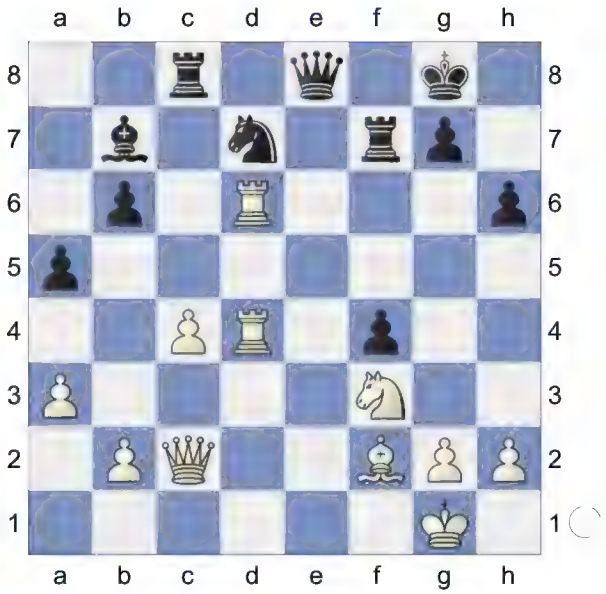
(Diagram)



16.f3! exf3 17.Nxf3 c5 18.Rd1 cxd4 0.45/14
[18...Qc8= 0.01/9]
19.Rxd4± Qe8 20.Bg3 e5

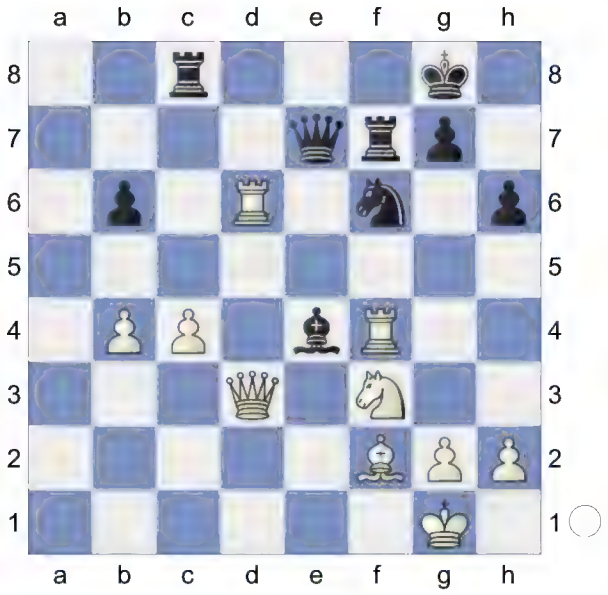


21.Rd6 Rc8 22.Rfd1 f4 23.exf4
[23.Rxd7 fxg3 24.hxg3 Rxc4=]
23...exf4 24.Bf2
[24.Rxd7 fxg3 25.hxg3 *(25.Qc3 Rf7∓)* 25...Bb5!=]
24...Rf7
[24...Rxc4? 25.Qd3 Nb8 26.Rd8+- *(26.Rxb6 Qe4±; 26.Bxb6 Rc8±)*]
25.R1d4 0x0.002fd1a72e1ddp-1022s
more active pieces. **25...Bb7** 1.10/11
[25...Ne5± 0.68/10]

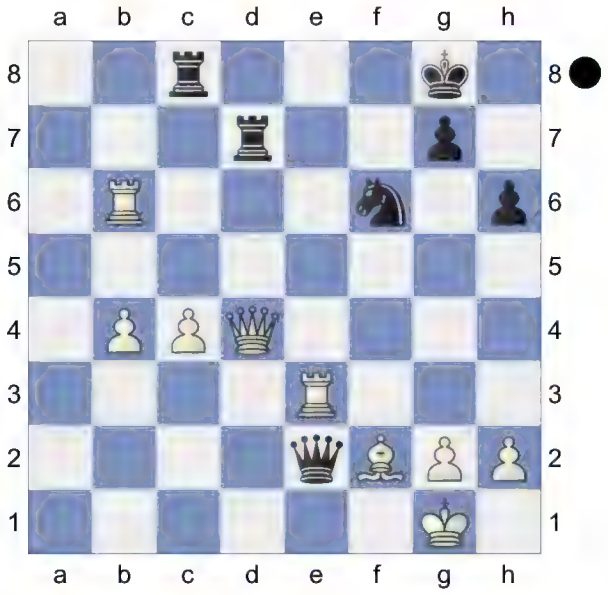


26.Qd1!± Bc6 27.b4 axb4 28.axb4 Qe7 29.Qd3 0.47/12
[29.h3± 0.92/9]
29...Nf6 0.98/9
[Black should play 29...Ne5± 0.47/12 30.Nxe5 Qxe5]
30.Rxf4 0.40/12
[30.h3± 0.98/9]
30...Be4 1.35/15
[30...Ne8!± 0.40/12 31.Rdd4 *(31.Rxf7 Qxd6 32.Qf5 Bxf3±)* 31...Rxf4 32.Rxf4 Qxb4]

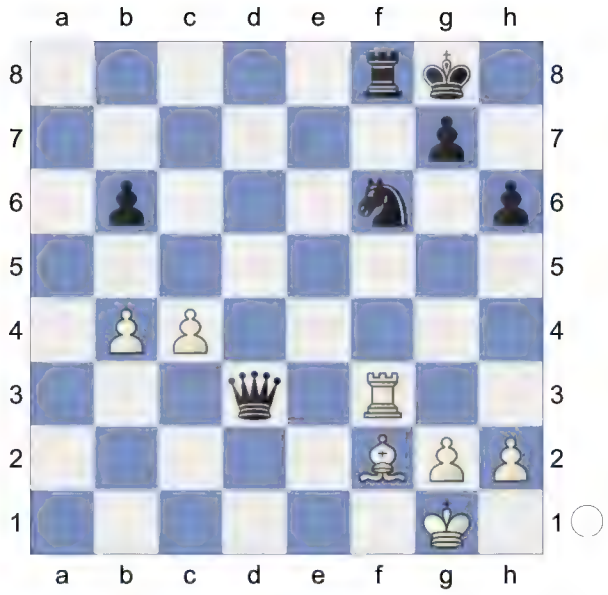
(Diagram)



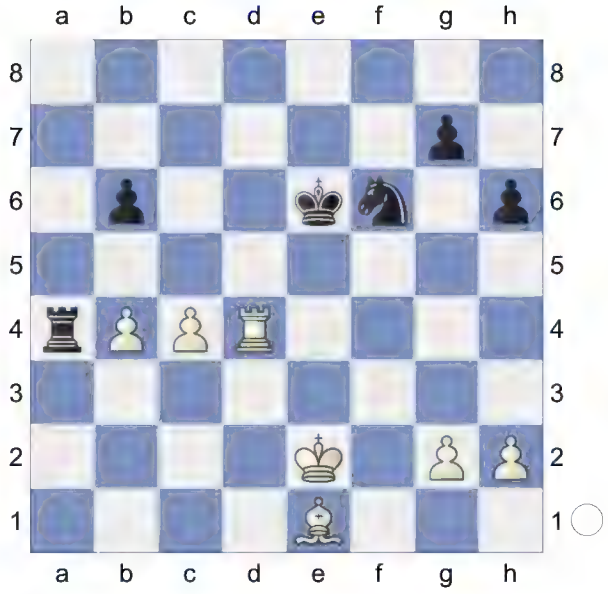
31.Qd4 Strongly threatening Rdxf6!
31...Bxf3 32.Rxf3 Qe2 1.65/14
[32...Qe4± 1.12/12 was worth a try.]
33.Rd8++-
[33.Rxb6? Rd7 34.Re3 *(34.Rd6? Rxc4 35.Qe3 Qxe3-+)*



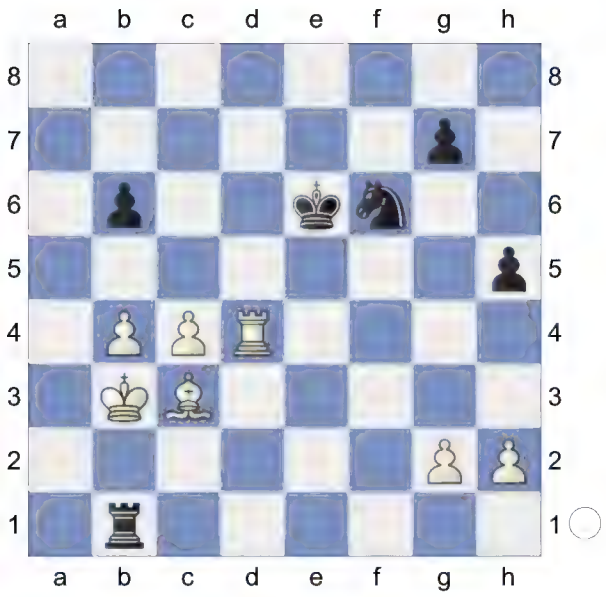
34...Qxf2+!! 35.Kxf2 Rxd4-+]
[33.Qxb6 Rxc4 34.h3 Rc1+ 35.Kh2 Qe5+ 36.Rg3 *(36.Bg3? Qa1-+)* 36...Ne4 37.Rd8+ Rf8=]
33...Rxd8 34.Qxd8+ Rf8 35.Qd3 Qxd3
(Diagram)



36.Rxd3± Endgame KRB-KRN **36...Rc8**
37.Rd4
[Much less strong is 37.Bxb6 Rxc4 38.Rb3 Nd5±]
37...Kf7 38.Kf1 Ra8 39.Ke2 Ra4
40.Be1 1.49/10
[40.b5+- 1.87/9]
40...Ke6



41.Bd2 h5 42.Kd3 Ng4 1.91/11
[42...Ra2± 1.52/8 43.g3 Ng4]
43.Kc3+- Nf6 2.83/8
[⌓43...Nxh2 1.80/9 44.Re4+ Kd7]
44.Kb3 Ra1 45.Bc3 Rb1+



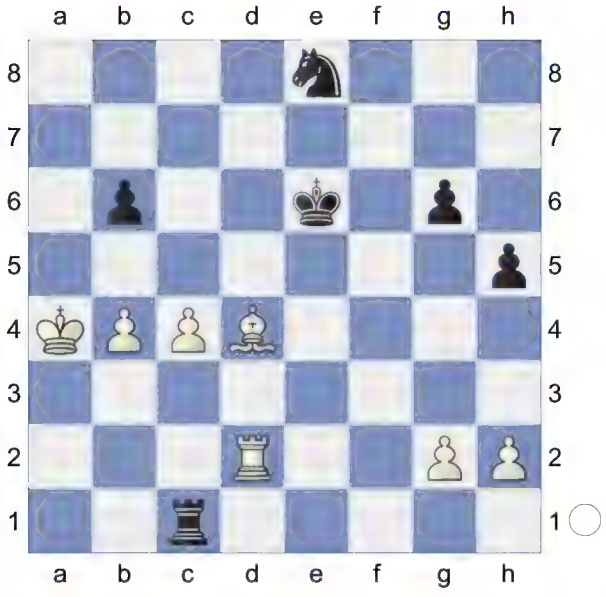
46.Kc2 Rf1 47.Rd2 Ne8 48.Kb3 g6 3.09/10

[⌓48...h4 2.18/8 49.h3 Rb1+ 50.Rb2 Rd1 51.Re2+ Kf7 52.Rf2+ Ke6 53.Re2+ Kf7 54.Rf2+ Ke6]

49.Bd4 Rb1+ 50.Ka4 2.01/11

[⌓50.Rb2 4.27/9 Rxb2+ 51.Bxb2 *(51.Kxb2 Nd6±)*]

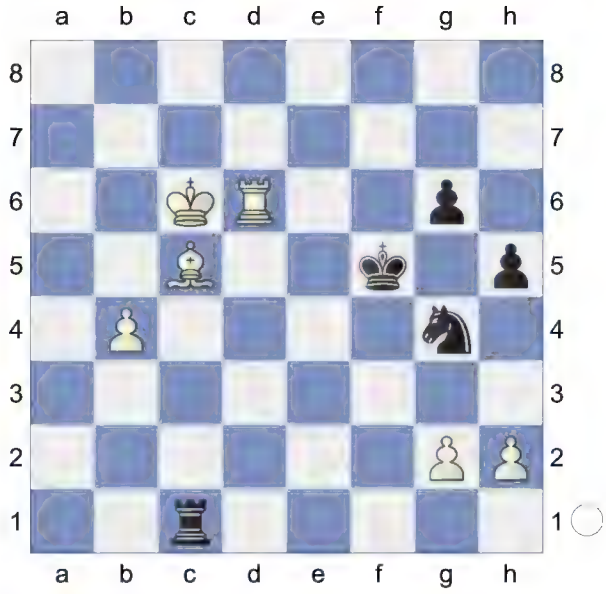
50...Rc1



51.Bxb6 Rxc4 52.Kb5 Rc1 53.Bc5 Prevents Nd6+. **53...Nf6 54.Rd6+ Kf5** 2.42/11

[54...Kf7 1.78/10 was called for. 55.h3 Rc2]

55.Kc6 Ng4



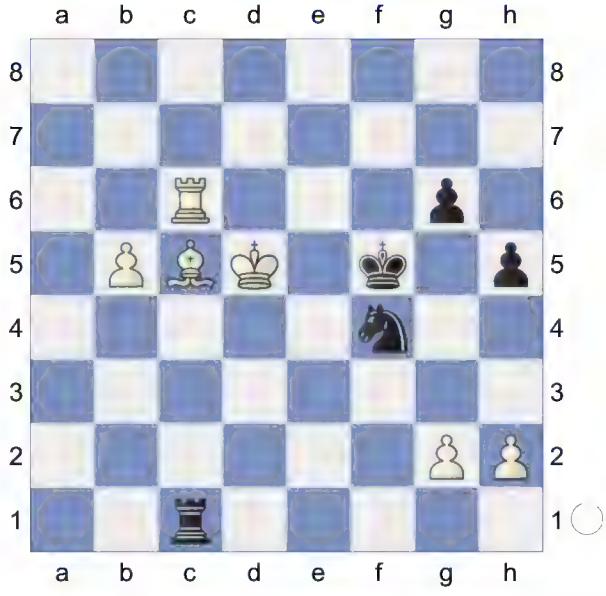
56.Rd2

[Don't take 56.b5?! Ne5+ 57.Kd5 Rb1+-]

56...Ke6 57.Rd6+ Kf5 58.b5 Threatens to win with b6. **58...Ne5+ 59.Kd5** Hoping for Rd8. **59...Nd3** 2.01/11

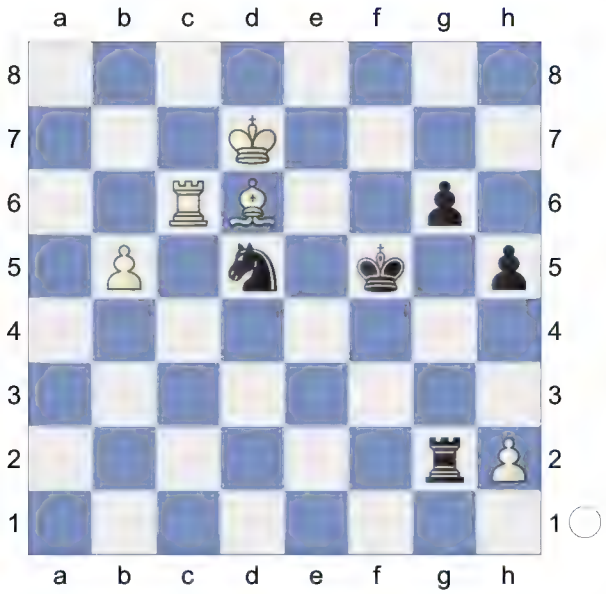
[⌓59...Rb1 1.67/12]

60.Rc6 Nf4+

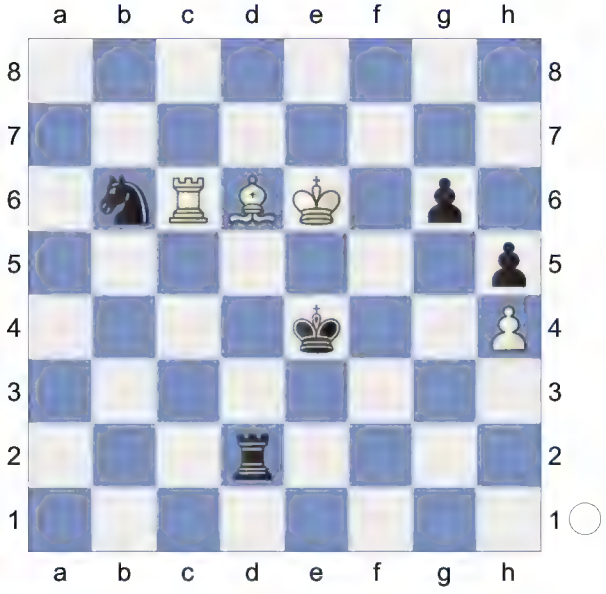


61.Kd6 Rd1+ 62.Kc7 Nd5+ 63.Kc8 1.20/10

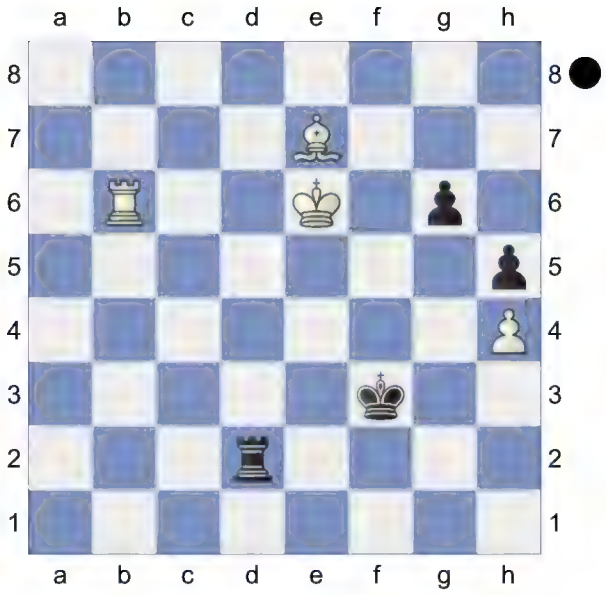
[63.Kd7+- 1.66/9]
63...Rc1 64.Kd7 aiming for b6. **64...Rc2 65.Bd6 Rxg2**



66.Rc5 Ke4 67.Ke6 Rd2 68.h4 Nb6? 4.07/11 Loses the game.
[68...Rd4± 1.25/9 69.Rc6 Nf4+ 70.Kd7 Nd5]
69.Rc6 Nd5 5.58/10
[⌓69...Na4 3.85/10 70.Rc4+ Rd4]
70.b6 White is clearly winning. **70...Nxb6**



71.Rxb6 Be7 is the strong threat.
71...Kf3 72.Be7
(Diagram)

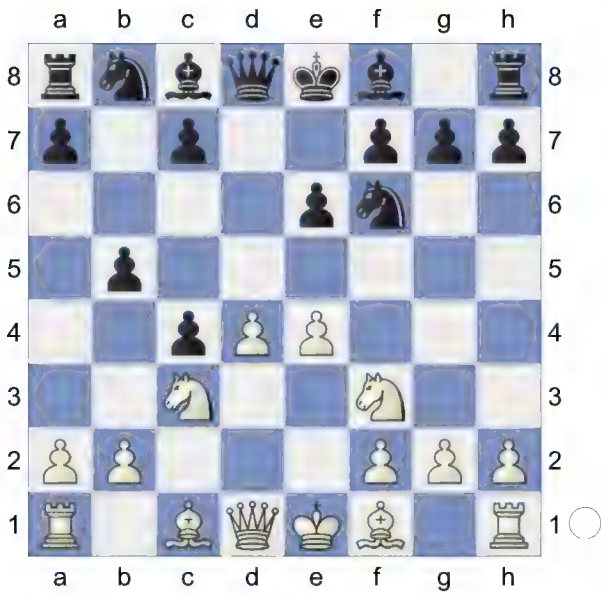


Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)
1-0

10 **D37**
□ **Fedoseev,Vl3** **2717**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
87th Tata Steel Masters (2.4) 19.01.2025
[TA]

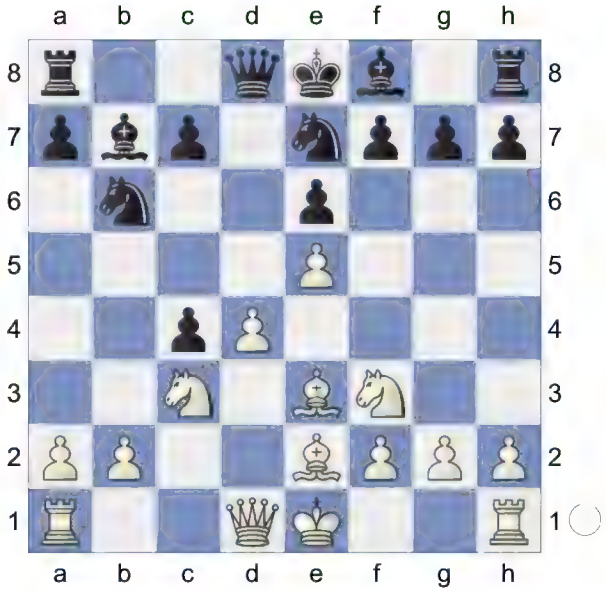
D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5

(Diagram)

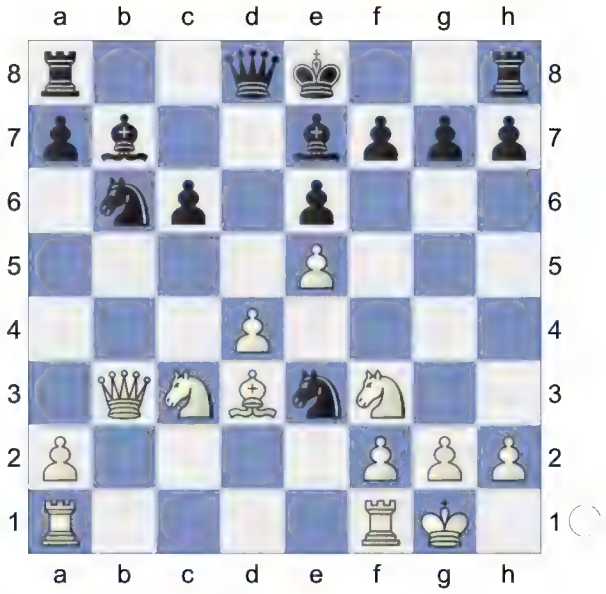


6.e5 Nd5

Strongly threatening ...a6. **7.Nxb5 Nb6**
8.Nc3 White is slightly better.
[8.a4 Nc6 9.a5 Ba6 10.Na3 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 c3 12.bxc3 Bxf1 13.axb6 Bxg2 14.Rg1 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nxd4 16.Qe4 axb6 17.cxb4 Qd5 18.Qxd5 exd5 19.Rg3 0-0 20.Rc1 Ne6 21.Rc6 Ra4 22.Rd3 Rd8 Tomashevsky,E (2702)-Alekseenko,K (2650) Konya TUR 2019 [Flear,Glenn] 1-0 (41)]
8...Nc6 9.Be3 Bb7 10.Be2 Ne7N
[10...Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Qb1 Nb4 13.Rd1 Rb8 14.Nd2 N4d5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Bf3 Qb5 17.Bxb7 Rxb7 18.Qc2 c5 19.dxc5 Bxc5 20.a4 Qb4 21.Bxc5 Qxc5 22.a5 Nd7 23.Nxc4 Nxe5 24.Qe4 Nc6 25.Ne3 Wang,Q (2149)-Shuvalova,P (2483) Shaoxing CHN 2024 CBM 223 [Grigoriants,Sergey] ½-½ (35)]



11.b3 cxb3 12.Qxb3 Nf5 13.Bb5+ c6 14.Bd3 Be7 15.0-0 Nxe3

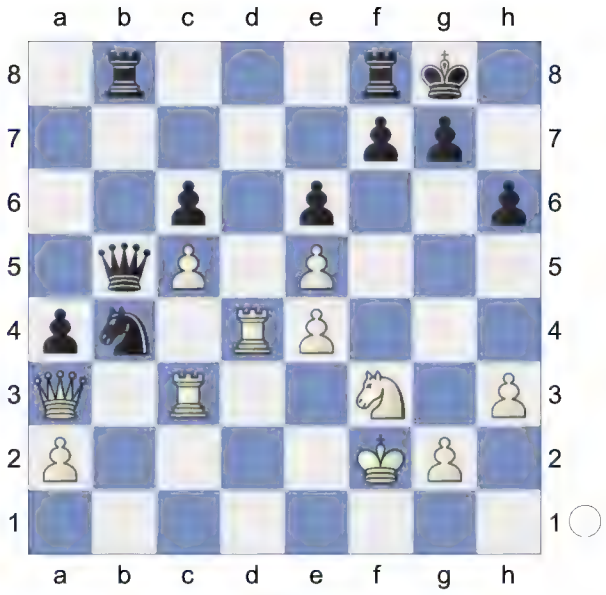


16.fxe3 0-0 17.Ne4 Against c5

17...Rb8 18.Nc5 Hoping for Nxe6!
18...Bxc5 0.87/17
[18...Bc8± 0.48/22]
19.dxc5± Nd5 20.Qa3 Inhibits Ba6. &Bianco is more active. **20...a5**

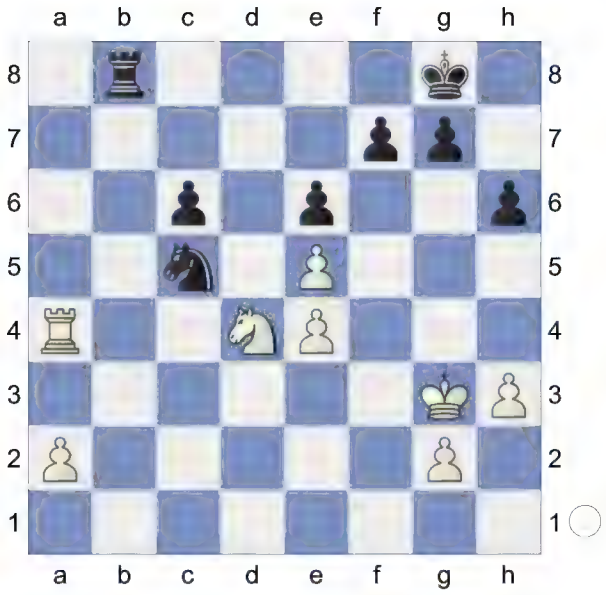
21.Rad1 0.54/23
[21.Rfd1± 0.96/20]
21...Qc7 22.Bc4 Nb4 23.Rd6 Ba6 24.Bxa6 Nxa6 25.Rc1 Nb4

26.h3 Qa7 27.e4 Qa6 28.Kf2 0.15/20 Prevents Qe2+.
[White should try 28.Nd4± 0.99/22]
28...h6 29.Rc3 a4 30.Rd4 Qb5

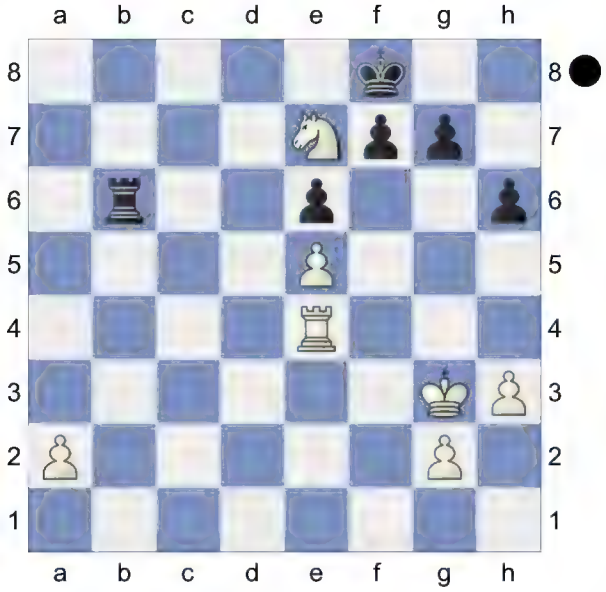


31.Rcc4 0.20/21
[31.Kg1± 0.55/24 deserves consideration.]
31...Na6= 32.Kg3
[32.Rxa4 seems wilder. Nxc5 33.Ra5 Qb2+ 34.Qxb2 Rxb2+ 35.Ke3]
32...Rfd8 And now ...Rxd4 would win. The position is equal. **33.Rxa4**
[33.Qc1 is more complex. Rxd4 34.Nxd4 Qb2 35.Qxb2 Rxb2 36.Nxc6 Rxa2 37.Ne7+]
33...Rxd4
[33...Nxc5? 34.Ra5 Nxe4+ 35.Rxe4+-]
34.Nxd4 Qxc5 35.Qxc5 Nxc5

(Diagram)

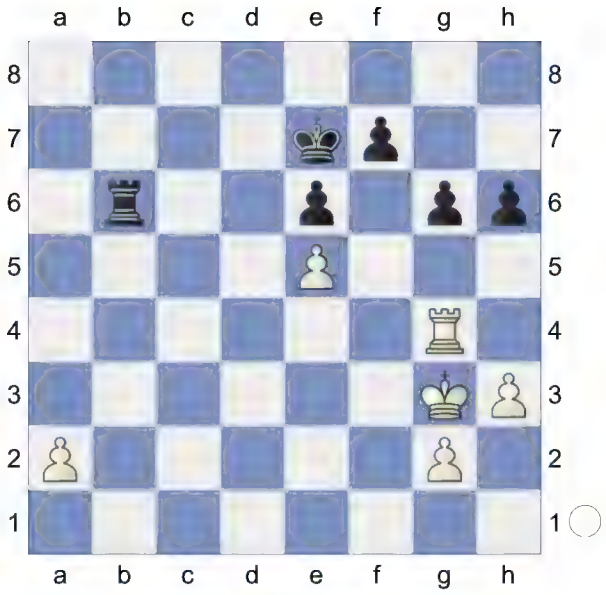


36.Nxc6 Endgame KRN-KRN **36...Rb6 37.Ne7+ Kf8 38.Rc4 Nxe4+ 39.Rxe4**

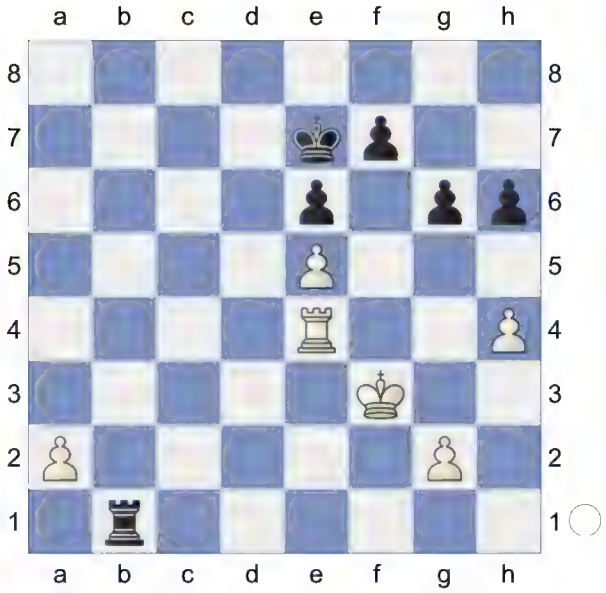


aiming for Nc8. **39...Kxe7 40.Rg4 g6**

(Diagram)



41.Re4 Rb1 42.h4 Kf8 43.Kf3 Ke7



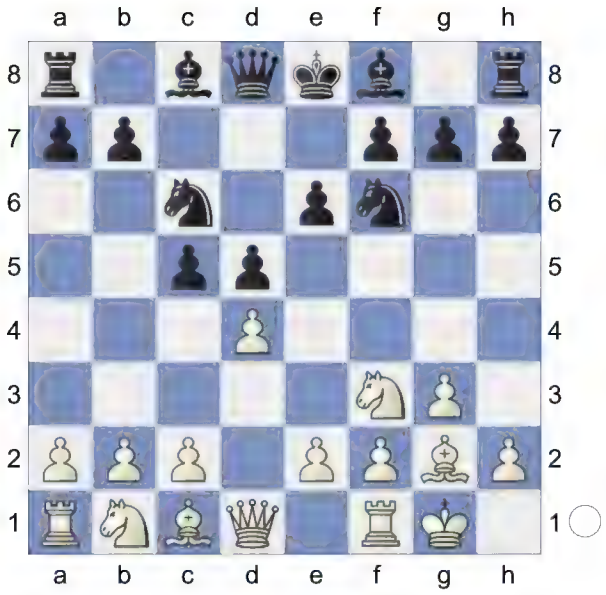
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

½-½

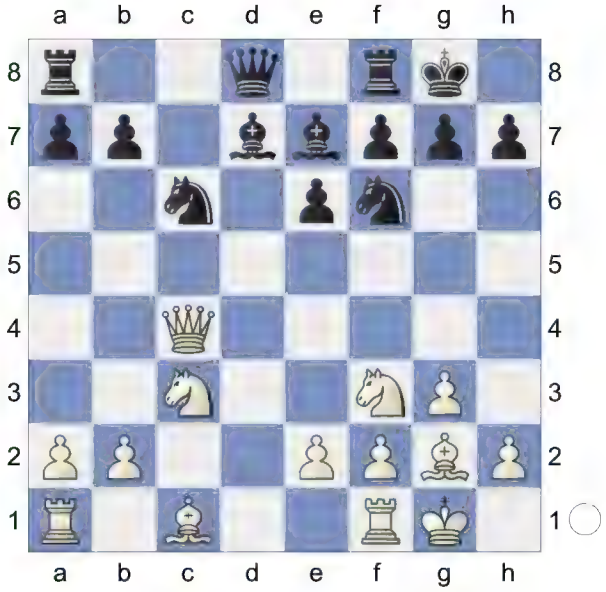
11 **A05**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2777**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2731**
87th Tata Steel Masters (1.4) 18.01.2025
[TA]

E04: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3
Kovalev,A: 'Inf 71/(6)' **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6**
[4...g6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Bg7 7.Nb3 0-0 8.Nc3 e6 9.e4 Nc6 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.c3 d4 13.cxd4 Nxd4 14.Be3 Nc6 15.Nc5 Qe7 16.Re1 Rd8 17.Qb3 Qc7 18.Rac1 Qb6 19.Nxb7 Ding,L (2811)-Grischuk,A (2745) Chess.com 2022 [GM Dejan Bojkov] 1-0]
5.d4N
[5.d3 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.a3 0-0 8.Rb1 a5 9.Bg5 a4 10.Nd2 e6 11.e4 d4 12.Ne2 Qc7 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.f4 Bg7 15.g4 f5 16.gxf5 exf5 17.e5 g5 18.fxg5 Nxe5 19.Nf4 Kochetkov,G (2350)-Kovalev,A (2390) Belarus 1997 CI1-130 [Kovalev, Andrei]]
5...e6

(Diagram)

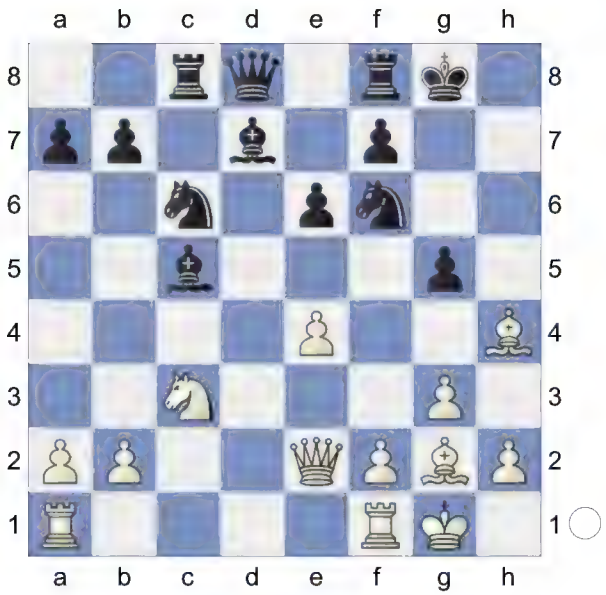


6.c4 dxc4 7.Qa4 Bd7 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qxc4 Be7 10.Nc3 0-0



11.e4 Rc8 12.Qe2
[12.Rd1 looks sharper. Ng4 13.h3 Nce5 14.Qb3]
12...Bc5 13.Bg5 -0.06/6
[13.Bf4± 0.34/3 is more appropriate.]
13...h6= 14.Bh4 -0.90/6
[14.Bf4!= 0.14/3 keeps the balance.]
14...g5∓ 15.Nxg5 hxg5

(Diagram)



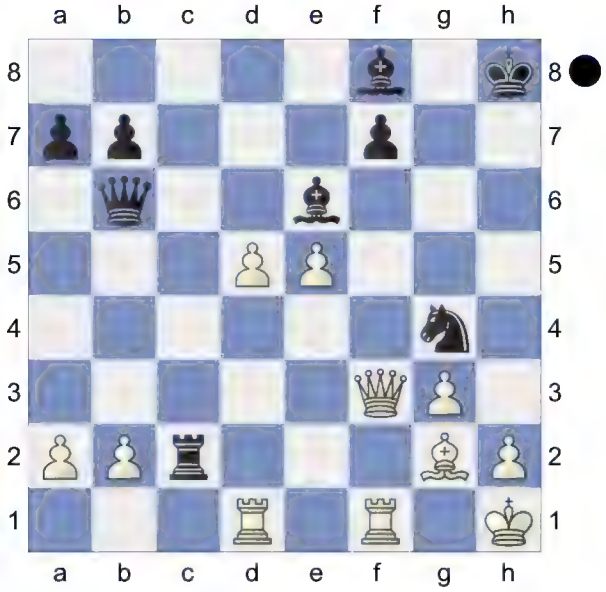
16.Bxg5 e5 17.Qd2 Be7 18.Bh6 Threatening mate with Qg5+. **18...Kh7 19.Bxf8**
[19.Qg5? Rg8 20.Qd2 Bg4-+]
19...Bxf8 -0.36/4
[19...Qxf8∓ -0.81/6 20.Rac1 Nd4]
20.f4 -1.18/3
[Better is 20.Rad1∓ -0.36/4]
20...Be6!

21.Nd5! Nb4 22.fxe5 Ng4 23.Rad1 Hoping for Nf6+. **23...Kh8** White must now prevent ...Rc2. **24.Kh1?** -2.45/3
[White should try 24.Qf4∓ -0.61/4 Nc2 25.Rd3]
24...Rc2-+ 25.Qf4 -1.33/2
[White must play 25.Qe1 -0.88/3 Nxd5 26.h3 *(26.exd5? Bxd5 27.Rg1 Bc5-+)* 26...Rxg2 27.hxg4 Rxb2 28.Rf2 Rxf2 29.Qxf2]
25...Nxd5!∓

Pair of Knights! **26.Qf3** -2.68/6
[26.exd5± 1.50/2 is forced if you want to stay better. Bxd5 27.Rf3 *(27.Bxd5? Rxh2+ 28.Kg1 Bc5+ 29.Rf2 Bxf2+-+; 27.Rxd5? Qxd5 28.Qf3 Qxf3-+)*]

(Diagram)

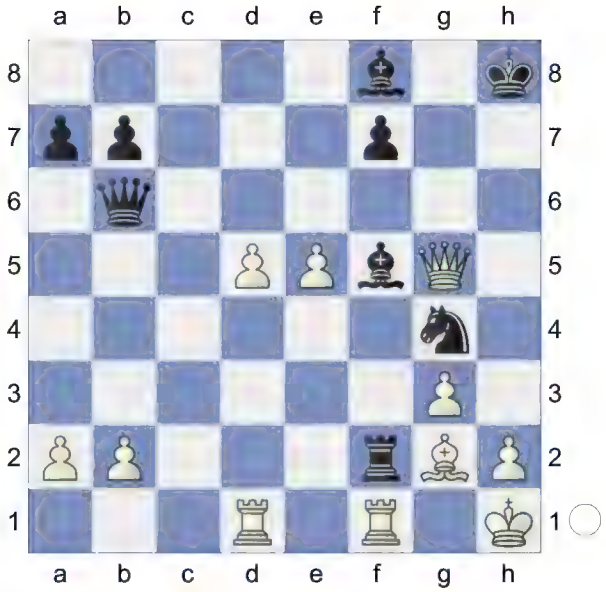
Really sharp! **26...Qb6** aiming for ... Nde3. **27.exd5**



Rf2!↑ White is under pressure. **28.Qc3** **Bb4** Black has compensation. **29.Qc1**

(Diagram)

Bf5 -0.10/5
[29...Rxg2!-+ -2.74/4 30.Kxg2 Ne3+ 31.Kh1 Nxd5]
30.Qg5= Threatens to win with h3.
30...Bf8? -0.10/5
[30...Rxf1+!-+ -3.26/1 31.Rxf1 Nf2+ 32.Rxf2 Qxf2 33.Qh4+ Kg7 34.Qxb4 Qe2]



31.Qh4+? -1.64/3
[31.Qh5+!= -0.10/5 and White is okay. Bh6 32.Rde1 *(32.Qxf7? Rxg2 33.Qe8+ Kh7-+)* 32...Qxb2 33.Rxf2

(33.Qxf7 Rxg2 34.Qe8+ Kg7 35.Qe7+ Kg8 36.Qd8+ Kh7 37.Qe7+ Bg7 38.Qh4+ Kg6) 33...Nxf2+ 34.Kg1]

31...Bh6? 0.00/6

[31...Kg8-+ -1.64/3 And now ...Rxf1+ would win. 32.e6 Rxf1+ 33.Rxf1 Nf2+ 34.Rxf2 *(34.Kg1? Nh3+ 35.Kh1 Qg1+ 36.Rxg1 Nf2#)* 34...Qxf2 35.Qg5+ Kh8 36.Qh5+ *(36.Qf6+? Bg7-+)* 36...Bh7 37.Qxf7 Qxf7 38.exf7 Bb1]

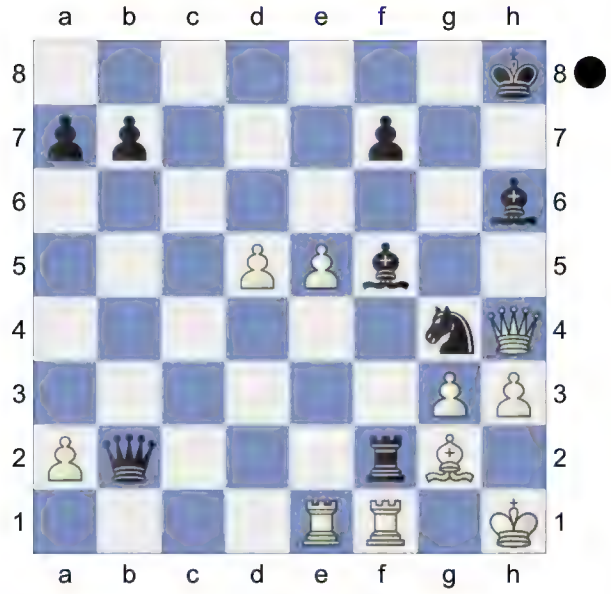
32.Rde1 -0.76/2

[32.h3? Rxg2! 33.hxg4 Be4 34.Qf6+ Qxf6 35.Rxf6 Rd2+ 36.Kg1 Rxd1+-+]

[32.e6= 0.00/6 Rxg2 33.Rxf5 *(33.Kxg2? Qxb2+ 34.Kg1 Be4-+; 33.e7 Rg1+ 34.Rxg1 Be4+ 35.Rg2 Nf2+ 36.Kg1 Nxd1+ 37.Kh1 Nf2+ 38.Kg1 Nh3+ 39.Kf1 Bd3+ 40.Ke1 Qe3+ 41.Kd1 Qc1#)* 33...Rxh2+ 34.Qxh2 Nxh2 35.Re1 fxe6 36.Rxe6]

32...Qxb2∓ 33.h3? -2.98/3

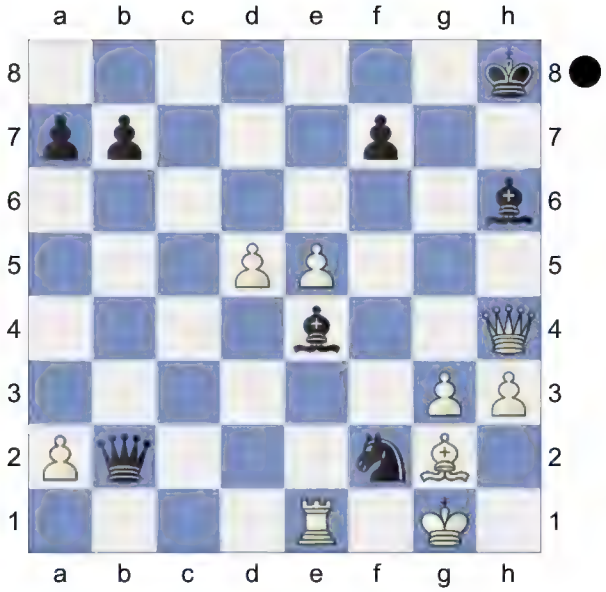
[33.Rxf2∓ -0.76/2 Nxf2+ 34.Kg1]



33...Be4!-+ (-> ...Rxf1+) **34.Rxf2**

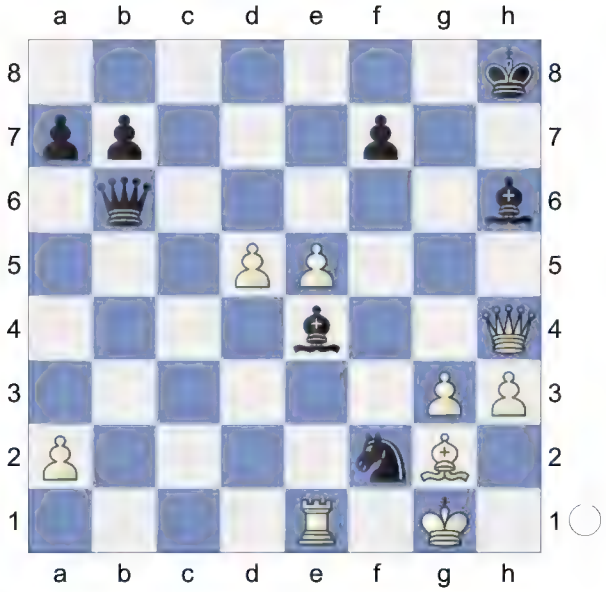
[Don't go for 34.Qd8+? Kg7 35.Qf6+ Nxf6]

34...Nxf2+ 35.Kg1



Qb6 5.89/4

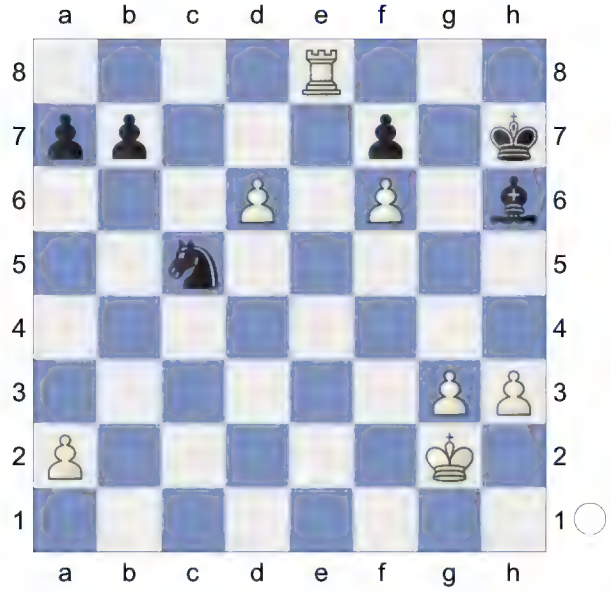
[35...Ng4!= -0.22/5 and Black stays safe. 36.Qxh6+ *(36.Qd8+? Kg7-+)* 36...Nxh6 37.Rxe4 Nf5]



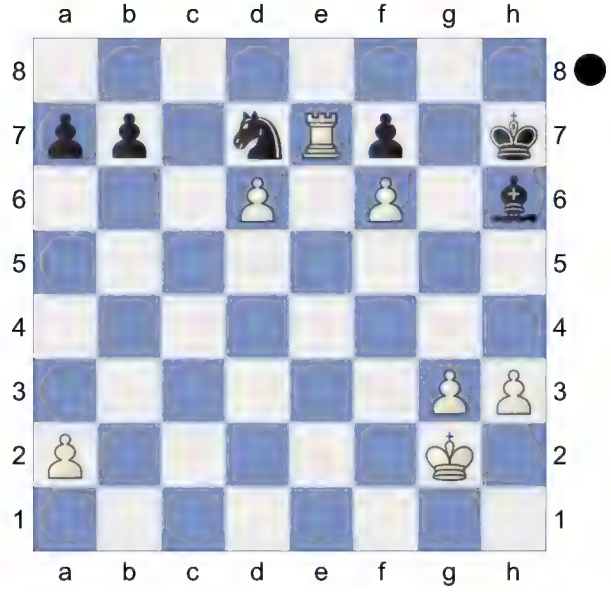
36.Qf6++- Qxf6 5.02/3

[⌓36...Kg8 3.41/4 37.Qxb6 *(37.Rxe4 Qxf6 38.exf6 Nxe4±)* 37...axb6 38.Bxe4 Nxh3+ 39.Kg2 Ng5]

37.exf6 Bxg2 38.Kxg2 White is clearly winning. **38...Nd3** 7.07/4
[⌓38...Kh7 4.46/1 39.d6 Nd3]
39.Re8+ Kh7 40.d6 Nc5 7.86/6
[⌓40...Bg5 5.08/4 41.d7 Bxf6]



41.Re5 Nd7 42.Re7

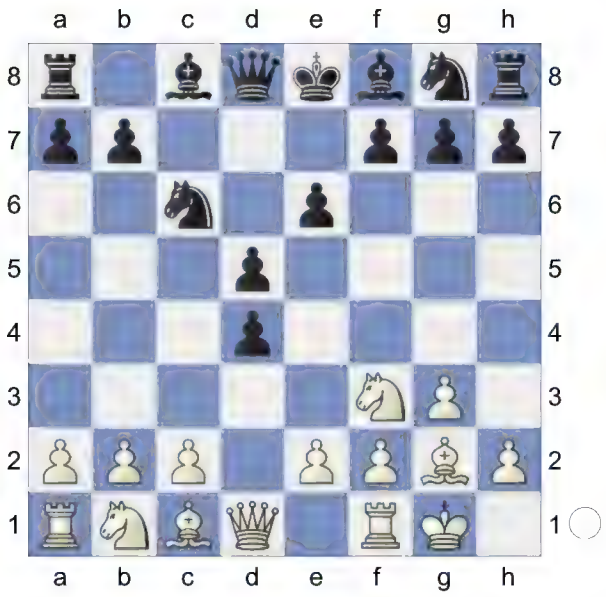


Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/ Black=0.57
1-0

12 **A08**
□ **Ding,Liren** **2728**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2783**
WCh 2024 Singapore SIN (14.1) 12.12.24
[TA]

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4
1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6N
[3...g6 4.0-0 *(4.c3 Bg7 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 Nc6 7.Nc3 e6 8.Bg5 Nge7 9.Qd2 h6 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Rc1 0-0 12.0-0 Bd7 13.e3 Rac8 14.Ne1 b6 15.Nd3 Na5 16.Rc2 Qd6 17.b3 Rc7 18.Rfc1 Rfc8* ½-½ (37) Gonzales,N (2540)-Lim,R (2640) Minsk op 2008 (1) *)* 4...Bg7 5.d3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.a3 *(7.e4 0-0 8.h3 d4 9.Ne2 e5 10.Nd2 Ne8 11.f4 Nd6 12.a4 f6 13.b3 b6 14.g4 Bh6 15.Nf3 Nf7 16.Bd2 Bd7 17.Qe1 Qe7 18.Qg3 Nb4 19.Rac1 Rac8 20.h4 exf4 21.Nxf4 Bxf4* 1-0 (43) Hynes,A (2405)-Esteve,F (2320) Saint Louis 132/(142) 2017 (4) *)* 7...0-0 8.Rb1 d4 *(8...a5 9.a4 b6 10.Nb5 Bb7 11.c3 Na7 12.Na3 Re8 13.Re1 Rc8 14.Qc2 Ba6 15.Bf1 e5 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Nd2 Qd6 19.e4 Rcd8 20.Rbd1 h5 21.Qb3 Bb7 22.Bg2 Re6 23.h4* ½-½ (42) Michalek,J (2267)-Degenhard,S (2242) Olomouc IM-A 24th 2023 (6)*)* 9.Na4 Qd6 10.c4 dxc3 11.bxc3 e5 12.Be3 b6 13.Nxe5 Qxe5 14.Bxc6 Bh3 15.Bf4 Qe6 16.Bxa8 Bxf1 17.Qxf1 Rxa8 18.c4 (20) Nosenko,A-N,N olm2 qual GP2 B2 corr 1948]
4.d4 e6 5.0-0 cxd4

(Diagram)



6.Nxd4 Nge7

7.c4! Nxd4! 8.Qxd4 Nc6 White is slightly better. **9.Qd1 d4 10.e3 Bc5**

(Diagram)

11.exd4 Bxd4 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Nb5 Bb6 0.58/19

[13...e5= 0.13/19]

14.b3 a6 15.Nc3 Bd4

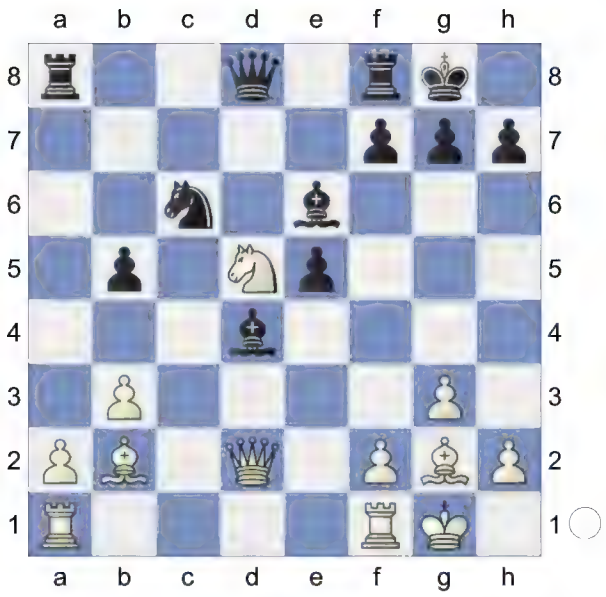
16.Bb2 e5 17.Qd2 Repels Qg5

17...Be6 18.Nd5 b5 19.cxb5 0.03/21

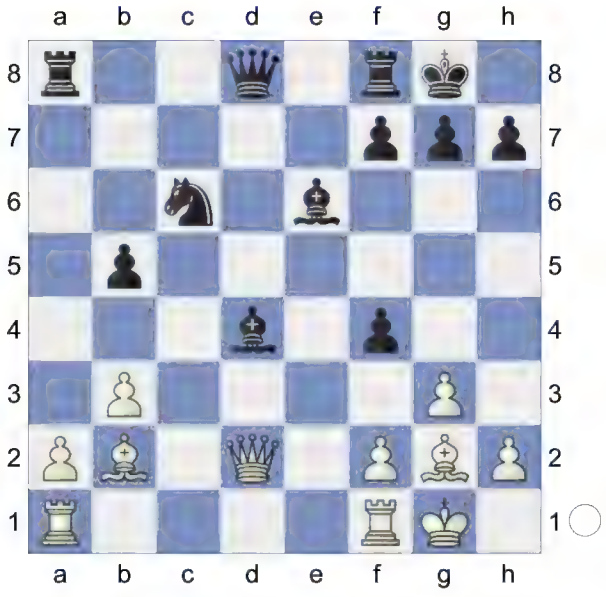
[19.Bxd4± 0.46/21 was preferable. Nxd4 20.Rae1]

19...axb5=

(Diagram)

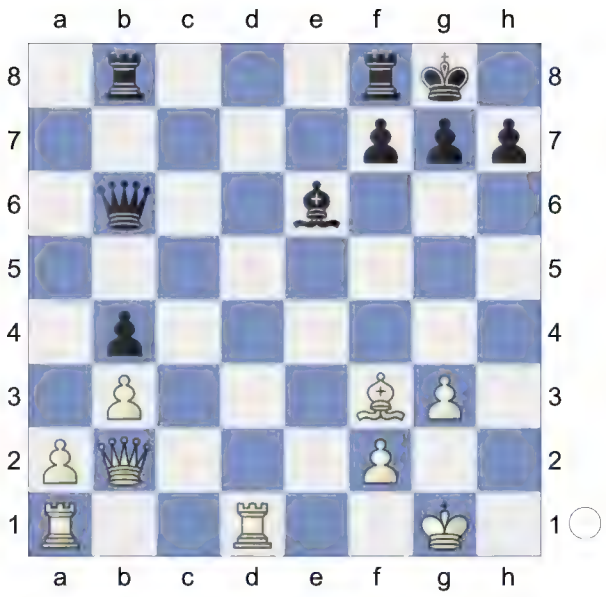


20.Nf4 Discovered Attack **20...exf4**



21.Bxc6 Bxb2 22.Qxb2 Rb8 23.Rfd1 Qb6 24.Bf3 fxg3 25.hxg3 b4

(Diagram)



26.a4 Strongly threatening a5. **26...bxa3 27.Rxa3**

[27.Qxa3 Qxb3 28.Qxb3 Bxb3 29.Rdb1]

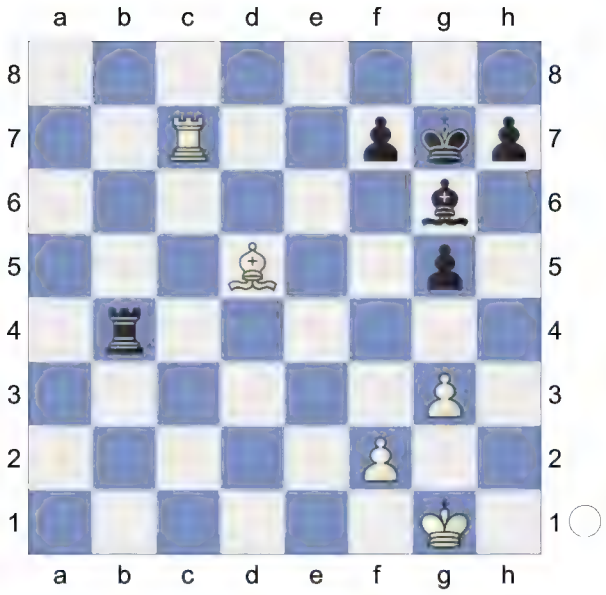
27...g6 28.Qd4 Qb5

[28...Qxd4 simplifies 29.Rxd4 Bxb3 30.Bd5 Bc2]

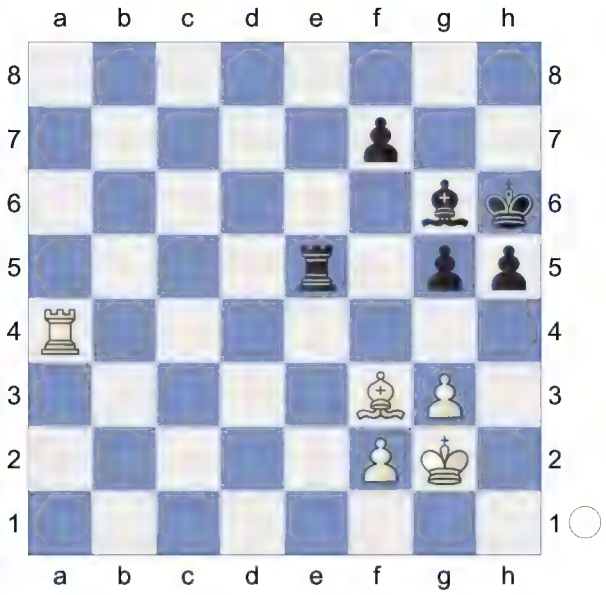
29.b4 Deflection **29...Qxb4 30.Qxb4 Rxb4**

31.Ra8 Rxa8 32.Bxa8 Endgame KRB-KRB. Black is a pawn up. **32...g5 33.Bd5 Bf5 34.Rc1 Kg7 35.Rc7 Bg6**

(Diagram)

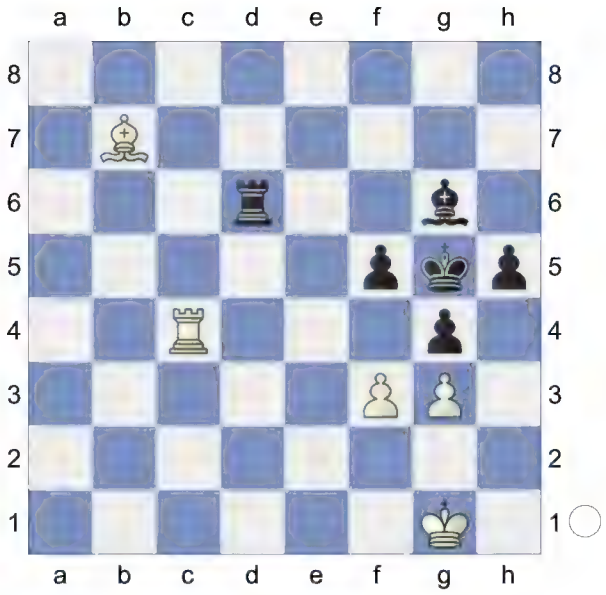


36.Rc4 Rb1+ 37.Kg2 Re1 38.Rb4 h5 39.Ra4 Re5 40.Bf3 Kh6

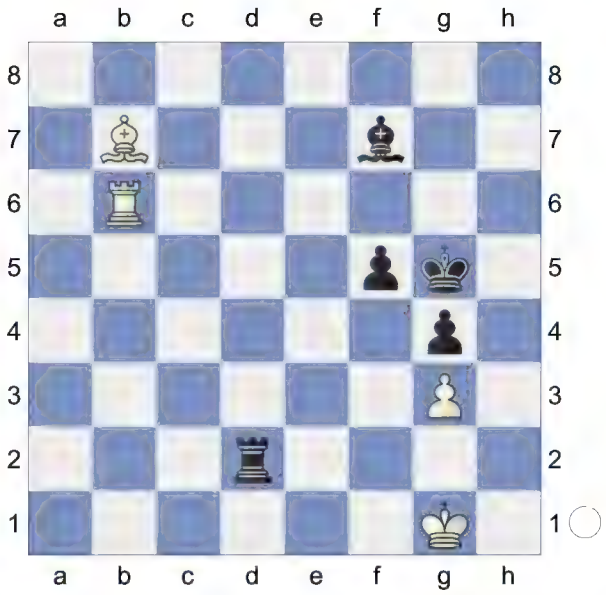


41.Kg1 Re6 42.Rc4 g4 43.Bd5 Rd6 44.Bb7 Kg5 45.f3 f5

(Diagram)



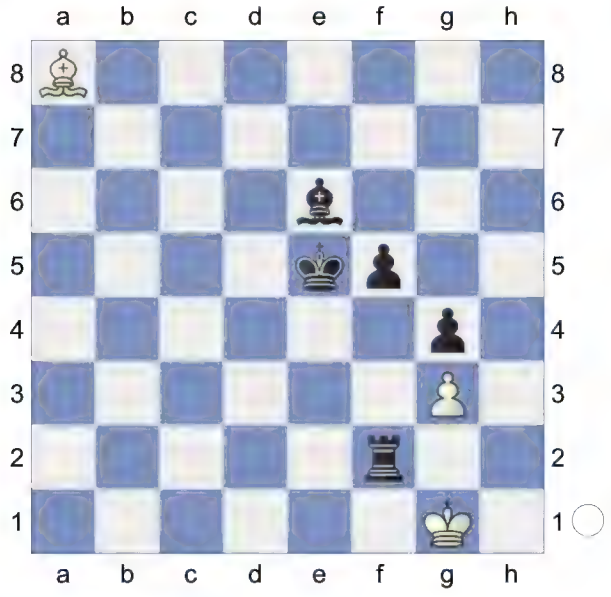
46.fxg4 hxg4 47.Rb4 Bf7 48.Kf2 Rd2+ 49.Kg1 Kf6 50.Rb6+ Kg5



51.Rb4 Be6 52.Ra4 Rb2 53.Ba8 Kf6 54.Rf4 Ke5 This costs White the game.
55.Rf2? -10.10/21
[55.Ra4= -0.03/20]

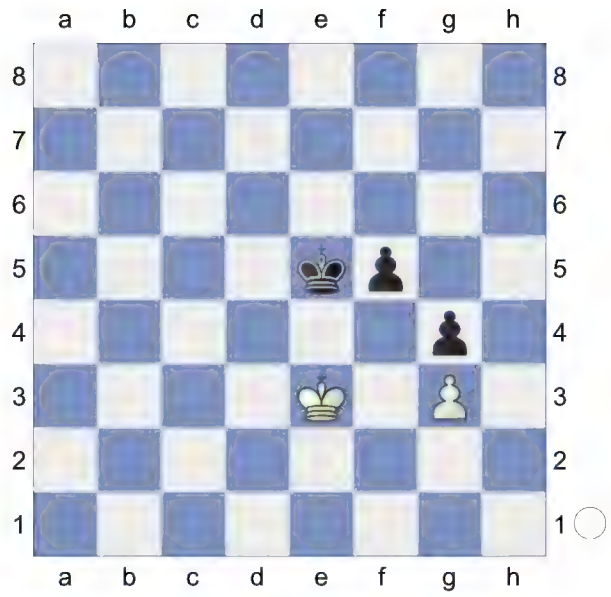
(Diagram)

55...Rxf2!-+



56.Kxf2 Bd5 57.Bxd5 Kxd5 58.Ke3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.02 (flawless)
58...Ke5

(Diagram)



0-1

13 **C11**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2783**
■ **Ding,Liren** **2728**
WCh 2024 Singapore SIN (13.1) 11.12.24
[TA]

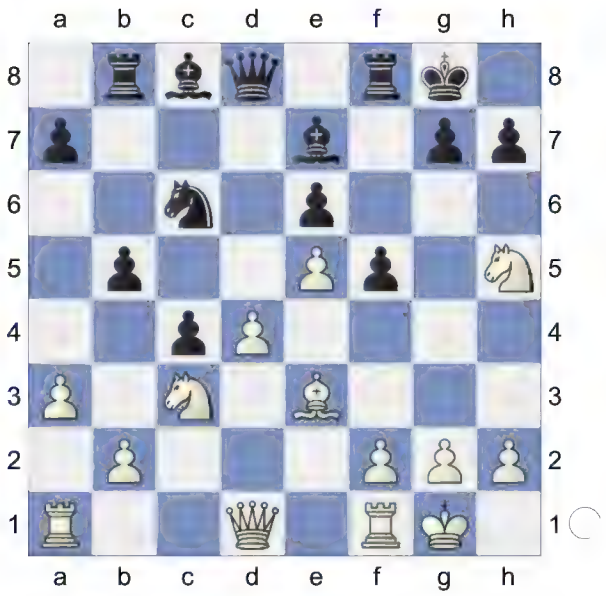
C11: French: Classical System: 4 e5 and 4 Bg5 dxe4
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Nce2 c5

(Diagram)

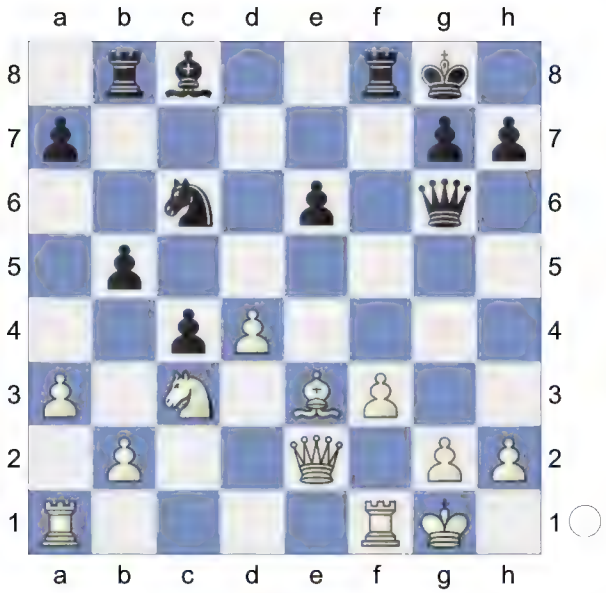
6.c3 Nc6 7.a3 Be7N
[7...a5 8.Nf3 a4 9.h4 Qa5 10.Bd2 Qb6 11.Rb1 Be7 12.Be3 0-0 13.Nf4 Qb3 14.Qc1 cxd4 15.cxd4 Na5 16.Bd3 h6 17.Rh3 Nc4 18.Bc2 Qb5 19.Nh5 Nxe3 20.Qxe3 f5 21.Rg3 Rf7 22.Qxh6 1-0 (23) Carlsen,M (2831)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2755) CCT Final KO 2024 rapid (2.5)]
8.Be3 Nb6 9.Nf4 cxd4 White is slightly better. **10.cxd4 Nc4**

11.Bxc4 dxc4
(Diagram)

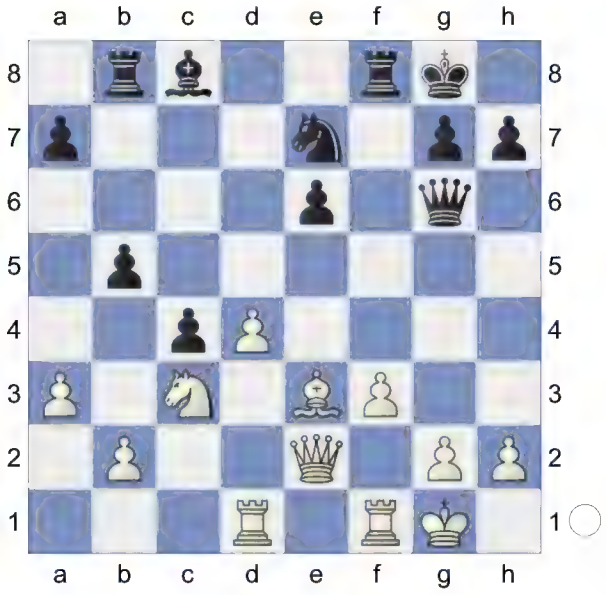
12.Nge2 0.46/20
[12.Qg4!± 0.96/21]
12...b5 13.0-0 0-0 14.Nc3 Rb8 15.Nh5 f5



Dodges Qg4 **16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Qf3** -0.04/21
[17.Nxf6+± 0.55/19 Qxf6 18.Qg4]
17...Qe8 0.38/20
[17...Bxd4? 18.Qxc6 Rb6 19.Qe4+-]
[17...Nxd4= -0.04/21 18.Nxf6+ Rxf6]
18.Nxf6+± Rxf6 19.Qe2 Qg6 20.f3 Rf8
(Diagram)

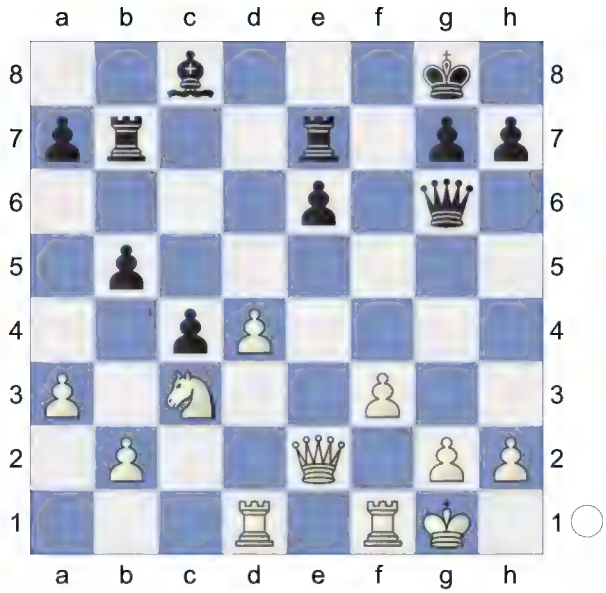


21.Rad1 Ne7

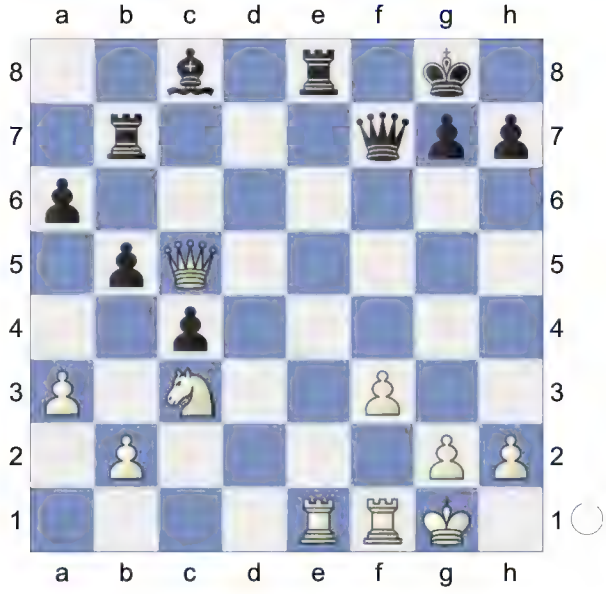


22.Bf4! Decoy **22...Rb6**
[22...Rxf4? 23.Qe5+-]
23.Bc7 Rb7 24.Bd6 Re8 25.Bxe7 0.60/18
[25.Rfe1± 1.12/16]
25...Rexe7

(Diagram)



26.Qe5 a6 27.d5 exd5 28.Qxd5+ Qe6
29.Qc5 Rd6 would now be deadly.
[29.Qxe6+ Bxe6 30.Rfe1 Bf5 31.Rxe7 Rxe7 32.Rd5]
29...Re8! 30.Rde1
[30.Rfe1 with more complications. Qxe1+ 31.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 32.Kf2]
30...Qf7 1.68/23
[30...Qxe1± 0.37/22 31.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 32.Kf2 Re8]

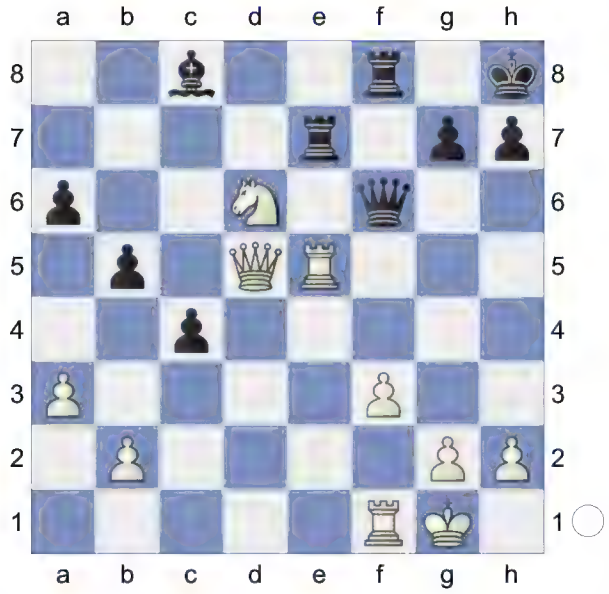


31.Ne4 0.36/18
[White must play 31.Rxe8++- 1.68/23

Qxe8 32.Ne4]

31...Rf8! 32.Nd6 Rc7 33.Qe5 Qf6 34.Qd5+ Kh8 35.Re5 Re7 0.72/24

[35...h6= 0.16/18]



36.Rfe1± White is much more active.

36...Rxe5 37.Rxe5 0.07/18

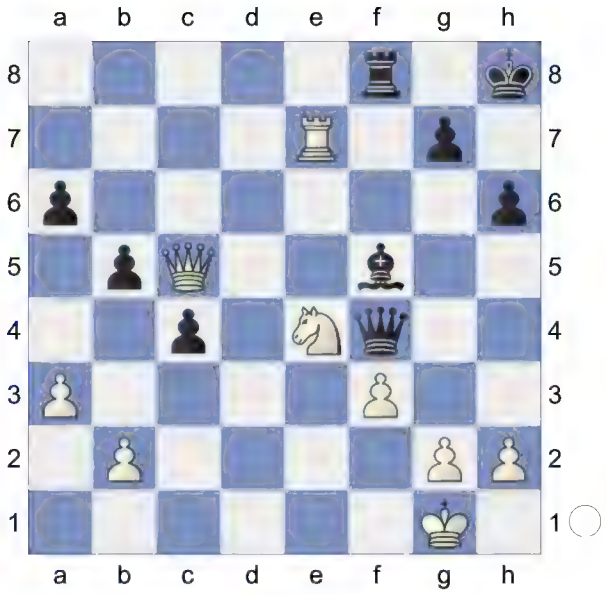
[Better is 37.Qxe5± 0.59/23 Bd7 38.Re2]

37...h6= The position is equal. **38.Qc5**

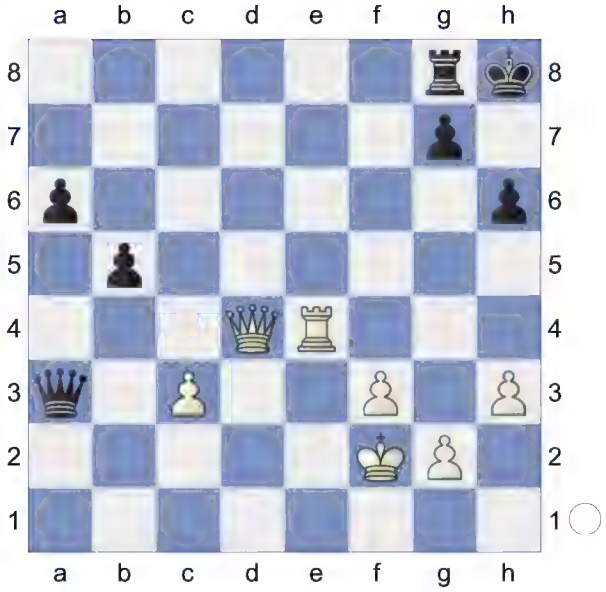
[38.Qd4 Be6 39.Ne4 Rd8 40.Nxf6 Rxd4 41.Rxe6 gxf6 42.Rxf6 Kg7 43.Rxa6 Rd2 44.Rc6]

38...Bd7 39.Ne4 Qf4 40.Re7 Bf5

(Diagram)



41.Qd4 Rg8 ...Qh4 would now be deadly. **42.h3 Qc1+ 43.Kf2 Bxe4 44.Rxe4** Endgame KQR-KQR **44...c3** Deflection **45.bxc3** White wants to play Re6. **45...Qxa3**

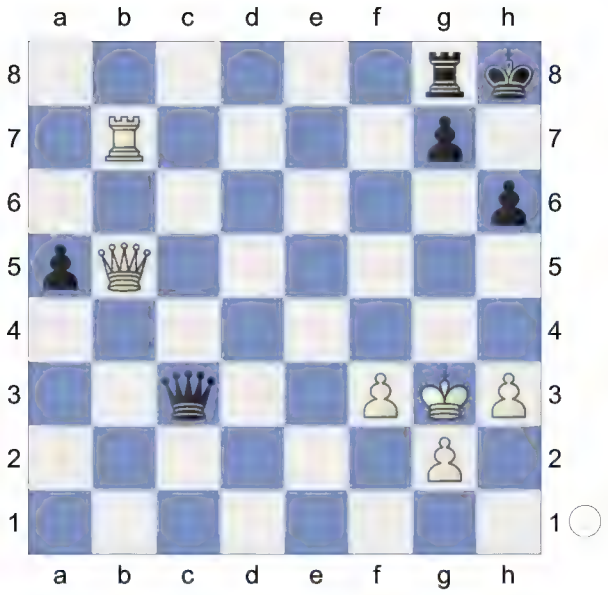


46.Kg3 Qb3 Inhibits Re6. **47.Re7 a5 48.Rb7 Qc4 49.Qe5**

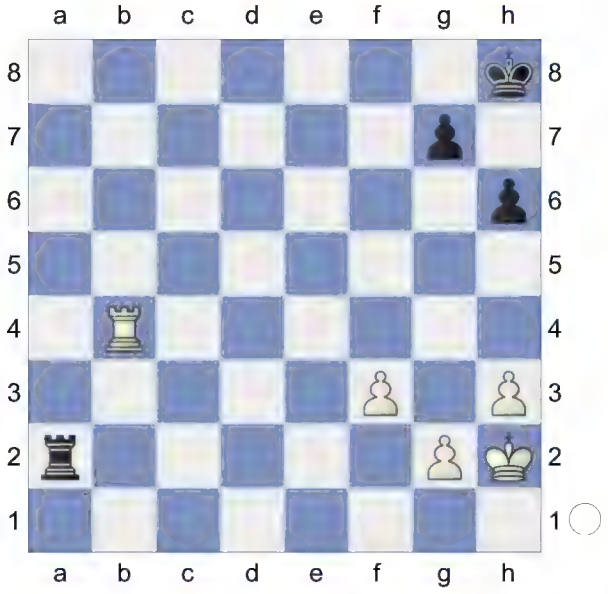
[49.Qxc4 simplifies bxc4 50.Ra7 Rb8 51.Rxa5 Rb3 52.Ra8+]

49...Qc6 50.Qxb5 Qxc3

(Diagram)

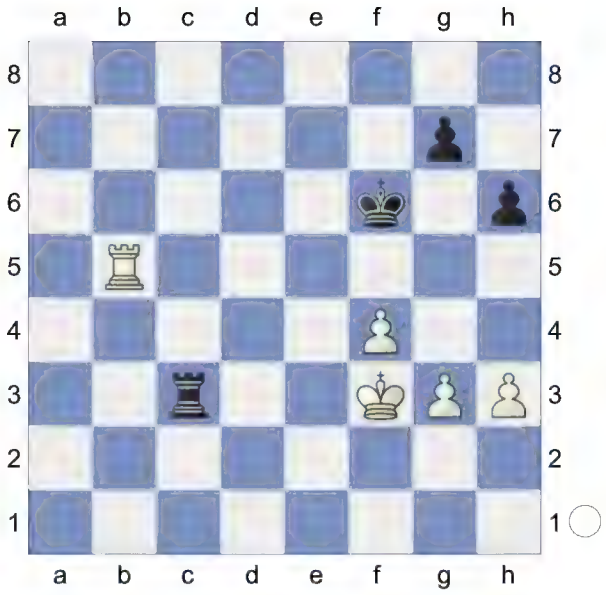


51.Ra7 Qe1+ 52.Kh2 Qb4 53.Qxb4 axb4 KR-KR **54.Rb7** Prevents Rb8. **54...Ra8 55.Rxb4 Ra2**

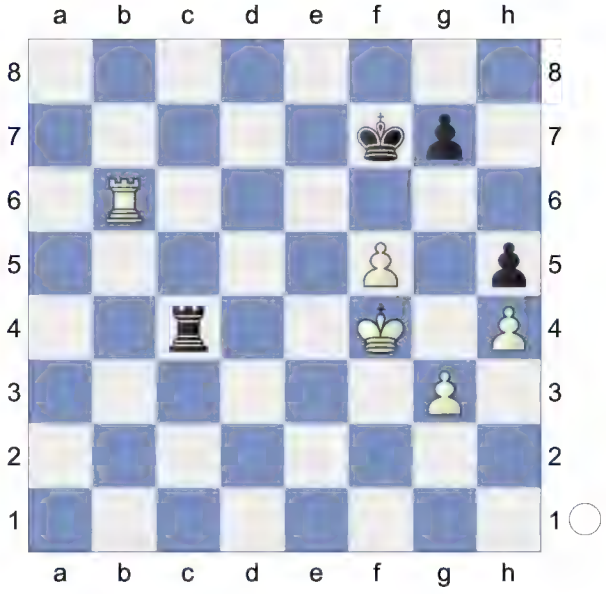


56.Kg3 Kh7 57.Rb5 Kg6 58.f4 Kf6 59.Kf3 Rc2 60.g3 Rc3+

(Diagram)

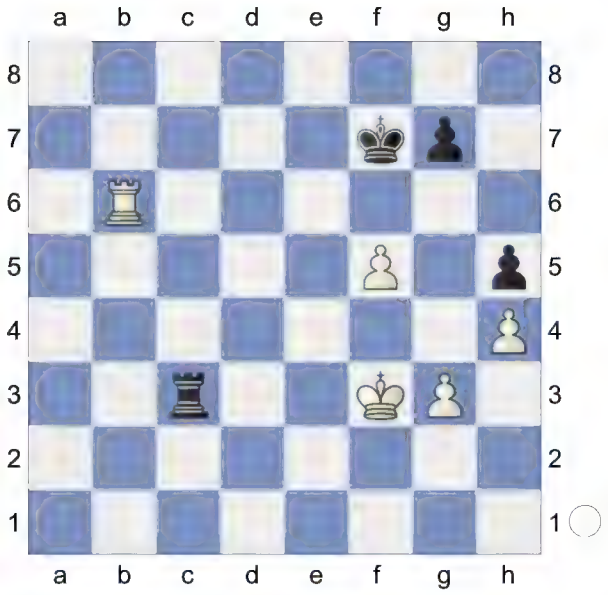


61.Kg4 Ra3 62.h4 Rc3 63.Rb6+ Kf7 64.f5 h5+ 65.Kf4 Rc4+



66.Kf3 Rc3+ 67.Kf4 Rc4+ 68.Kf3 Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise) **68...Rc3+**

(Diagram)

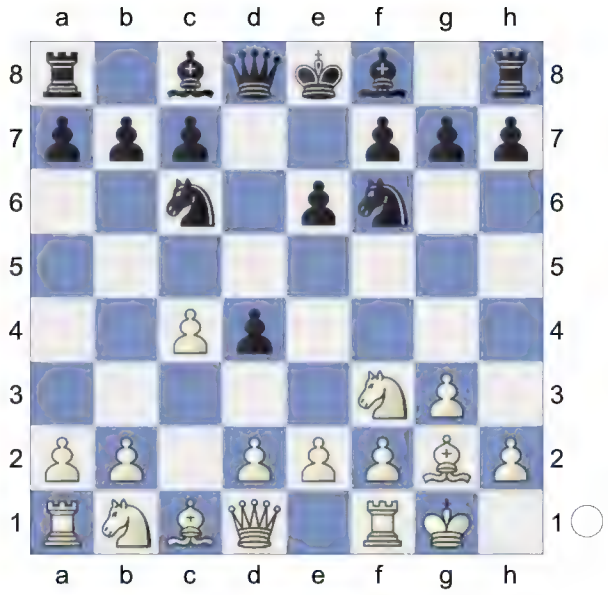


½-½

14 **A13**
□ **Ding,Liren** **2728**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2783**
WCh 2024 Singapore SIN (12.1) 09.12.24
[TA]

A13: English Opening: 1...e6
1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 d4 5.0-0 Nc6 0.29/21
[⌓5...c5 -0.15/21]

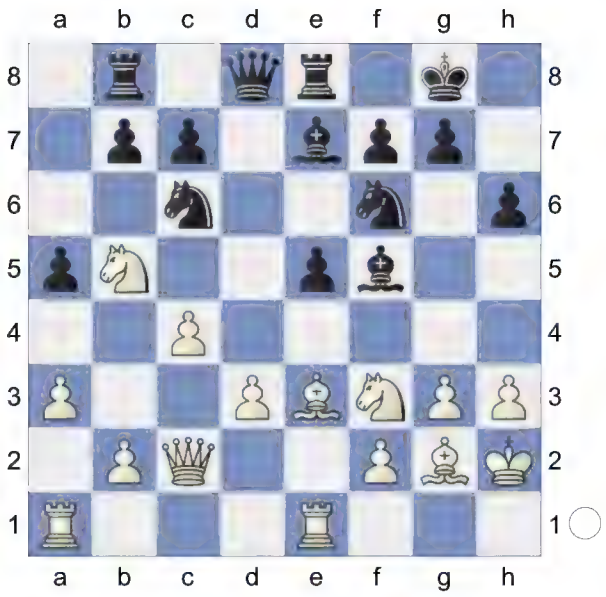
(Diagram)



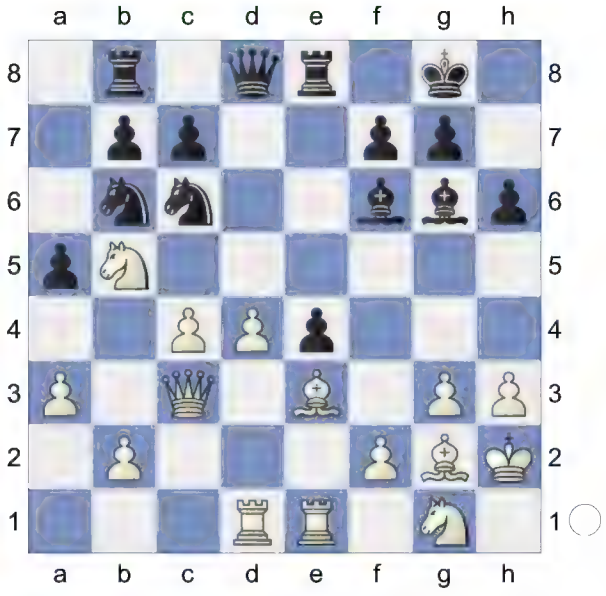
6.e3= Be7 7.d3 dxe3 8.Bxe3 White is slightly better. **8...e5 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Re1 h6N**
[10...Be6 11.a3 a5 12.h3 2) ...e6 -...d5 Setups-1...e6 - 2...d5 #13]

11.a3 a5 12.h3 Be6 13.Kh2 Rb8 14.Qc2 0.12/21
[14.Rc1± 0.55/20]
14...Re8 15.Nb5 Bf5

(Diagram)

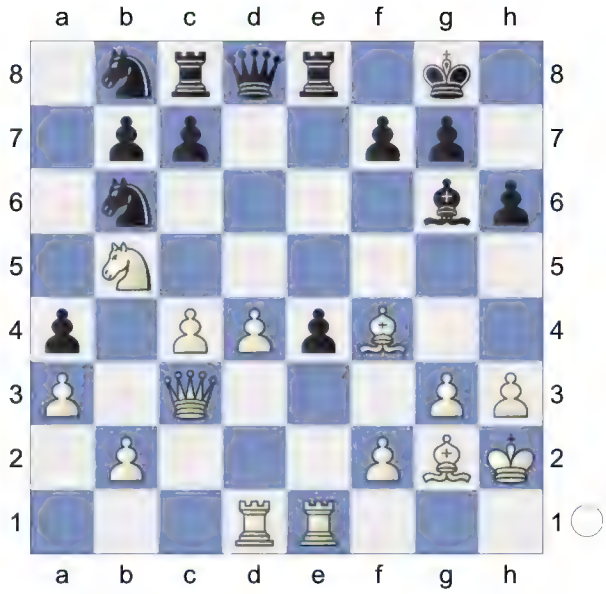


16.Rad1 Nd7 17.Qd2 Bg6 0.84/18
[17...Nc5± 0.43/19]
18.d4± White is much more active.
18...e4 19.Ng1 Nb6 20.Qc3 Bf6 1.45/19
[Black should play 20...f5!± 0.64/18]

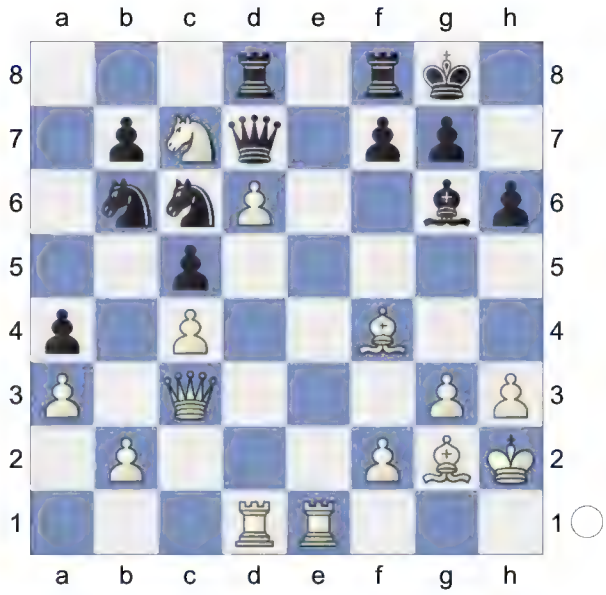


21.Qc2 1.02/19
[⌓21.Ne2 1.45/19]
21...a4 22.Ne2 Black must now prevent Nf4. **22...Bg5** 1.96/18
[22...Ne7± 1.09/20 is a better defense.]

23.Nf4+- Bxf4 24.Bxf4
[24.gxf4 Na5=]
24...Rc8 25.Qc3 Prevents Na5.
[Don't take 25.Bxe4?! Rxe4 26.Rxe4 Na5]
25...Nb8

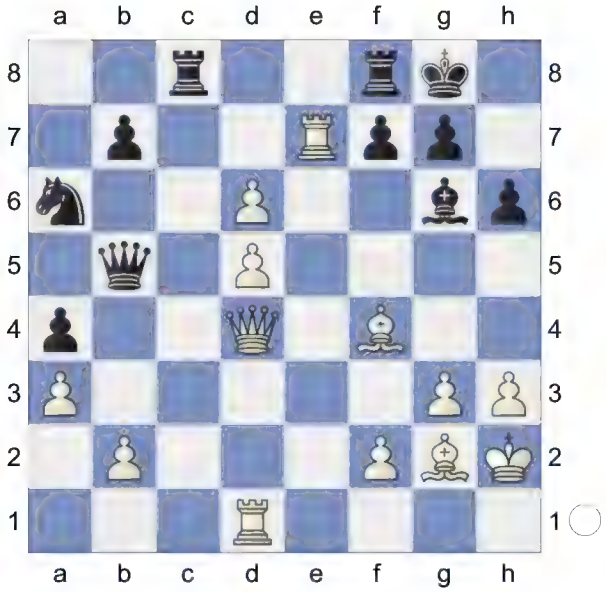


26.d5 Qd7 3.32/17
[⌓26...Na6 2.08/18 27.Qd4 Bh5]
27.d6 c5 28.Nc7 Rf8 29.Bxe4 Nc6 30.Bg2 Rcd8

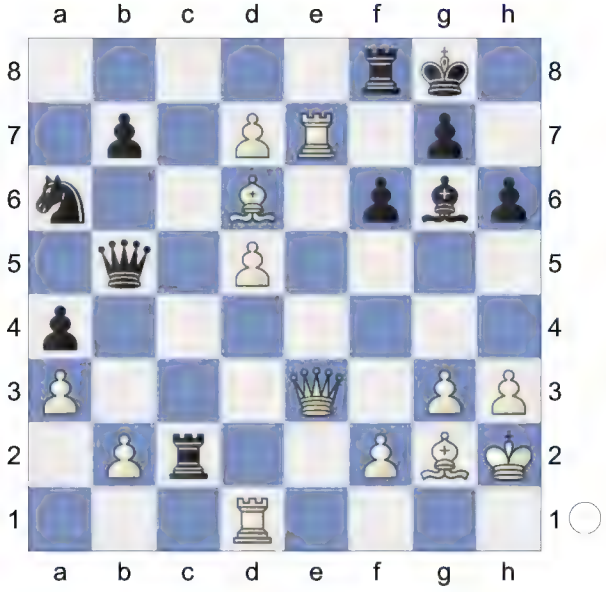


31.Nd5 Nxd5 32.cxd5
[Weaker is 32.Bxd5 Rfe8 33.g4 Kh7 34.Rxe8 Rxe8+-]

[32.Rxd5 b6 33.Re3 f6+-]
32...Nb8 33.Qxc5 Rc8 34.Qd4 Na6 35.Re7 Qb5

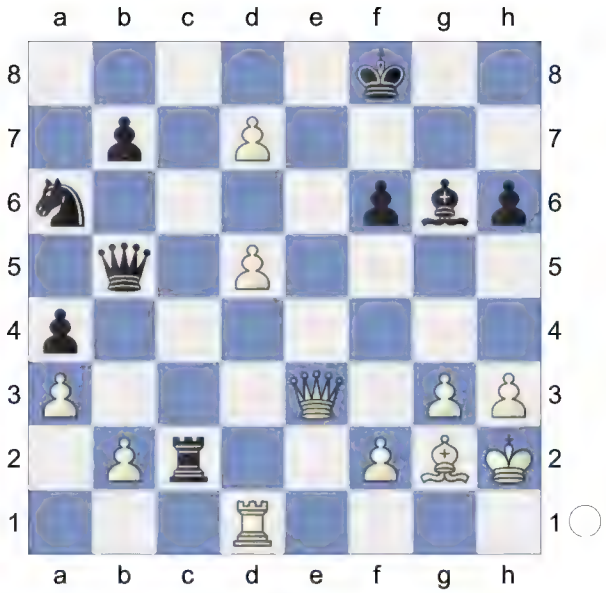


36.d7 Rc4 8.26/20
[⌓36...Rcd8 4.75/17 37.Bd6 *(37.Bf1 Qc5+-)* 37...Bf5]
37.Qe3 Rc2 38.Bd6 Repels Nc5 **38...f6**

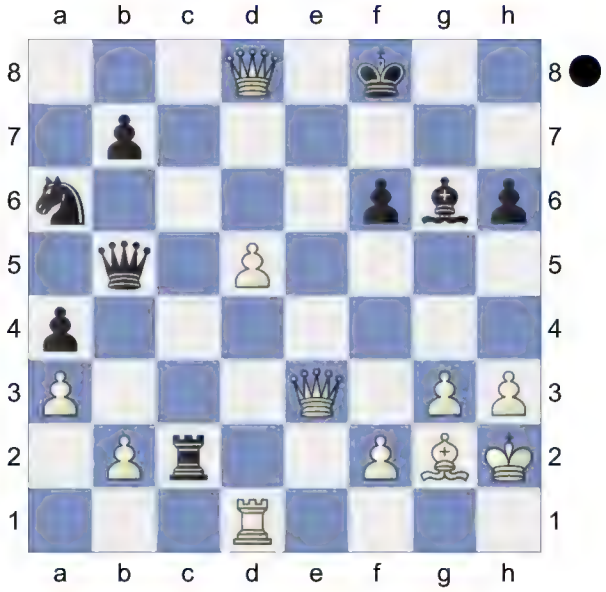


39.Rxg7+!! Discovered Attack, Promotion. White mates. **39...Kxg7**
40.Bxf8+ Kxf8

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.63
41.d8Q+



1-0

15 **A09**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2783**
■ **Ding,Liren** **2728**
WCh 2024 Singapore SIN (11.1) 08.12.24
[Kitty Kat]

A09: Réti Opening: 1 Nf3 d5 2 c4
1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 Howell,David: 'A provocative move, and a sign of Gukesh's willingness to fight.' Howell,David: 'Das ist eine Provokation und ein Zeichen für Gukeshs Kampfbereitschaft.' **2...d4** Howell,David: 'Ding, as he always did at his peak, takes up the challenge.'Howell,David: 'Ding nimmt die Herausforderung an, wie er es in seinen besten Zeiten immer getan hat.'

[The move orderDie Zugfolge 2...e6 3.g3 poses a dilemma for Black. While Ding is happy with a mainline Queen's Gambit Declined, he has often favoured a quick ...Bb4+ versus the Catalan. Hencestellt ein Dilemma für Schwarz dar. Ding wäre zwar mit einer Hauptvariante des Abgelehnten Damengambits zufrieden, hat aber gegen Katalanisch oft ein schnelles ... Lb4+ bevorzugt. Daher wäre Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 would be an awkward transposition for Ding, when his pet line would have been avoided and he would have been forced to enter a different theoretical minefield. ein unangenehmer Übergang für Ding, da seine Lieblingsvariante vermieden worden wäre und er gezwungen gewesen wäre, ein anderes theoretisches Minenfeld zu betreten.]

3.b4 Howell,David: 'I must admit feeling a sense of pride when seeing this move at World Championship level. Many fellow Grandmasters have been dismissive of this move in the past, with more than one telling me that this is highly dubious for White. Yet I have always been a firm believer in its potential to create imbalanced positions in which the opponent might feel uncomfortable. The move itself is indeed risky, but it undoubtedly asks unorthodox questions.'Howell,David: 'Ich muss zugeben, dass ich ein Gefühl des Stolzes verspüre, wenn ich diesen Zug auf Weltmeisterschaftsebene sehe. Viele Großmeisterkollegen haben sich in der Vergangenheit abfällig über diesen Zug geäußert, und mehr als einer hat mir gesagt, dass er für Weiß höchst zweifelhaft ist. Doch ich habe immer fest an sein Potenzial geglaubt, unausgewogene Stellungen zu schaffen, in denen sich der Gegner unwohl fühlen könnte. Der Zug selbst ist in der Tat riskant, aber er stellt zweifellos unorthodoxe Fragen.' **3...c5** Howell,David: 'One of the main recommendations in modern opening works. Black happily offers to transpose into Benko or Benoni positions down a tempo.' Howell,David: 'Eine der wichtigsten Empfehlungen in modernen Eröffnungswerken. Schwarz bietet gerne Übergänge zu Wolga- oder Benoni-Stellungen mit Minustempo an..'

[3...f6 is less fashionable these days, though for years it was by far Black's most popular move.ist heutzutage weniger in Mode, obwohl es jahrelang der bei weitem beliebteste Zug von Schwarz war. 4.e3 e5 5.c5 a5 6.Qa4+ leads to some weird and wonderful positions that I would only suggest studying if one wants a

headache! In general Black seems to be doing well objectively, but in practical terms it feels wise to avoid this against a well-prepared opponent. führt zu einigen seltsamen und wunderbaren Stellungen, die ich nur empfehlen würde, wenn man Kopfschmerzen haben möchte! Im Allgemeinen scheint Schwarz objektiv gut zu stehen, aber in der Praxis ist es ratsam, dies gegen einen gut vorbereiteten Gegner zu vermeiden.]

[3...Bg4 is regarded as a safe alternative for Black, although parting with the bishop pair at an early stage is a matter of taste. It is interesting to compare the positions after gilt als sichere Alternative für Schwarz, wobei der frühe Verzicht auf das Läuferpaar Geschmackssache ist. Es ist interessant, die Stellungen nach 4.Qb3 Bxf3 *(or oder 4...Nf6 5.g3)* 5.Qxf3 c6 6.g3 e5 7.b5 with the similar middlegame structure that we soon see in the game. mit der ähnlichen Mittelspielstruktur zu vergleichen, die wir bald im Partie sehen.]

4.e3 Howell,David: 'One of the many ways White can choose a 'Black' opening with an extra tempo. Gukesh chooses the most ambitious of them all: a reversed Blumenfeld Gambit.' Howell,David: 'Eine der vielen Möglichkeiten für Weiß, eine 'Schwarz-Eröffnung' mit einem zusätzlichen Tempo zu wählen. Gukesh wählt die ehrgeizigste von allen: ein umgekehrtes Blumenfeld-Gambit.'

[4.g3 cxb4 5.a3 leads to a reversed Benko Gambit.führt zu einem Wolga-Gambit mit vertauschen Farben.]

4...Nf6 Howell,David: 'A move Ding had played before. So did it land on the board immediately? No, it cost him...38 minutes! While this was far from an isolated incident in the match, it is safe to say that this specific long think was one that Ding may regret. The 38 minutes would have come in handy later on.' Howell,David: 'Ein Zug, den Ding schon einmal gespielt hatte. Kam er also sofort aufs Brett? Nein, es kostete ihn... 38 Minuten! Dies war zwar kein Einzelfall im Match, aber man kann mit Sicherheit sagen, dass Ding diesen langen Gedankengang bereuen wird. Die 38 Minuten hätten sich später als nützlich erwiesen.'

[The other main alternative is: Die andere Hauptalternative ist: 4...dxe3 5.fxe3 cxb4 6.d4 (it is worth noting that Gukesh's friend and compatriot Arjun Erigaisi has had this position twice in 2024)(es ist erwähnenswert, dass Gukeshs Freund und Landsmann Arjun Erigaisi diese Position im Jahr 2024 bereits zweimal hatte) Nf6 7.Bd3 when one sample variation would be:, wonach eine Beispielvariante wäre: g6 8.a3 bxa3 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Bxa3 0-0 11.Nc3⩲ In typical Blumenfeld Gambit style, White has fantastic development and central control in return for the sacrificed pawn .In typischer Blumenfeld-Gambit-Manier hat Weiß im Gegenzug für den geopferten Bauern eine fantastische Entwicklung und zentrale Kontrolle.]

5.a3N Howell,David: 'A big surprise as early as move 5! At this point Ding gave a smile and shook his head, realising that he had burned 38 minutes on the previous move for no reason at all.' Howell,David: 'Eine große Überraschung

schon im 5. Zug! An diesem Punkt lächelte Ding und schüttelte den Kopf, als er feststellte, dass er im vorherigen Zug 38 Minuten ohne jeden Grund verbraucht hatte.'

[5.Bb2 Howell,David: 'was the move I played as White in 2019 against Michael Adams. However, after' Howell,David: 'war der Zug, den ich 2019 als Weißer gegen Michael Adams spielte. Doch nach' dxe3 6.fxe3 cxb4 Howell,David: 'it is unclear if the bishop is actually so well placed on b2 if White wants to push the d-pawn in the near future.' Howell,David: 'ist unklar, ob der Läufer tatsächlich so gut auf b2 steht, wenn Weiß in naher Zukunft den d-Bauern vorstoßen will.' 7.d4 g6 8.Bd3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a3 bxa3 11.Rxa3 Nc6 12.Qe1 a5 13.Nc3 Nb4 14.Bb1 b6 15.Na2 Nxa2 16.Bxa2 Bf5 17.Ne5 Be4 18.d5 Qd6 19.Qh4 Bf5 Adams,M (2728)-Hess,R (2635) Wheeling USA 2012 [Mikhalevski, V] ½-½ (40) 20.Nc6 Bd7 21.Nd4 Ng4 22.Rd3 Bf6 23.Qg3 Qxg3 24.hxg3 Rfc8 25.Rc1 a4 26.Kf1 Rc7 27.Ke2 Rac8 28.Ba3 Ne5 29.Rdc3 Kg7 30.Kd2 h5 31.R3c2 Kh7 32.Rc3 Kg7 33.R3c2 Bf5 34.Nxf5+ gxf5 Bovay,J-Jachs,W Saint Petersburg 81/145 2019 CBM 045 ext [Peter Wells & Richard Palliser] ½-½ (40) 35.Ke2 Kg6 36.Kd2 Kg5 37.Ke2 Kg4 38.Rf1 Kg5 39.Rfc1 Kg4 40.Rf1 Kg5 ½-½ (40) Adams,M-Howell,D 4: British Knockout Championship 2019 MBM: The Réti [Sam Collins]]

[5.b5 was the move Ding faced in 2021 against Adhiban:war der Zug, mit dem Ding 2021 gegen Adhiban konfrontiert wurde: Nbd7!? (A promising gambit, and a sign that Ding was extremely well prepared) (Ein vielversprechendes Gambit und ein Zeichen dafür, dass Ding extrem gut vorbereitet war) 6.exd4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nc5 8.Bb2 *(8.Nb3* limits the damage, although begrenzt den Schaden, obwohl *Nd3+ 9.Bxd3 Qxd3 10.Qe2 Bf5* leaves White fighting for equality. Weiß um Ausgleich kämpfen lässt. *)* 8...e5 9.Nb3 Bf5! 10.Nxc5 Bxc5 11.Be2 Qd6 12.0-0 h5→ with great attacking chances for Black in Adhiban-Ding, 2021.mit großen Angriffsmöglichkeiten für Schwarz in Adhiban-Ding, 2021.]

[5.bxc5 always runs intoläuft immer in Nc6 when Black will achieve a good game with a quick ...e5. The c5-pawn will soon fall., wonach Schwarz mit einem schnellen ...e5 ein gutes Spiel erreichen wird. Der c5-Bauer wird bald fallen.]

5...Bg4 Howell,David: 'The product of another long think. This move turns out well.' Howell,David: 'Das Ergebnis einer weiteren langen Überlegung. Dieser Schritt geht gut aus.'

[5...Nc6 6.b5 Na5 is one of the computer's initial suggestions, though it looks strange to willingly plant a knight on the edge of the board. ist einer der ersten Vorschläge des Computers, obwohl es seltsam aussieht, einen Springer freiwillig an den Brettrand zu setzen.]

[5...a5 would have been a natural try if Ding had been trying to revert back to familiar patterns. Afterwäre ein natürlicher Versuch gewesen, wenn Ding versucht hätte, wieder in

gewohnte Muster zurückzukehren. Nach 6.b5 Nbd7 (by analogy with the Adhiban-Ding game quoted above) (in Analogie zu der oben zitierten Partie Adhiban-Ding) 7.d3! *(7.exd4?! cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nc5* is an even better version of the aforementioned game for Black .ist eine noch bessere Version des erwähnten Partie für Schwarz. *)* 7...e5 8.g3 Bd6 9.Bg2 0-0 10.Ra2!? is one manoeuvre that I would speculate was prepared by the Gukesh camp when coming up with 5. a3!? as a concept. The rook develops harmoniously thanks to the earlier inclusion of a3 and ...a5, and White's queenside space has a powerful clamping effect. One instructive variation:ist ein Manöver, von dem ich vermute, dass es vom Gukesh-Lager vorbereitet wurde, als es auf das Konzept 5.a3!? verfiel. Der Turm entwickelt sich dank der früheren Einschaltung von a3 und ...a5 harmonisch, und der weiße Raum am Damenflügel hat eine starke Klemmwirkung. Eine lehrreiche Variante: Re8 11.Re2 Ra7 12.a4 b6 13.e4! going for a King's Indian pawn structure where play will become one-sided on the kingside.strebt eine Königsindisch-Bauernstruktur an, bei der das Spiel am Königsflügel einseitig wird. Nf8 14.Kd2!!± Modern computers immediately suggest this lovely idea. The king will seek safety on the blocked queenside, while White will eventually build for an f2-f4 pawn break. Black, on the other hand, struggles to find any productive moves. Moderne Computer schlagen diese schöne Idee sofort vor. Der König wird sich am blockierten Damenflügel in Sicherheit bringen, während Weiß schließlich einen f2-f4-Bauerndurchbruch anstreben wird. Schwarz hingegen kämpft damit, produktive Züge zu finden.]

6.exd4 cxd4 7.h3 Bxf3

[7...Bh5 doesn't look too appetising, and defeats the purpose behind Black's earlier play.sieht nicht sehr appetitlich aus und verfehlt den Zweck von Schwarz' früherem Spiel. 8.g4 Bg6 9.Bg2 Nc6 10.d3 e6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Nh4 0-0 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Re1 is one sample line. Black lacks pawn breaks, and White has obtained a dream 'Benoni'.ist eine Beispielvariante. Schwarz hat keine Bauernhebel, und Weiß hat einen Traum-Benoni erhalten.]

8.Qxf3 The position is equal. **8...Qc7 9.d3** -0.31/4 Howell,David: '?!' Howell,David: 'Gukesh tries to fall back on familiar patterns. This move was strongly criticised by the likes of Magnus Carlsen after the game. A slow 'auto-pilot' reaction, this loses valuable time and allows Black to fix the

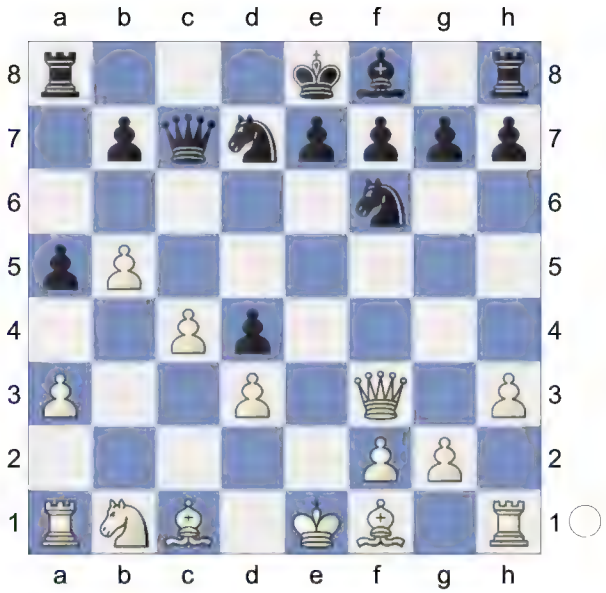
queenside . 'Howell,David: 'Gukesh versucht, auf bekannte Muster zurückzugreifen. Dieser Zug wurde nach der Partie von Größen wie Magnus Carlsen stark kritisiert. Eine langsame 'Autopilot'-Reaktion, die wertvolle Zeit verliert und Schwarz erlaubt, den Damenflügel zu fixieren.'

[9.c5= 0.07/6 a5 10.Bb5+ Nc6 11.0-0! This may have been underestimated by Gukesh. Dies wurde von Gukesh möglicherweise unterschätzt. *(11.Bb2 e5* leaves the b2-bishop misplaced. lässt den b2-Läufer fehl am Platz.*)* 11...axb4 12.Bb2 e5 (Black's only way to hold the balance)(Die einzige Möglichkeit für Schwarz, das Gleichgewicht zu halten) 13.axb4 Rxa1 14.Bxa1 Be7 15.Qg3

A) 15...0-0 16.Bxc6 Qxc6 *(* or oder *16...bxc6 17.Bxd4)* 17.Qxe5 is a clear pawn for White. ist ein klarer Bauer für Weiß.;

B) 15...Nh5 16.Qb3 0-0 17.Re1± This position looks pleasant for White, but it is far from one-sided. Black has short-term dynamic potential, mainly due to the misplaced bishop on a1. Either way, compared to the game, it is clear that this was the way to go for White. Diese Stellung sieht für Weiß angenehm aus, ist aber alles andere als einseitig. Schwarz verfügt über kurzfristiges dynamisches Potenzial, vor allem aufgrund des falsch platzierten Läufers auf a1. Wie auch immer, im Vergleich zur Partie ist es klar, dass dies der richtige Weg für Weiß war.]

9...a5!∓ 10.b5 Nbd7



Howell,David: 'The tactical battle will soon revolve around the c5-outpost.' Howell,David: 'Die taktische Schlacht wird sich bald um den c5-Vorposten drehen.' **11.g3** Howell,David: 'Played after...1 hour! This is a perfectly healthy move, but the use of time was a clear sign that Gukesh was not a fan of his position.'Howell,David: 'Gespielt nach... einer Stunde! Das ist ein völlig gesunder Zug, aber der Zeitverbrauch war ein klares Zeichen dafür, dass Gukesh kein Fan seiner Stellung war.' **11...Nc5** With the idea ...Nb3. **12.Bg2 Nfd7** 0.16/3 Howell,David: 'Highly ambitious from Ding.'Howell,David: 'Sehr ehrgeizig von Ding.'

[⌓12...e5 -0.26/4 13.0-0 Bd6 14.a4 *(14.Bg5* is always met bywird immer beantwortet mit *Nfd7)* 14...0-0 15.Nd2 Rae8 16.Ba3 Nfd7 looks very simple and pleasant for Black. Despite the absence of a light-squared bishop, it looks likely that ...f5 and ...e4 will come in the near future. White is fighting for equality. sehr einfach und angenehm für Schwarz aus. Trotz des Fehlens

eines weißfeldirgen Läufers ist es wahrscheinlich, dass ...f5 und ...e4 in naher Zukunft kommen werden. Weiß kämpft um Ausgleich.]

[Personally, I would have pushed the e-pawn for Black (partly because I would not have seen 12...Nfd7). Ich persönlich hätte mit Schwarz den e-Bauern vorgeschoben (auch weil ich 12...Sfd7 nicht gesehen hätte). 12...e6 13.0-0 Bd6 asks White how he will develop his queenside pieces. If Gukesh tries a similar plan to the game, then we may have seen: fragt Weiß, wie er seine Figuren am Damenflügel entwickeln wird. Wenn Gukesh einen ähnlichen Plan wie in der Partie versucht, dann hätten wir vielleicht gesehen: 14.a4 *(14.Bg5?! Nfd7∓)* 14...0-0 15.Ba3 Nfd7 16.Bxc5 Nxc5 17.Nd2 and now it is important for Black to playund jetzt ist es für Schwarz wichtig, f5! to prevent an exchange of knights on e4. Black is very comfortable, with a much better version of the opposite-coloured bishop middlegame we later see. zu spielen, um einen Abtausch der Springer auf e4 zu verhindern. Schwarz steht sehr bequem, mit einer viel besseren Version des ungleichfarbigen Läufermittelspiels, das wir später sehen werden.]

[Gukesh had likely spent much of his time pondering Gukesh hatte wahrscheinlich viel Zeit verbracht mit dem Nachdenken über 12...Nb3? when , wonach 13.Qxb7 Qxb7 14.Bxb7 Ra7 15.Bc6+ Kd8 16.Bb2! gives White a fantastic position: Weiß eine fantastische Stellung gibt: Nxa1 17.Bxa1 e5 18.Bb2± Intuitively, it is clear that White has more than enough long-term compensation for the exchange sacrifice. The bishop pair and queenside majority - including passed pawns on the b- and c-files - are a valuable long-term asset.Intuitiv ist es klar, dass Weiß langfristig mehr als genug Kompensation für das Qualitätsopfer hat. Das Läuferpaar und die Mehrheit am Damenflügel - einschließlich der Freibauern auf der b- und c-Linie - sind ein wertvoller langfristiger Vorteil.]

13.0-0!= Ne5 Pair of Knights! **14.Qf4 Rd8**

[While commentating alongside Jovanka Houska for the official FIDE channel, I half-jokingly suggested Als ich an der Seite von Jovanka Houska für den offiziellen FIDE-Kanal kommentierte, schlug ich halb im Scherz 14...0-0-0 but it is asking too much of Black's position:vor, aber das ist zu viel für Schwarz' Stellung: 15.b6! Qd6 16.Nd2 when the black king may find itself in trouble, for example: wonach der schwarze König in Schwierigkeiten geraten kann, zum Beispiel: Ncxd3 *(16...Nexd3* is better, although afterist besser, obwohl nach *17.Qxf7* Black is not material up, making the whole idea of castling queenside redundant. Schwarz keinen Materialvorteil hat was die ganze Idee der Rochade zum Damenflügel überflüssig macht. *)* 17.Qf5+ e6 18.Qh5 Nc5 19.Rb1 g6 20.Qd1 With Rb5 coming next. Mit Tb5 als nächstes.]

15.Rd1 Howell,David: '?!'Howell,David: 'The most natural move, but a serious mistake. The price of one tempo is greater than the weak d3-pawn.'

Howell,David: 'Der natürlichste Zug, aber ein schwerer Fehler. Der Preis von einem Tempo ist höher als der schwache d3-Bauer.'

[15.Nd2 was best, when war am besten, wonach Ncxd3 *(15...e6* is maybe safer, but who can resist the allure of a free pawn? ist vielleicht sicherer, aber wer kann schon der Verlockung eines Gratisbauern widerstehen?*)* 16.Qe4 Nc5 17.b6! Qb8 18.Qb1! shows nice geometry. zeigt eine schöne Geometrie. Ned7 19.Nb3 leaves a complicated battle ahead, when the strength of the g2-bishop gives White full compensation for the pawn. einen komplizierten Kampf erwarten lässt, wobei die Stärke des g2-Läufers Weiß volle Kompensation für den Bauern gibt.]

15...g6 0.06/5 Howell,David: 'Ding later expressed remorse over this move. While it is not bad on its own, it does mark the start of a downward spiral for Black. The plan of ...h5 and ...Bh6 is tempting, but a bit too slow. More disappointingly for Ding, developing the bishop in the other direction was simple and strong.'Howell,David: 'Ding äußerte später Reue über diesen Zug. Obwohl er an sich nicht schlecht ist, markiert er doch den Beginn einer Abwärtsspirale für Schwarz. Der Plan mit ...h5 und ...Lh6 ist verlockend, aber ein bisschen zu langsam. Noch enttäuschender für Ding ist, dass die Entwicklung des Läufers in die andere Richtung einfach und stark war.'

[15...g5∓ -0.50/3 16.Qxg5 Nexd3]

[15...e6 gives a big advantage, for example: bietet einen großen Vorteil, zum Beispiel: 16.a4 (as per the game - also, what else?)(wie in der Partie - außerdem, was sonst?) *(16.b6 Qd6)* 16...Bd6∓ With practically zero calculation required, Black wins material. Schwarz gewinnt mit praktisch null Rechenaufwand Material. 17.Qxd4 is often a poisoned pawn: ist oft ein vergifteter Bauer: Nexd3 18.Rxd3 Nxd3 19.Qxd3 Be5 20.Qa3 Rd1+ 21.Kh2 Rxc1 22.Qxc1 Bxa1-+]

Howell,David: '?!' **16.a4** Howell,David: 'Many spectators and commentators seemed to think that this move was difficult, but in truth White simply has no options. By process of elimination, it is not easy to even suggest another move. In Benoni pawn structures, it is usually the c1-bishop (or Black's c8-bishop with colours reversed) that lacks employment and thus wants to swap itself for a knight. ' Howell,David: 'Viele Zuschauer und Kommentatoren schienen zu denken, dass dieser Zug schwierig sei, aber in Wahrheit hat Weiß einfach keine Optionen. Nach dem Ausschlussverfahren ist es nicht einfach,

einen anderen Zug vorzuschlagen. In Benoni-Bauernstrukturen ist es normalerweise der c1-Läufer (oder der c8-Läufer von Schwarz mit umgekehrten Farben), der keine Beschäftigung hat und sich selbst gegen einen Springer tauschen möchte.' **16...h5** Black wants to play ...Bh6.Howell,David: 'There is no way back. Ding has to stay consistent.' Howell,David: 'Es gibt keinen Weg zurück. Ding muss konsequent bleiben.'

[16...Bg7 is just a poor square. White already has a major advantage after ist einfach ein schlechtes Feld. Weiß hat bereits einen großen Vorteil nach 17.Ba3±]

17.b6! Howell,David: 'This move instantly works wonders.'Howell,David: 'Dieser Zug bewirkt sofort Wunder.'

[Alternatively,Alternativ erzwingt 17.Ba3 pretty much forces a wild variation that is a lot of fun to analyse: mehr oder weniger eine ziemlich wilde Variante, die zu analysieren viel Spaß macht: Bh6 18.b6 Qb8 *(18...Qd6 19.Bxc5 Qxc5 20.Qe4* transposes to the game, which we will soon discover is not much fun for Black at all.führt zur Partie, was, wie wir bald feststellen werden, für Schwarz überhaupt nicht lustig ist. *)* 19.Qh4 Nexd3 20.Rxd3 g5 (an easy move to miss in calculation) (ein leicht zu übersehender Zug in der Berechnung) 21.Qxh5 Nxd3 Despite Black's extra material, the position remains totally unclear. One sample line:Trotz des zusätzlichen Materials, das Schwarz hat, bleibt die Stellung völlig unklar. Eine Beispielvariante: 22.Qf3 Ne5 23.Qf5 and now the cold-blooded engine says both sides need to walk a narrow tight-rope to maintain the balance: und jetzt sagt die kaltblütige Engine, dass beide Seiten auf einem schmalen Grat wandeln müssen, um das Gleichgewicht zu halten: g4! 24.hxg4 Rg8 25.Qh7 Rg6 26.Be4 Be3!! While this is a long way down the line and no longer too relevant, it does illustrate the type of wild tactical battle that Gukesh was trying to lure Ding into with his opening choice. Das ist zwar eine lange Variante und nicht mehr so relevant, aber es zeigt die Art von wildem taktischem Kampf, in den Gukesh Ding mit seiner Eröffnungswahl zu locken versuchte. 27.fxe3 *(27.Bxg6? Nxg6 28.Kg2 Qe5* is winning for Black.gewinnt für Schwarz. *)* 27...Nxg4 and apparently this should end...in equality! und anscheinend sollte dies ... im Ausgleich enden!]

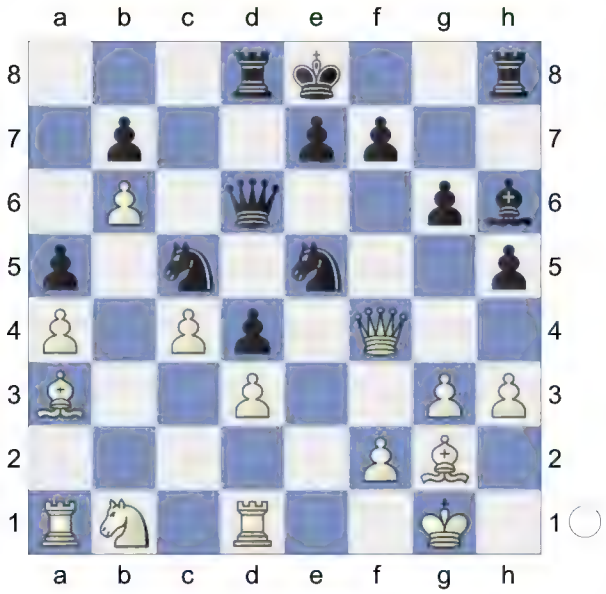
17...Qd6 0.14/2 Howell,David: '?!' Howell,David: 'The wrong direction.' Howell,David: 'Die falsche Richtung.'

[Howell,David: 'In practical terms,' Howell,David: 'Praktisch gesehen war' 17...Qb8!∓ -0.34/3 deserves consideration.Howell,David: 'was a far stronger move. The queen will not be hit by the opponent's bishop here.' Howell,David: 'ein weitaus stärkerer Zug. Die Dame wird hier nicht vom gegnerischen Läufer behelligt.' 18.Ba3 Howell,David: 'The most natural.' Howell,David: 'Am natürlichsten.'

(18.Qd2 is the computer's top choice, but I don't think any human would play it - especially in a world championship match!ist die erste Wahl des Computers, aber ich glaube nicht, dass ein Mensch ihn spielen würde - schon gar nicht bei einem

Weltmeisterschaftsmatch! *Nb3 19.Qb2 Nxa1 20.Bf4 Bg7 21.Nd2⩱* with compensationmit Ausgleich*)* 18...Nexd3 19.Qf3 Ne5 20.Qe2 leaves White active, but a pawn down and still fighting to hold the balance after lässt Weiß aktiv, aber er hat einen Bauern weniger und kämpft immer noch darum, das Gleichgewicht zu halten nach Ne6]

18.Ba3! Bh6

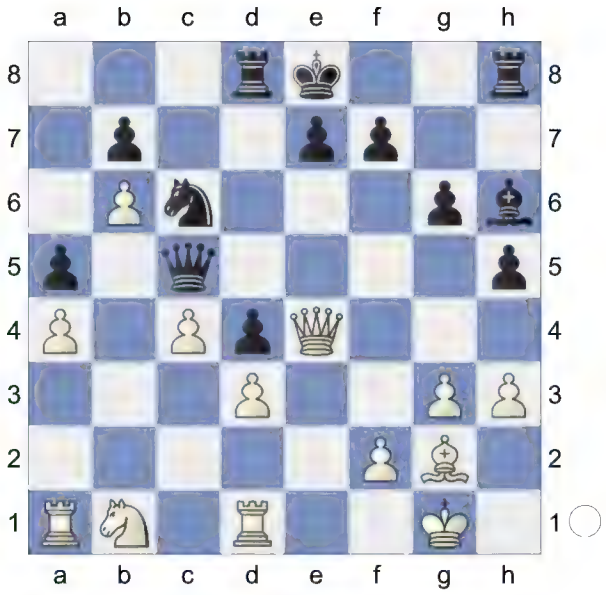


19.Bxc5! Howell,David: 'The downside to Ding's choice of square for his queen.' Howell,David: 'Der Nachteil von Dings Wahl des Feldes für seine Dame.'

19...Qxc5 20.Qe4 Howell,David: 'transposes to the game, which we will soon discover is not much fun for Black at all.' Howell,David: 'führt zur Partie, was, wie wir bald feststellen werden, für Schwarz überhaupt nicht lustig ist.'

20...Nc6

(Diagram)



21.Na3 Rd7 0.73/5

[Howell,David: 'Black's position is already difficult to play, but' Howell,David: 'Die Stellung von Schwarz ist bereits schwierig zu spielen, aber' 21...0-0= 0.27/2 Howell,David: 'was a better bet.' Howell,David: 'war ein besserer Versuch.']

22.Nc2 0.39/5

[22.Qe2± 0.73/5 Howell,David: '!' Howell,David: 'looks like a better move order, keeping the a3-knight flexible:' Howell,David: 'sieht nach einer besseren Zugfolge aus, die den a3-Springer flexibel hält:' Qxb6 23.Rdb1 Nb4 24.Nc2 0-0 25.Nxb4 axb4 26.Qe1+- being one example. ist ein Beispiel dafür.]

22...Qxb6± 23.Rab1 Qc7 24.Rb5! White has compensation.Howell,David: 'Despite the extra pawn for Black, it is clear which side is enjoying the position more.' Howell,David: 'Trotz des Mehrbauern für Schwarz ist es klar, welche Seite die Stellung mehr genießt.'

24...0-0 25.Na1 -0.21/3 Howell,David: 'A clever manoeuvre by Gukesh that is

instantly rewarded.'Howell,David: 'Ein cleveres Manöver von Gukesh, das sofort belohnt wird.'

[Better is 25.Rdb1± 0.55/1 Rb8 Howell,David: 'leaves White with pressure, but still seeking a breakthrough.'Howell,David: 'beschert Weiß Druck, aber er muss immer noch nach einem Durchbruch suchen.' 26.Qe1]

25...Rb8 0.48/4

[Black should play 25...e5= -0.21/3]

[25...Rd6! was a difficult move to spot, over-protecting the black knight and aiming to harrass the white queen: war ein schwer zu erkennender Zug, der den schwarzen Springer überdeckt und darauf abzielt, die weiße Dame zu bedrängen: 26.Rdb1 *(26.Qe2 Re6 27.Qb2 Rb8 28.Nb3 b6* shows the ideal defensive set-up for Black on the queenside. zeigt die ideale Verteidigungsstellung für Schwarz am Damenflügel.*)* 26...Rb8 27.Nb3 Re6 28.Qh4 Re5 with good chances to hold on. mit guten Chancen, sich zu behaupten.]

(Diagram)

26.Nb3 e6 1.08/4 Howell,David: 'By this point it was clear from Ding's body language that he could sense the momentum was fully on his opponent's side. The clock was not his friend either, with only 7 minutes left to make it to the time control at move 40.'Howell,David: 'Zu diesem Zeitpunkt war an Dings Körpersprache zu erkennen, dass er spüren konnte, dass das Momentum ganz auf der Seite seines Gegners war. Auch die Uhr war nicht sein Freund, da ihm nur noch 7 Minuten bis zur Zeitkontrolle im 40. Zug blieben.'

[26...e5± 0.48/4]

27.Nc5± Re7 28.Rdb1 0.54/18 &Bianco is more active.Howell,David: 'This natural improving move forces the final mistake.'Howell,David: 'Dieser natürliche Verstärkungszug erzwingt den letzten Fehler.'

[Howell,David: 'Objectively,' Howell,David: 'Objektiv war' 28.Nxb7!± 0.91/1 Howell,David: 'was even stronger:'Howell,David: 'noch stärker:' Rxb7 *(*or oder *28...Nb4 29.Qxd4)* 29.Qxc6 Howell,David: 'with a clear advantage. The c4-pawn will soon

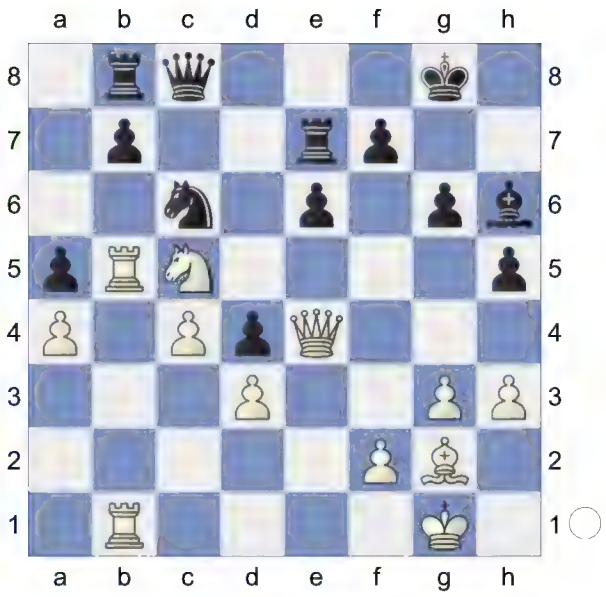
become extremely powerful.' Howell,David: 'mit einem klaren Vorteil. Der c4-Bauer wird bald extrem stark werden.' Qxc6 30.Bxc6]

28...Qc8 4.34/18 Howell,David: 'An unfortunate blunder. In Ding's defence, the position had become very unpleasant to defend - especially in time trouble.' Howell,David: 'Ein unglücklicher Einsteller. Zu Dings Verteidigung sei gesagt, dass die Stellung sehr unangenehm zu verteidigen war - besonders in Zeitnot.'

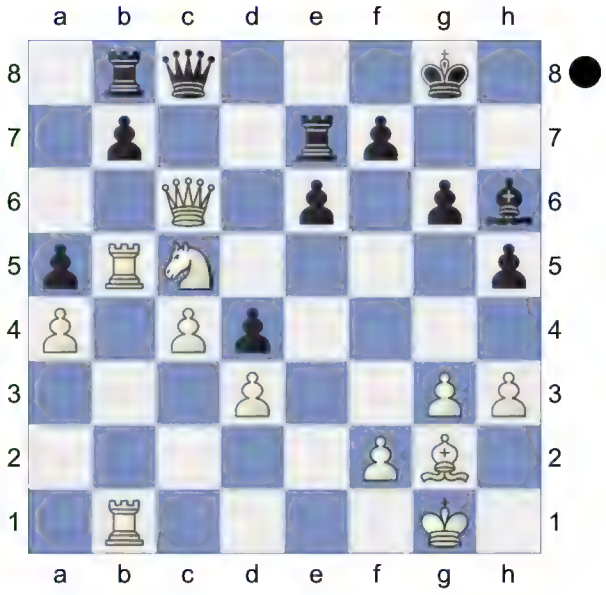
[28...f5? 29.Qh4 Kf7 30.Nxb7+-]

[28...Nb4!± 0.54/18 Howell,David: 'was the only way to keep the game going, but it was necessary to spot' Howell,David: 'war die einzige Möglichkeit, die Partie in Gang zu halten, aber dabei musste man' 29.Nxb7 Bf8! when things just about hold together tactically for Black. White still needs a way to bring the b7-knight back into the action, so sehen, wonach die Dinge für Schwarz taktisch gerade so zusammenpassen. Weiß braucht immer noch einen Weg, um den b7-Springer wieder ins Spiel zu bringen, also wäre 30.c5 Nd5 31.Qxd4 Bg7 32.Qc4 Nc3 33.c6 Nxb1 34.Rxb1 Qe5± would be a logical continuation. White is better, but Black is fighting.eine logische Fortsetzung. Weiß steht besser, aber Schwarz kämpft.]

(Diagram)



Howell,David: '??' **29.Qxc6!!**



Pin.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.32 Howell,David: '!' Howell,David: 'Gukesh saw this tactic immediately. Black loses a piece.' Howell,David: 'Gukesh erkannte diese Taktik sofort. Schwarz verliert eine Figur. '

1-0

16 **E11**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2783**
■ **Ding,Liren** **2728**
WCh 2024 Singapore SIN (9.1) 05.12.24
[TA]

E11: Bogo-Indian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7 5.Bg2 d5

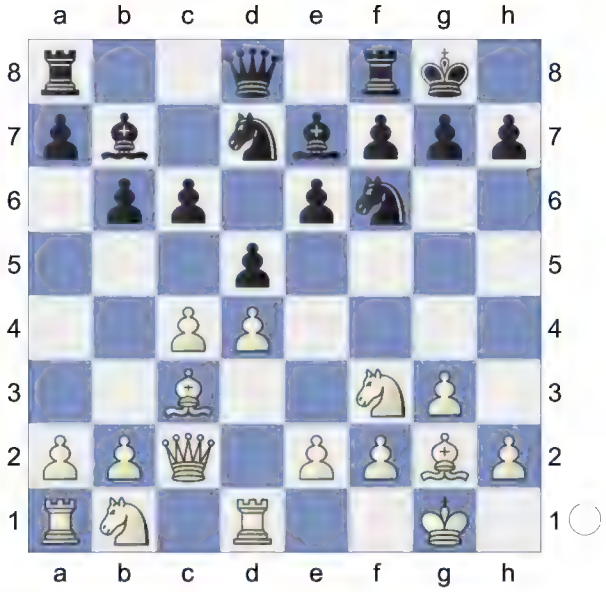
6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.Rd1 b6 10.Bc3

[10.b3 a5 11.Bc3 Ba6 12.Nbd2 b5 13.e4 bxc4 14.bxc4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Qc7 18.Qxe4 Rac8 19.h4 Rfd8 20.h5 h6 21.Bf1 Bb7 22.Bd3 Rxd3 23.Qxd3 Rd8 24.Qe2 c5 0-1 (41) Beliavsky,A (2652)-Epishin,V (2643) Politiken Cup 24th 2002 (6)]

10...Bb7N

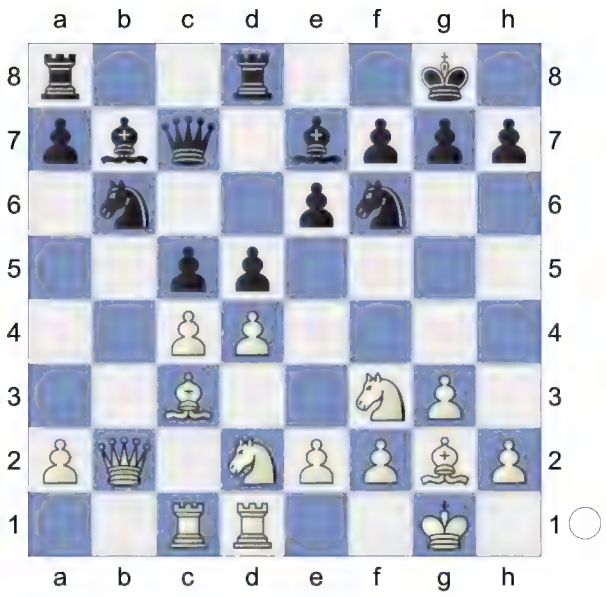
[10...a5 11.Ne5 Bb7 12.Nd2 b5 13.b3 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Nd7 15.cxb5 cxb5 16.Qb2 *(16.e4 Rc8 17.Qd3 d4 18.Qxd4 Bc5 19.Qd3 Qb6 20.Qe2 Bxf2+ 21.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 22.Kxf2 Rxc3 23.Nc4 bxc4 24.Rxd7 Rc2+ 25.Kg1 Bc6 26.Rd6 cxb3 27.axb3 Rc5 28.Kf2 Rb8 29.Rad1 Kf8 30.Rd8+ Rxd8* 0-1 (83) Court,J (2550)-6. ♘b3 ♗b4 7. ♗g5 (2590) 33/344 Torino 1982 (6)*)* 16...Nc5 17.Bd4 Qb8 18.Rac1 Rc8 19.Nf3 b4 20.Rc2 Ra6 21.Rdc1 Rac6 E 01/15 Chess Informant ECO E4 2008]

[10...dxc4 11.Nbd2 b5 12.Ne5 Bb7 13.Bxc6 Qb6 14.Ba5 Qa6 15.Bxb7 Qxb7 16.a4 a6 17.Ndf3 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Rfc8 19.b3 c3 20.axb5 axb5 21.b4 Qe4 22.Qxe4 Nxe4 23.Rdc1 c2 24.Ra2 Nc3 25.Rcxc2 0-1 (26) Toniutti,E (2237)-Leitao,R (2592) Titled Tuesday intern op 27th Sep Late blitz 2022 (6)]

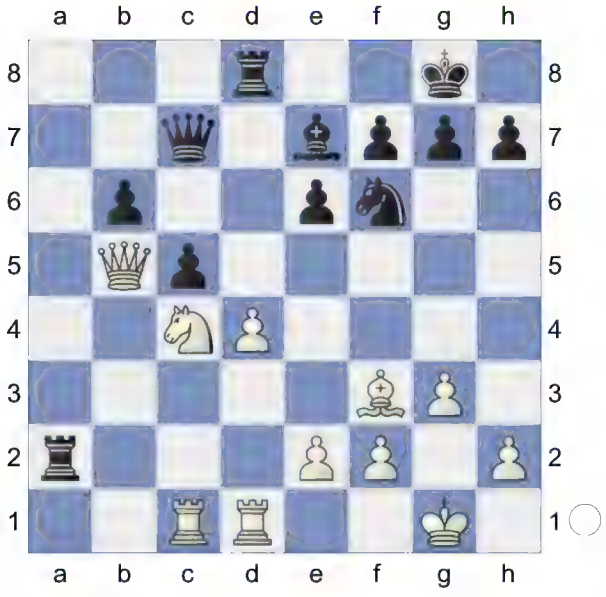


11.Nbd2 Qc7 12.Rac1 Rfd8 13.b4 c5 14.bxc5 bxc5 15.Qb2 Nb6

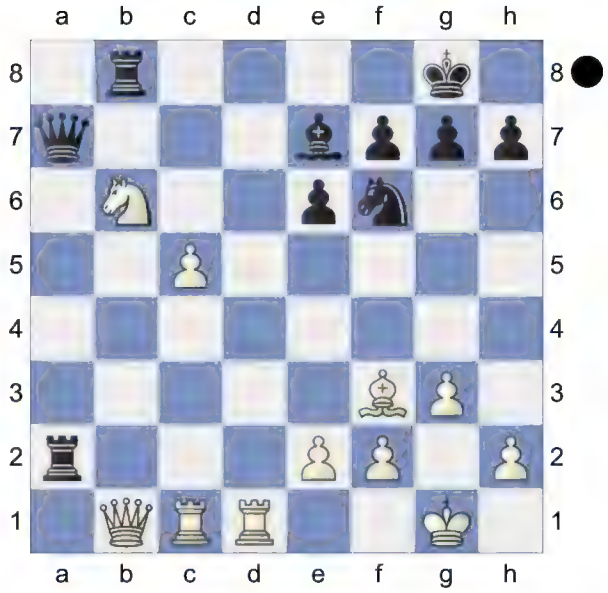
(Diagram)



16.Ba5 dxc4 17.Nxc4 Bxf3 0.45/22
[17...Nxc4= 0.07/21 18.Rxc4 Qxa5 19.Qxb7 Nd7 *(19...Qxa2 20.Qxe7 Qxc4 21.Ne5=)*]
18.Bxb6!±
[18.Bxf3 Nxc4 19.Rxc4 Qxa5∓]
18...axb6 19.Bxf3 Ra6 20.Qb5 0.04/20
[20.Ne5± 0.53/19 was preferable.]
20...Rxa2=



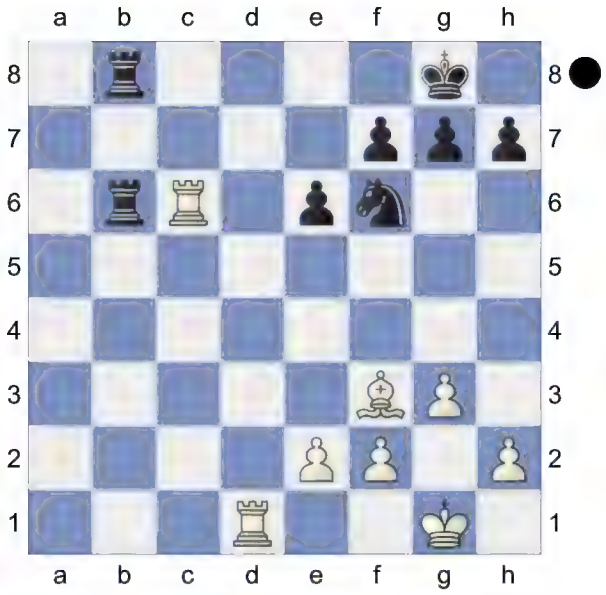
The position is equal. **21.Nxb6 Qa7!**
Prevents Na4 **22.Qb1 Rb8**
[22...Rxd4? 23.Rxd4 Bf8
(23...cxd4? too greedy. *24.Rc8+ Bf8 25.Qb4+-)* 24.Rd8+-]
[22...cxd4 23.Nc8 Qa3 24.Nxe7+ Kf8 25.Rc7+- *(25.Nc6 Rb2+-)*]
23.dxc5



Ra6 Black is weak on the light squares
24.Qb5 Bxc5 25.Qxc5 Qxb6

26.Qxb6 Raxb6 27.Rc6

(Diagram)

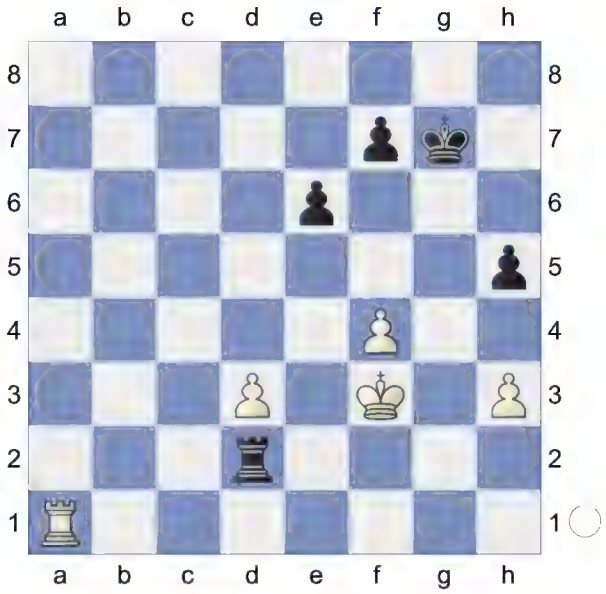


Rxb6 is the strong threat. **27...Rxc6 28.Bxc6** Endgame KRB-KRN **28...g5 29.Kg2 Rb2 30.Kf1 Kg7**

31.h3 h5 32.Ra1 Rc2 33.Bb5 Rc5 34.Bd3 Nd7 35.f4 gxf4

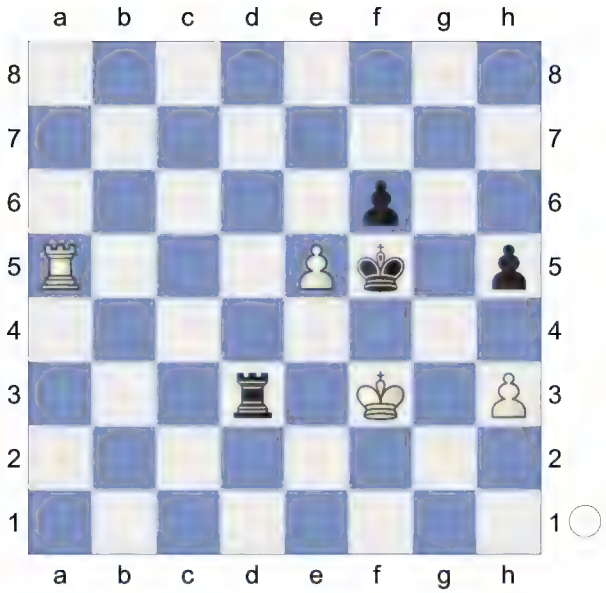
(Diagram)

36.gxf4 Rc3 37.Kf2 Nc5 38.Ke3 Nxd3 39.exd3 KR-KR **39...Rc2 40.Kf3 Rd2**

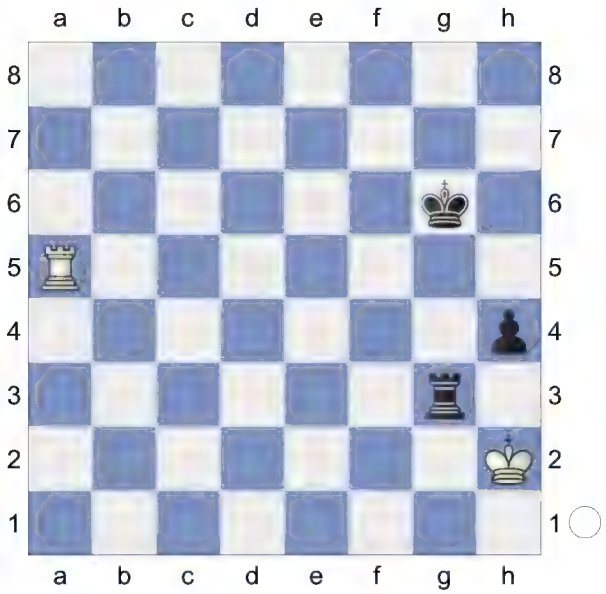


41.Ra3 Kg6 42.Rb3 f6 43.Ra3 Kf5 44.Ra5+ e5 45.fxe5 Rxd3+

(Diagram)



46.Ke2 Rxh3 47.exf6+ Kxf6 48.Kf2 h4 49.Kg2 Rg3+ 50.Kh2 Kg6

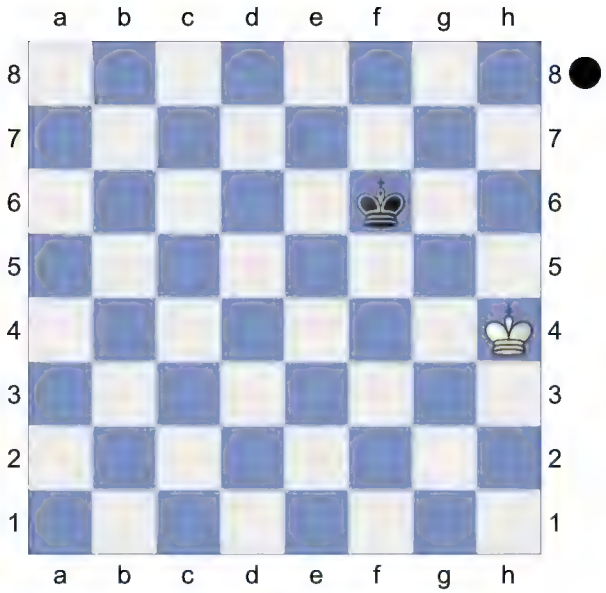


51.Rb5 Rg5 52.Rxg5+ Kxg5 53.Kh3 Kf6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

54.Kxh4

(Diagram)



½-½

17 **A21**

□ **Ding,Liren** **2728**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2783**

WCh 2024 Singapore SIN (8.1) 04.12.24

[Giri,Anish]

A21: English Opening: 1...e5 2 Nc3

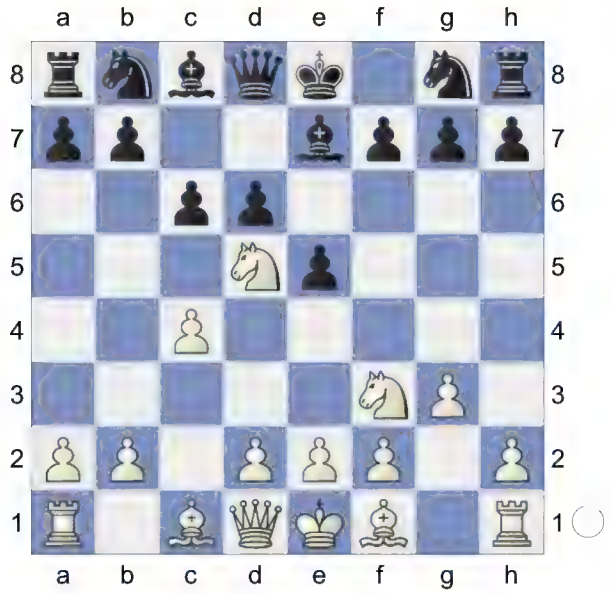
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Nd5 Be7 4.Nf3 d6 5.g3 This is one of the more playable sidelines .Dies ist eine der besser spielbaren Nebenvarianten.

[5.d4 Nf6 6.Nc3 exd4 7.Nxd4 d5 8.Bf4 c6 9.e3 0-0 10.Be2 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nbd7 12.0-0 Nb6 13.Bb3 Nbd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bg3 Bf6 16.Qd2 Ne7 17.Rad1 Nf5 18.Nxf5 Bxf5 19.Qe2 Qe8 ½-½ (39) Yakubboev,N (2620)-Van Foreest,J (2680) 153/17 Abu Dhabi 2022]

5...c6 More standard would be 5...Nf6, but Gukesh goes for an almost entirely new concept, that is proposed by the latest engines.Eher Standard wäre 5... Sf6, aber Gukesh wählt ein fast völlig

neues Konzept, das von den neuesten Engines vorgeschlagen wird.

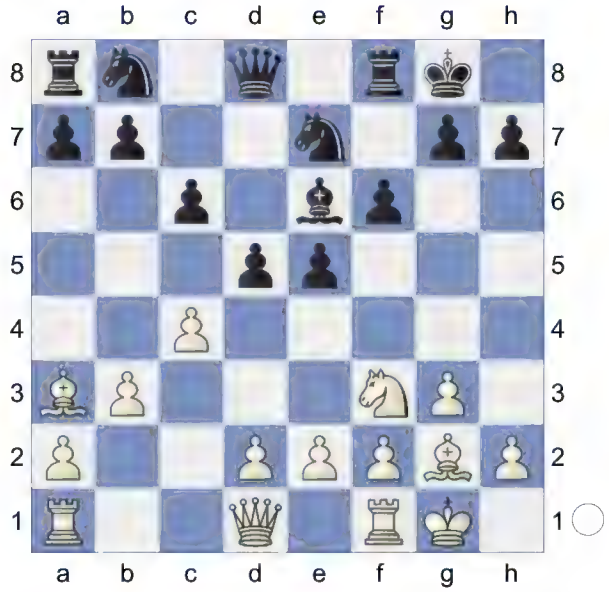
[5...Nf6 6.Nc3 c5 7.Bg2 h6 8.d3 Be6 9.Nd2 Qd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.cxd5 Bh3 13.e4 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 f5 15.f4 exf4 16.gxf4 Bf6 17.Nc4 Na6 18.Qf3 Rae8 19.Qh3 Bd4 20.Be3 0-1 (34) Panov Botvinnik Attack (2792)-Zamlutti Junior,R (2642) Alekhine sim 1926 (8.2)]



6.Nxe7 Nxe7 If Black wanted to develop the knight to f6, then he should have done it a move ago. Black has another plan in mind .Wenn Schwarz den Springer nach f6 entwickeln wollte, dann hätte er das schon vor einem Zug tun sollen. Schwarz hat einen anderen Plan im Kopf. **7.Bg2 f6N** A shocking looking concept, but a very effective one. Black simply prepares to gain the strong center with d5 .Ein schockierend aussehendes Konzept, aber ein sehr effektives. Schwarz bereitet einfach vor, das starke Zentrum mit d5 zu erlangen.

[7...0-0 8.0-0 f6 9.d3 Be6 10.b4 Qd7 11.a4 Bh3 12.e4 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Qe6 14.Qe2 Nd7 15.d4 f5 16.Ng5 Qg6 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.f4 Nf7 Chapter 9 - 4.Nf3 d6 5.g3 2024]

8.0-0 White is slightly better.White could also consider queenside expansion with b4!?. Weiß könnte auch die Damenflügelexpansion mit b4!? in Betracht ziehen. **8...Be6 9.b3 d5 10.Ba3!?** A very original way to develop the bishop, but it works quite well here. Eine sehr originelle Art, den Läufer zu entwickeln, aber sie funktioniert hier ganz gut. **10...0-0**



11.Rc1 There are a lot of different ways to develop. I personally expected a more standard d3 .Es gibt viele verschiedene Möglichkeiten der Entwicklung. Ich persönlich erwartete ein standardmäßigeres d3. **11...a5** Perhaps starting with 11...Re8!? would have been even more cunning, but the move in the game is standard too. Black doesn't have to deal with b3-b4 idea here, but the move still makes a lot of sense, as it prepares Na6-Nb4. Vielleicht wäre es noch schlauer gewesen, mit 11...Te8!? zu beginnen, aber der Zug in der Partie ist auch Standard. Schwarz muss sich hier nicht

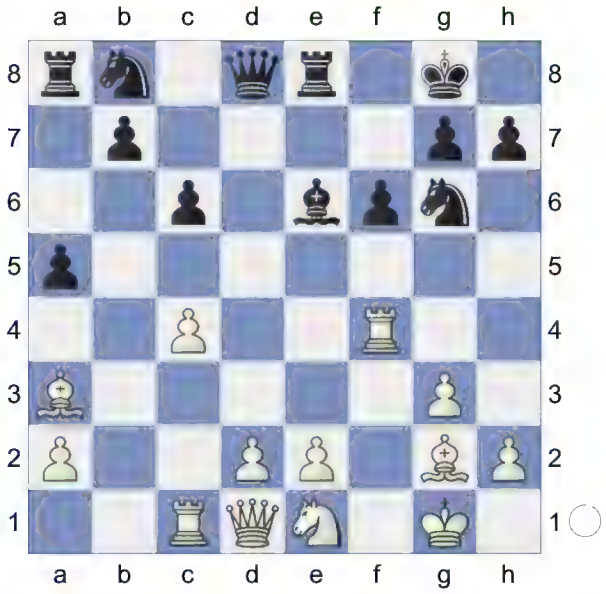
mit der b3-b4-Idee auseinandersetzen, aber der Zug ist trotzdem sehr sinnvoll, da er Sa6-Sb4 vorbereitet. **12.Ne1** Preparing f4!?. The computer also proposes 12.Nh4!? with a similar idea. Bereitet f4!? vor. Der Computer schlägt auch 12.Sh4!? mit einer ähnlichen Idee vor. **12...Re8!** Unpinning the e7 knight and preparing to use the rook on the e-file which will likely open.Entfesselt den Springer auf e7 und bereitet den Einsatz des Turms auf der e-Linie vor, die sich wahrscheinlich öffnen wird. **13.f4!?** Risky and interesting. A lot safer would have been 13.Nd3, but the position is quite a bit unbalanced already. Riskant und interessant. Viel sicherer wäre 13.Sd3 gewesen, aber die Stellung ist schon ziemlich unausgewogen. **13...exf4** Gukesh started playing quite well and quickly here, but there were also many alternatives.Gukesh begann hier recht gut und schnell zu spielen, aber es gab auch viele Alternativen.

[13...e4!? is also very interesting. ist ebenfalls sehr interessant.]

14.Rxf4 dxc4!? After the natural 14... Ng6 White has a strong reply with 15. Rd4!?, when the rook in the middle of the board is feeling surprisingly comfortable.Nach dem natürlichen 14... Sg6 hat Weiß eine starke Antwort mit 15. Td4!?, wonach sich der Turm in der Brettmitte überraschend wohl fühlt.

[14...Na6!? Is perhaps the most solid option. Black can finish development first, before taking any action, but at the same time, it is also tempting to try and use the momentum, as long as White knight is passive on e1. ist vielleicht die solideste Option. Schwarz kann zuerst die Entwicklung beenden, bevor er irgendetwas unternimmt, aber gleichzeitig ist es auch verlockend zu versuchen, den Schwung zu nutzen, solange der weiße Springer auf e1 passiv ist.]

15.bxc4 Ng6



16.Re4 Na6 Completing the development. It seemed very tempting to go for f5-f4, but actually it is far from clear as well.Schließt die Entwicklung ab. Es schien sehr verlockend, sich für f5-f4 zu entscheiden, aber tatsächlich ist es auch alles andere als klar.

[16...f5 17.Re3 f4 18.Rb3!? -0.39/18 White suddenly targets the b7 pawn and it is a total mess. The computer says it is around equal.Weiß zielt plötzlich auf den b7-Bauern, und es ist ein totales Chaos. Der Computer sagt, dass es ungefähr ausgeglichen ist. *(18.gxf4=* 0.00/20 *Nxf4 19.Rb1 Bxc4 20.Rxe8+ Qxe8 21.Rxb7)*]

17.Nc2 -0.40/22 There were a lot of options here for both sides. Nf3, Nd3 also make a ton of sense.Hier gab es eine Menge Optionen für beide Seiten. Sf3, Sd3 sind auch sehr sinnvoll.

[17.Qb3= 0.01/19]

17...Qc7

[17...f5!? A good inclusion, I believe. Ich glaube, das ist eine gute Einschaltung. 18.Rd4 Qc7 The rook on d4 is taking away the square from the knight on c2. Der Turm auf d4 nimmt dem Springer auf c2 das Feld weg.]

18.Nd4 Bf7 19.d3 Ne5 20.Nf3?! -0.45/21 The computer points out that the flexible 20.Qd2 is slightly better of a move. Der Computer weist darauf hin, dass das flexible 20.Dd2 ein etwas besserer Zug ist.

[20.Qd2!?]

[20.Nf5= -0.03/22 might be stronger.]

20...Nd7?! 0.25/21 Stronger is 20...Bg6! 21.Rf4 Nb4!. No need to move the e5 knight. Stärker ist 20...Lg6! 21.Tf4 Sb4!. Es ist nicht nötig, den Springer auf e5 zu bewegen.

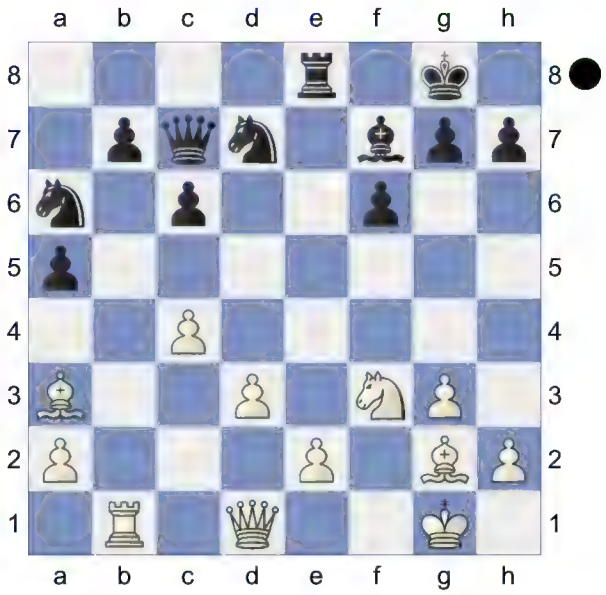
[20...Bg6 21.Rf4 Nb4]

[20...Bg6∓ -0.45/21 21.Rf4 Rac8]

21.Rxe8+= Rxe8 Ding is actually in a very decent shape here. But now comes a massive mistake.Ding steht hier eigentlich sehr ordentlich. Aber jetzt kommt ein massiver Fehler. **22.Rb1?** -0.60/21 This is sort of a blunder. In fact, in trying to stop b5, Ding only makes it work better.Das ist irgendwie ein Bock. Ding versucht, b5 zu stoppen, aber dadurch funktioniert es nur noch besser.

[22.Bb2! or even the simple 22.Qd2 would have been much better. White would just win two tempi basically, since that is just a much better way to prepare for b5.oder sogar das einfache 22.Dd2 wäre viel besser gewesen. Weiß würde im Grunde einfach zwei Tempi gewinnen, da dies einfach ein viel besserer Weg ist, sich auf b5 vorzubereiten.]

[22.Bb2= 0.18/22]



22...b5!∓ Thanks to the check, this push works just as well with the rook on b1, if not even better.Dank des Schachs funktioniert dieser Vorstoß genauso gut mit dem Turm auf b1, wenn nicht sogar besser. **23.cxb5**

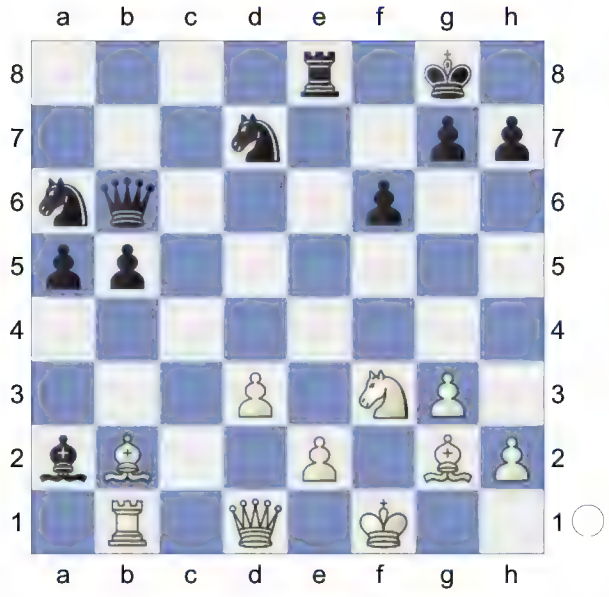
[23.Qd2 b4]

23...Qb6+ 24.Kf1 cxb5 25.Bb2?! -1.51/19 Some sort of wishful thinking, that this would somehow work out. In the game it actually did! White was in a

tough spot anyway, on the clock as well. Eine Art Wunschdenken, dass das schon irgendwie klappen würde. In der Partie klappte es tatsächlich! Weiß befand sich ohnehin in einer schwierigen Lage, auf der Uhr ebenfalls.

[⌓25.Qc2 -0.79/22]

25...Bxa2!∓



26.Bd4 The moment of truth. Der Moment der Wahrheit. **26...Nac5?** -0.52/20 The wrong knight! There are actually multiple reasons, why somehow the other knight move was the right one. Der falsche Springer! Es gibt eigentlich mehrere Gründe, warum der andere Springerzug irgendwie der richtige war.

[26...Ndc5! 27.Rc1 I thought when watching the game live that the main point was that after Be6 Rc8 the c8 rook would be defended by the bishop, which is true, but there are also other factors here favoring Black. The knight no longer being on d7 is not a target for the Bh3! pin and it also can hop to b4 sometimes, attacking the c2 queen. Als ich die Partie live sah, dachte ich, der Hauptpunkt sei, dass nach Le6 Tc8 der Turm auf c8 vom Läufer verteidigt wird, was auch stimmt, aber es gibt auch andere Faktoren, die Schwarz begünstigen. Der Springer, der nicht mehr auf d7 steht, ist kein Ziel für die Fesselung Lh3!, und er kann auch manchmal nach b4 gehen und die c2-Dame angreifen. Bd5 28.Qc2 Rc8! and White can't do Black any damage. In the same position with the a6 knight being on d7, on the other hand, Bh3! would have been an issue. und Weiß kann Schwarz keinen Schaden zufügen. In der gleichen Stellung, in der der Springer a6 auf d7 steht, wäre hingegen Lh3! ein Problem gewesen.]

[26...Ndc5∓ -1.54/24 27.Rc1 Bf7]

27.Rc1∓ Bb3 0.00/22 Inhibits Qc2. Gukesh starts to lose the thread entirely. Gukesh beginnt, den Faden völlig zu verlieren.

[27...Bd5 28.Qc2! Rc8 29.Bh3 Be6 30.Bxe6+ Qxe6]

[27...b4 28.Qc2 b3 29.Qc4+ Kh8! 30.Bb2]

[27...Bd5∓ -0.57/23 28.Qc2 Rc8]

28.Qe1!= Definitely missed/ underestimated by Black. The queen is heading to f2 now.Eindeutig übersehen/ unterschätzt von Schwarz. Die Dame ist jetzt auf dem Weg nach f2. **28...Be6?** 1.83/22 This is now losing control completely.Das verliert jetzt komplett die Kontrolle.

[28...a4! would still have kept the equality. hätte immer noch Ausgleich gewahrt.]

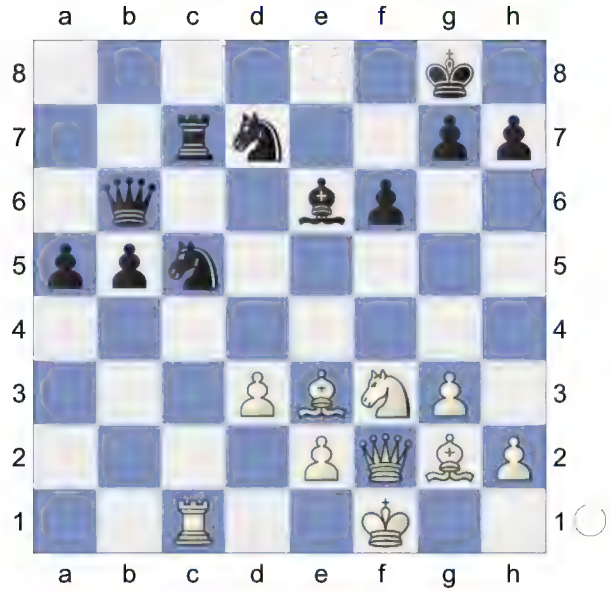
[28...b4!? 1.48/22 28...a4 0.00 also just ignoring the knight on c5 entirely would hold.Auch ein komplettes Ignorieren des Springers auf c5 hätte gehalten. 29.Qf2 a4

30.Bxc5 Nxc5 31.Qxc5 Qxc5 32.Rxc5 a3 and Black will regain the piece thanks to the far advanced passers. und Schwarz wird die Figur dank der weit vorgerückten Freibauern zurückgewinnen.]

[28...a4= 0.00/22 and Black stays safe.]

29.Qf2!↑ White has strong compensation. White is in control. **29...Rc8** **30.Be3!** This pair of bishops is nice.d4 is now a big threat .Jetzt ist d4 eine große Drohung. **30...Rc7** 1.99/23

[30...b4± 1.35/21 was called for.]

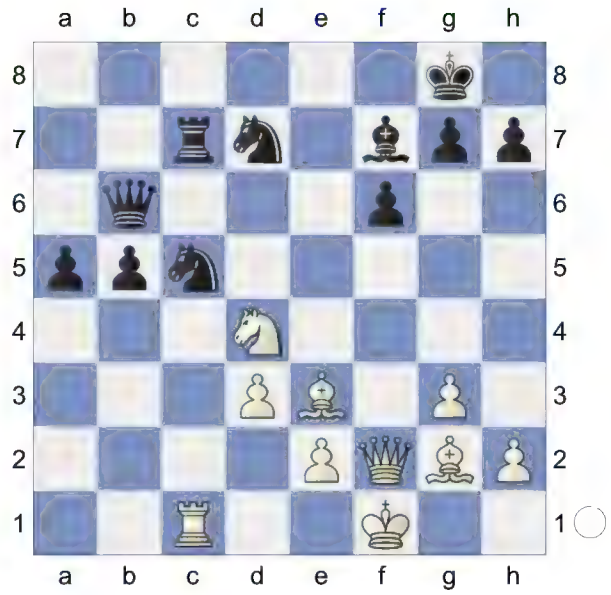


31.Nd4? 1.30/25 Ding wins material in a very straightforward fashion, but there was an even better move and one that I wouldn't expect a fellow human to find. Ding gewinnt auf sehr einfache Weise Material, aber es gab einen noch besseren Zug, den ich von einem Mitmenschen nicht erwartet hätte.

[31.Ne1! The knight is moving out of the way and covering from the potential Rxc1 check. The threat of d4-d5 is nasty .Der Springer geht aus dem Weg und schützt vor dem möglichen Schach Txc1. Die Drohung d4-d5 ist unangenehm. Bf7 2.10/25 *(31...Bg4± 1.56/20)* 32.Bf4!+- A very nasty diagonal switch. Ein sehr unangenehmer Diagonalwechsel. Ra7 33.Bh3! The pins are piling up. Black is going to lose a piece here.Die Fesselungen stapeln sich. Schwarz wird hier eine Figur verlieren. Be6 34.Bxe6+ Qxe6 35.Be3! Winning the piece after all. Black's outside passers are too slow here. Gewinnt die Figur doch noch. Schwarz' entfernte Freibauern sind hier zu langsam.]

[31.Ne1!+- 1.99/23]

31...Bf7±



32.Nc6 White is more active.White wins an exchange on this operation. Weiß gewinnt bei dieser Operation eine Qualität. **32...Rxc6** **33.Bxc6** **Qxc6** **34.Bxc5** I felt Black actually got away just fine, given that the position seemed to be on the verge of a collapse earlier on, at least according to the computer. But still, it seems that with best play here, White is objectively winning. Given the players charakter and the specifics

of the position, the fact that White king is somewhat vulnerable and the outside passed pawns are there, I didn't feel worried for Gukesh here.Ich hatte das Gefühl, dass Schwarz gerade noch so davonkam, da die Stellung kurz vor dem Zusammenbruch zu stehen schien, zumindest laut Computer. Dennoch scheint es, dass Weiß hier bei bestem Spiel objektiv gewinnt. In Anbetracht der Charakters der Spieler und der Besonderheiten der Stellung, der Tatsache, dass der weiße König etwas verwundbar ist und die entfernten Freibauern vorhanden sind, machte ich mir hier keine Sorgen um Gukesh.

34...h6 An excellent practical decision. The king on h7 will be extremely safe now. Eine ausgezeichnete praktische Entscheidung. Der König auf h7 wird jetzt extrem sicher sein.

[34...b4 35.Ke1! Followed by Kd2 is objectively winning for White. Gefolgt von Kd2 ist objektiv gewonnen für Weiß.]

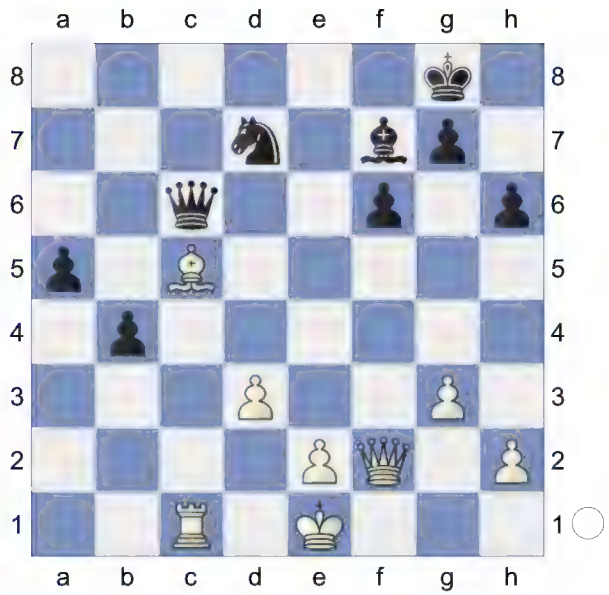
35.Ke1 0.93/21

[35.Be3! was a good move too. war auch ein guter Zug. Qh1+ 36.Qg1 Qd5 37.Qg2 White slowly gains more squares and the computer gradually wins this.Weiß erobert langsam mehr Felder und der Computer gewinnt allmählich.]

[⌓35.Be3 1.48/22 Qe6 36.Bd4]

35...b4

(Diagram)



36.Qd4?! 0.87/20

[36.Kd2! Was stronger. Giving Black a move for Ne5 was not helpful. war stärker. Schwarz einen Zug für Se5 zu geben, war nicht hilfreich.]

[⌓36.Kd2 1.23/24]

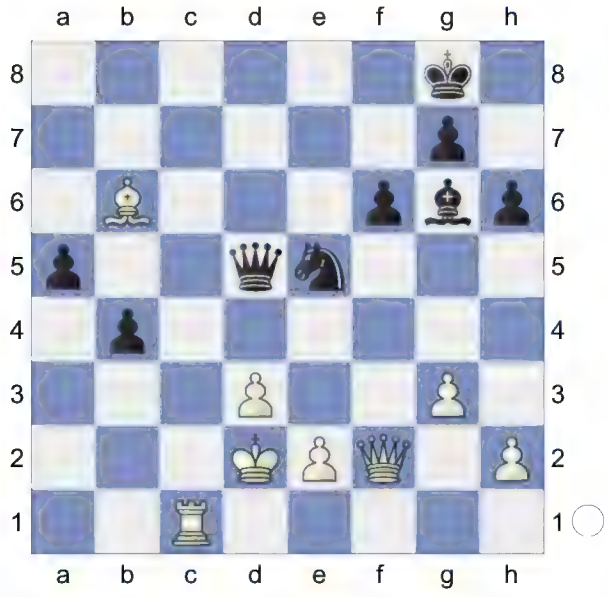
36...Ne5! 37.Kd2 Qg2! The move repetition is now very natural, especially knowing how risk averse Ding was at this stage of the match. Die Zugwiederholung ist jetzt sehr natürlich, vor allem wenn man weiß, wie risikoscheu Ding in dieser Phase des Kampfes war. **38.Qf2** 0.63/19

[38.Qe3!± 1.17/23]

38...Qd5± Dodges Bd6 **39.Qd4**

[39.Bd4! 0.48/23 39.Qd4 0.92 Apparently this "wins" in the computer terms, but the line screams Stockfish and has very little to do with the way Ding approached this position. Offensichtlich 'gewinnt' dies im Sinne des Computers, aber die Variante schreit nach Stockfish und hat sehr wenig mit der Art und Weise zu tun, wie Ding an diese Stellung herangegangen ist. Nc6! 40.Bb6! Ne5 41.Qd4 Qg2 42.Qf4! 0.22/22

Against Nf3 +Having moved the bishop to b6, this now somehow "wins". Nachdem man den Läufer nach b6 gezogen hat, 'gewinnt' dies nun irgendwie. *(* White should try *42.Qe3!±* 0.87/21 *)* 42...Bg6= 43.Qf2 1.03/20 *(43.Rc8+=* 0.20/23 *Kh7 44.Qf2)* 43...Qd5±



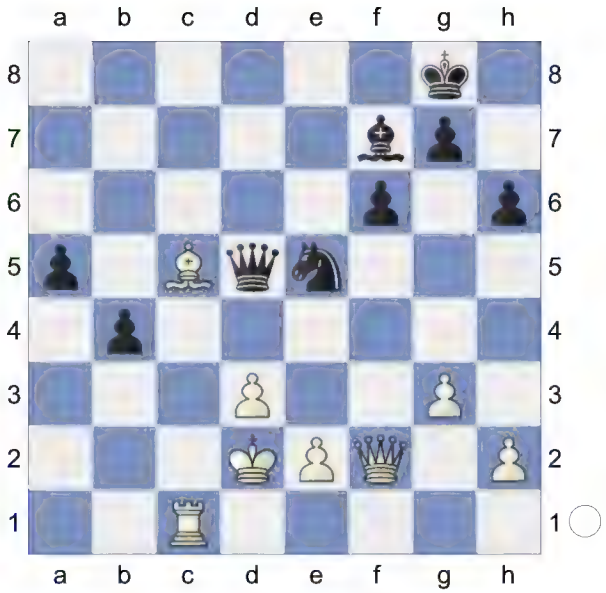
Hoping for ...Qa2+. 44.Bd4! We have somehow provoked the bishop to g6, which is apparently bad for Black here.Wir haben den Läufer irgendwie nach g6 provoziert, was hier offensichtlich schlecht für Schwarz ist. Nc6 45.Bb2 a4 1.39/21 *(*Black should play *45...Be8* 0.92/22 *)* 46.Qc5! and with the bishop on g6 and not on f7 Black loses here. und mit dem Läufer auf g6 und nicht auf f7 verliert Schwarz hier.]

39...Qg2 1.06/22

[39...Qa2+± 0.53/24 40.Rc2 Qb1]

40.Qf2 Qd5

(Diagram)



41.Qd4? 0.00/23 Allowing the draw. Lässt das Remis zu.

[41.Bd4± 0.79/22]

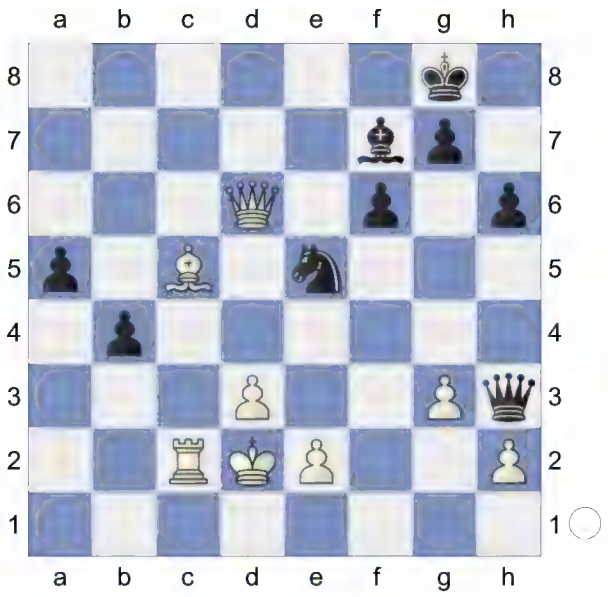
41...Qa2+!? 0.60/21 Very wicked, but actually Black is holding after this objectively, so it's not entirely reckless. Ziemlicher Wahnsinn, aber eigentlich hält Schwarz danach objektiv, also ist es nicht völlig waghalsig.

[41...Qg2= 0.00/23 42.Qf2]

42.Rc2 Qe6 43.Qd8+ Ding just picks up one of the two pawns.Ding sammelt einfach einen der beiden Bauern ein.

[43.Qd6 0.25/21 43.h4 0.69 Qh3

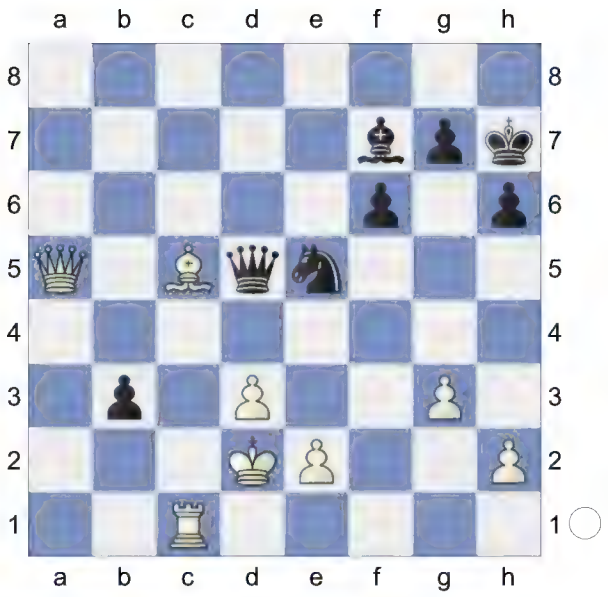
(Diagram)



Black holds here by miracle, since 43... Qg4 44.Bd4! is apparently trouble, according to the computer. Wie durch ein Wunder hält Schwarz hier, denn 43...Dg4 44.Ld4! ist laut Computer offenbar ein Problem. 44.Qf8+! *(44.Bd4* 0.10/19 44.Qf8+ 1. 02 *Nf3+! 45.exf3 Qg2+ 46.Kc1 Qf1+! 47.Kb2 Qxd3* with some kind of draw. mit irgendeiner Art von Unentschieden.*)* 44...Kh7 45.Bd4 and Bxe5 should not be overlooked Nf3+! 46.exf3 Qg2+ 47.Kc1 Qf1+ 48.Kb2 Qxd3 49.Qxf7 *(49.Bxf6!? Qb3+□ 50.Kc1 gxf6 51.Qe7=)* 49...Qxd4+ 50.Ka2 a4 with a miracle draw. mit einem wundersamen Unentschieden.]

43...Kh7 44.Qxa5 b3 45.Rc1 Qd5!

(Diagram)



Activating the queen.Aktiviert die Dame.

46.Qb4 Ding brings back the queen, offering another peace treaty. Ding bringt die Dame zurück und bietet einen weiteren Friedenspakt an.

46...Qg2 Gukesh allows a draw here. Gukesh lässt hier ein Unentschieden zu.

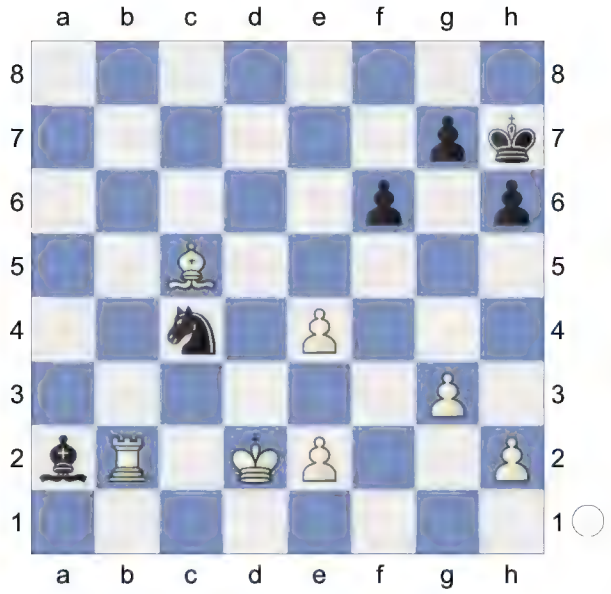
[46...Bg6 Is not a huge winning attempt either.Ist auch kein großer Gewinnversuch. 47.Bd4 is the easiest way to provoke simplifications. ist der einfachste Weg, um Vereinfachungen zu provozieren. Nc6 48.Rxc6 Qxc6 49.Qxb3 And it should just be a draw. Surely White also has some other ways to try and keep it safe. Und es sollte einfach ein Remis sein. Sicherlich hat Weiß auch einige andere Möglichkeiten, um zu versuchen, auf Nummer sicher zu gehen.]

47.Qe4+ At this point it was hard to imagine that Ding would start looking for more. The positition is objectively fine for Black already and Ding just takes the exit. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt war es schwer vorstellbar, dass Ding anfangen würde, nach mehr zu suchen. Die Stellung ist

bereits objektiv gut für Schwarz und Ding nimmt einfach den Ausgang. **47...Qxe4** The position is equal. **48.dxe4 b2 49.Rb1**

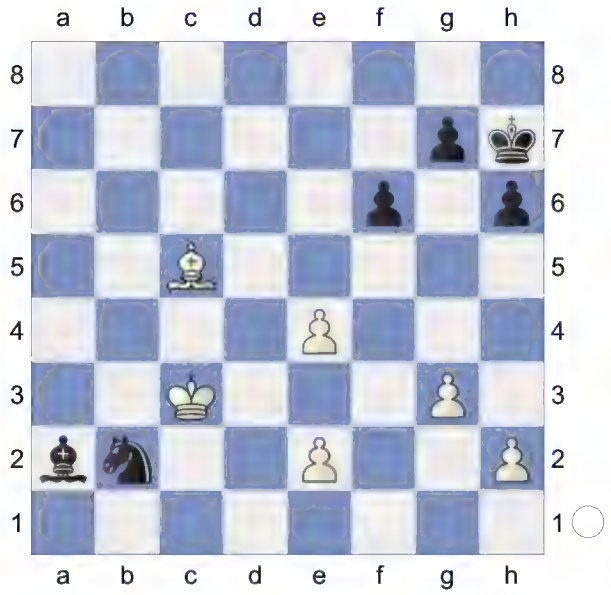
[49.Rg1!? Ba2□ 50.Kc2=]

49...Ba2 50.Rxb2 Nc4+



51.Kc3 Black escapes into a draw. Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)

51...Nxb2



Another crazy fight.Ein weiterer verrückter Kampf.

½-½

18 **D78**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2783**

■ **Ding,Liren** **2728**

WCh 2024 Singapore SIN (7.1) 03.12.24

[Giri,Anish]

D78: Fianchetto Grünfeld: 6 0-0 c6

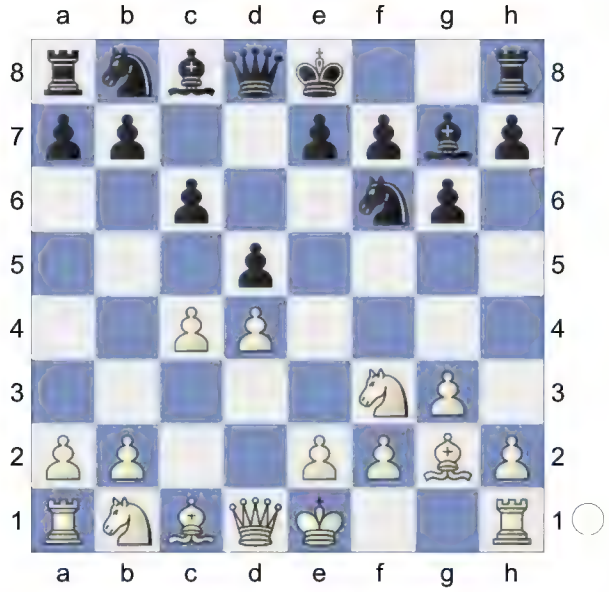
1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Reti is never too big of a shocker these days, but I imagine going for 1.e4 and seeing whether Ding will repeat the French again, was high on the curiosity list as well. Gukesh has employed a lot of Reti in his young days and recently too, especially in rapid and blitz. Reti ist heutzutage nie ein allzu großer Schocker, aber ich kann mir vorstellen, dass die Entscheidung für 1. e4 und die Frage, ob Ding Französisch wiederholen wird, ebenfalls ganz oben auf der Neugierde-Liste stand. Gukesh hat in seinen jungen Jahren und auch in letzter Zeit viel Reti gespielt, besonders im Schnell- und Blitzschach. **2...g6** Ding usually employs another topical setup with d5, Nf6, c5, e6, but 2...g6 is one of the most reliable systems and did not come as a surprise either. Ding verwendet normalerweise einen anderen aktuellen Aufbau mit d5, Sf6, c5, e6, aber 2...g6 ist eines der zuverlässigsten Systeme und kam auch nicht überraschend. **3.d4**

[3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 e5 5.d3 Nc6 6.c4 dxc4 7.dxc4 Qxd1 8.Rxd1 e4 9.Nfd2 f5 10.Nc3 Be6 11.Nd5 0-0-0 12.Nb3 Nf6 13.Bg5 Bxd5 14.cxd5 Rxd5 15.f3 exf3 16.Rxd5 Nxd5 17.Bxf3 Ndb4 0-1 (29) Bu,X (2675)-Ivanchuk,V (2768) FIDE World Cup 2011 (4.3)]

3...Bg7 4.c4 Interesting move order, delaying Bg2 for some reason.

Interessante Zugfolge, die aus irgendeinem Grund Lg2 verzögert. **4...c6 5.Bg2 Nf6N**

[5...dxc4 6.0-0 Nf6 7.a4 Ne4 8.Nc3 Nd6 9.e4 Bg4 10.Be3 Na6 11.Qd2 0-0 12.Bh6 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Nc7 14.Rad1 Qd7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.h4 f6 17.h5 Qh3 18.Qe2 f5 19.d5 gxh5 20.e5 1-0 (29) Richards,T (2443)-12.000 ♗e7 13. ♔b1 18647 (2171) Jugoslavija (ch) 60/3 1994 (6.2) Nf7 21.e6 Nd6 22.Qe5+ Rf6 23.Rd4 Rg8 24.Bg2 Qg4 25.Rxg4+ hxg4 26.dxc6 bxc6 27.Bxc6 Kf8 28.Bd7 Rgg6 29.Rd1 1-0 Malikentzos,S (2443)-Tsakiris,H (2171) GRE-chT 50th 2023 (6.2)]

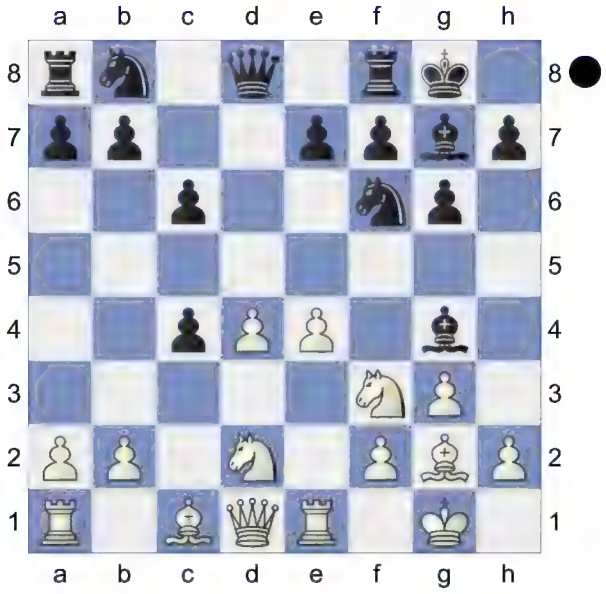


6.0-0 0-0 This big tabia has been explored inside and out. One of the latest ideas is one of team Carlsen, with 7.Nc3!? sacrificing the c4 pawn and going for the strong center with e4. Team Gukesh went a step further and prepared the pawn push with a rook! Diese große Tabia ist in- und auswendig erforscht worden. Eine der neuesten Ideen stammt vom Team Carlsen, das mit 7.Sc3!? den c4-Bauern opfert und das starke Zentrum mit e4 anstrebt. Team Gukesh ging noch einen Schritt weiter und bereitete den Bauernvorstoß mit einem Turm vor! **7.Re1!?** -0.19/19 A very inventive new idea. The only high rated player who played it previously was GM Rasmus Svane, but he must have not taken this idea very seriously, since he played it in just two online games, that too blitz and the other time was even bullet.Eine sehr originelle neue Idee. Der einzige elostarke Spieler, der bisher so gespielt hat, war GM Rasmus Svane, aber er muss diese Idee nicht sehr ernst genommen haben, da er sie nur in zwei Online-Partien gespielt hat, und zwar im Blitz und das andere Mal sogar im Bullet.

[⌓7.cxd5 0.28/21 Nxd5 8.e4]

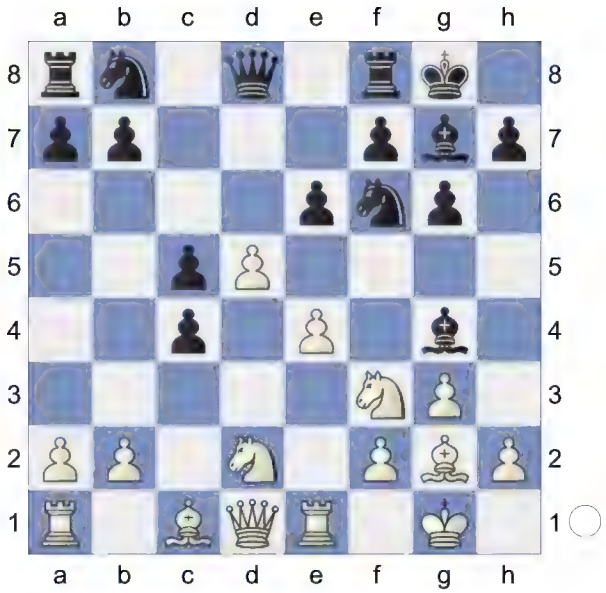
7...dxc4= The most principled reaction. It is not easy to see how to play without giving up the center, if 7...Bf5 8.Nc3 Nbd7 there is a problem already with 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Qb3.Die prinzipiellste Reaktion. Es ist nicht leicht zu sehen, wie man spielen kann, ohne das Zentrum aufzugeben, bei 7...Lf5 8.Sc3 Sbd7 gibt es bereits ein Problem mit 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Db3. **8.e4** White now gets a strong pawn center and is ready to give up the c4 pawn for good. The knight not being on c3 also has its advantages, since it is no longer vulnerable to b5-b4 push. Weiß hat nun ein starkes Bauernzentrum und ist bereit, den c4-Bauern endgültig aufzugeben. Dass der Springer nicht auf c3 steht, hat auch Vorteile, da er nicht mehr durch den Vorstoß b5-b4 verwundbar ist. **8...Bg4** There are a lot of interesting playable options here, this move is amongst them. Es gibt eine Menge interessanter

spielbarer Möglichkeiten, dieser Zug ist eine davon. **9.Nbd2**



c5!? 0.52/22 A very interesting move, trying to challenge White's center and play more in the spirit of the Grunfeld rather than that of the Anti-Moscow Slavs. Black doesn't intend to hang on to the c4 pawn, but instead tries to break apart White's center.Ein sehr interessanter Zug, der versucht, das weiße Zentrum herauszufordern und mehr im Geiste von Grünfeld als der Anti-Moskau-Slawen zu spielen. Schwarz hat nicht die Absicht, den c4-Bauern zu halten, sondern versucht stattdessen, das weiße Zentrum aufzubrechen. **10.d5±** The best response. Die beste Antwort. **10...e6!**

(Diagram)



Challenging the pawn center once again. Das Bauernzentrum wird erneut herausgefordert. **11.h3!?** An interesting moment. During the livestream on my YouTube channel, I was also looking into 11.Nxc4!?. It seems that both moves have some merit and the computer after a very thorough thought finds way to combat both of them.Ein interessanter Moment. Während des Livestreams auf meinem YouTube-Kanal habe ich mich auch mit 11.Sxc4!? beschäftigt. Es scheint, dass beide Züge einen gewissen Wert haben und der Computer nach einer sehr gründlichen Überlegung einen Weg findet, beide zu bekämpfen.

[11.Nxc4 Black can try to transpose to the game by going Nbd7, when White has some other options than h3, such as a4, Bf4 or d6.Schwarz kann versuchen, mit Sbd7 zur Partie überzugehen, wobei Weiß andere Möglichkeiten als h3 hat, wie a4, Lf4 oder d6. exd5 12.exd5 Qxd5!? This is the principled line.Dies ist die prinzipielle Variante. 13.Qxd5 Nxd5 14.Ng5! This is a problem, but the line continues.Das ist ein Problem, aber

die Variante geht weiter. Nb4! 15.Bxb7 Nc2 Even 15...N8c6!? is possible here, with complications that are kind of working out for Black in the end. Sogar 15...S8c6!? ist hier möglich, mit Komplikationen, die sich am Ende für Schwarz auszahlen. *(15...N8c6!?)* 16.Bxa8 Nxe1 17.Be4 This looked good for White at first, but Black is not left without resources- Das sah zunächst gut für Weiß aus, aber Schwarz ist nicht ohne Ressourcen. Be2! 18.Nd6 Nd7 19.Be3 Nd3 And the complications keep unfolding, with 20.Ngxf7!?, but Black is surviving this, according to the engine.Und die Komplikationen gehen weiter, mit 20.Sgxf7!?, aber Schwarz überlebt dies, laut der Engine.]

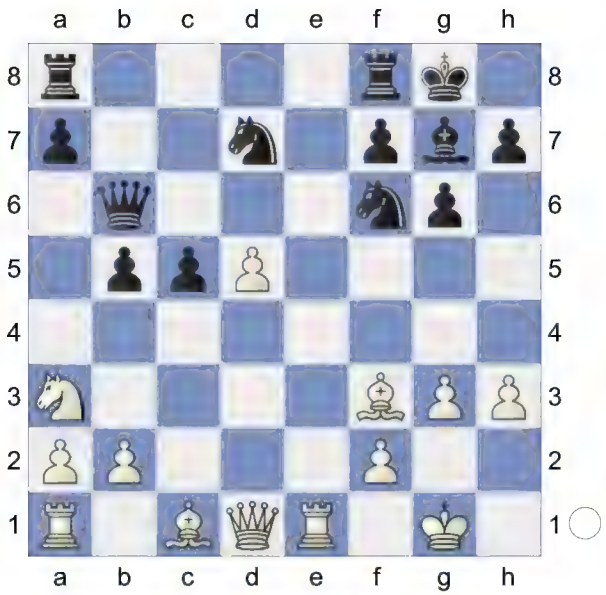
11...Bxf3 12.Bxf3 exd5 13.exd5 Nbd7! 14.Nxc4 I suspect Gukesh knew what he was doing. The alternatives, altough tempting, don't seem to be too dangerous for Black objectively. Ich vermute, dass Gukesh wusste, was er tat. Die Alternativen, so verlockend sie auch sein mögen, scheinen für Black objektiv gesehen nicht allzu gefährlich zu sein.

[14.d6 0.01/21 14.Nxc4 0.41 Nb6 15.a4 Threatening a5. a5 Black is fine here. Schwarz steht hier ordentlich.]

[14.a4 I liked this move a lot when spectating on the game.Dieser Zug gefiel mir sehr, als ich die Partie beobachtete. Re8!? Black gets a lot of play here apparently. Schwarz bekommt hier offenbar eine Menge Spiel. *(14...Nb6 15.a5 Nbxd5 16.Nxc4* This felt like unpleasant compensation.Das fühlte sich nach unangenehmer Kompensation an.*)* 15.Nxc4 Rxe1+ 16.Qxe1 Nb6 Black has enough counterplay to fight for equality here, apparently. Schwarz hat anscheinend genug Gegenspiel, um hier um Ausgleich zu kämpfen.]

14...b5! Dislodging the knight is key. Otherwise White would just have everything .Die Verdrängung des Springers ist der Schlüssel. Andernfalls würde Weiß einfach alles haben. **15.Na3** Of all the options, this seems to be the most challenging one. Judging from the time Gukesh spent, I have a strong suspicion that this was written somewhere in his files. It is far from an obvious square, but it's the least evil, the knight is not in the way of other pieces and will eventually find its way back via c2.Von allen Optionen scheint dies die anspurchsvollste zu sein. Nach der Zeit zu urteilen, die Gukesh verbraucht hat, habe ich den starken Verdacht, dass dies irgendwo in seinen Dateien geschrieben stand. Es ist weit entfernt von einem offensichtlichen Feld, aber es ist das geringste Übel, der Springer ist anderen Figuren nicht im Weg und wird schließlich seinen Weg zurück über c2 finden. **15...Qb6**

(Diagram)



The obvious and the best move, but this too, was played after some thought. Ding would likely end up regretting spending some precious minutes this early on. Der offensichtliche und beste Zug, aber auch dieser wurde nach reiflicher Überlegung gespielt. Ding sollte es wahrscheinlich am Ende bereuen, so früh schon einige wertvolle Minuten investiert zu haben. **16.Bf4** White has a very pretty position, apart from the somewhat offside knight on a3. The f4 bishop controls the vital e5 square, while the f3 bishop ensures that the f4 bishop remains on its dominant position, by guarding from Nh5. Weiß hat eine sehr schöne Stellung, abgesehen von dem etwas abseits stehenden Springer auf a3. Der Läufer auf f4 kontrolliert das wichtige Feld e5, während der Läufer auf f3 dafür sorgt, dass der Läufer auf f4 seine dominante Stellung behält, indem er vor Sh5 schützt. **16...Rfe8** Dodges Re7 When watching the game I was looking at the Benoni style c4-Nc5 ideas, now or after Rad8. The computer's top choice is 16...Rae8!?. All moves are playable, Ding's choice seems decent as well. Als ich mir die Partie ansah, betrachtete ich die Ideen c4-Sc5 im Benoni-Stil, jetzt oder nach Tad8. Die erste Wahl des Computers ist 16...Tae8!? Alle Züge sind spielbar, auch Dings Wahl scheint anständig zu sein. **17.Qd2** **Rad8** **18.Nc2** After the first long thought, Gukesh brings the knight back into the game. Nach dem ersten langen Nachdenken bringt Gukesh den Springer wieder ins Spiel. **18...Nf8** Vladimir Kramnik was very critical of this move. True, with the pawn on d5, the knight on f8 rarely has much to do, but in this particular case, with Ne6!? being the idea due to the pin along the d-file, the engines aren't too critical of this move. Vladimir Kramnik sah diesen Zug sehr kritisch. Es stimmt zwar, dass der Springer auf f8 mit dem Bauern auf d5 selten viel zu tun hat, aber in diesem speziellen Fall, in dem Se6!? aufgrund der Fesselung entlang der d-Linie die Idee ist, sind die Maschinen nicht allzu kritisch gegenüber diesem Zug.

[18...Rxe1+!? 19.Rxe1 Ne8!? This would be more standard, eyeing to blockade the d5 pawn. Still, White would retain a pleasant initiative. Dies wäre eher eine Standardfortsetzung, darauf abzielend, den d5-Bauern zu blockieren. Dennoch würde Weiß eine angenehme Initiative behalten.]

19.b4!? A very serious decision, clearing the d4 square for the pieces. This put a lot of pressure on Ding.Eine sehr ernste Entscheidung, das Feld d4 wird für die Figuren freigemacht. Dies setzte Ding stark unter Druck. **19...c4**

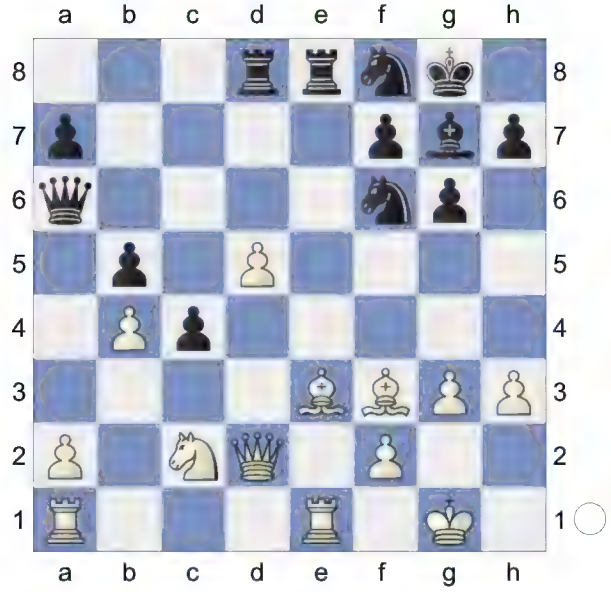
[Ding also mentioned considering Ding erwähnte auch, dass er 19...cxb4

20.Nxb4 Ne4! 21.Bxe4 Bxa1 22.Nc6! And Ding correctly felt that White has a lot of dangerous compensation here and this line is best avoided .erwogen hatte. Und Ding meinte zu Recht, dass Weiß hier viel gefährliche Kompensation hat und diese Variante am besten zu vermeiden ist.]

20.Be3 The computer isn't a huge fan of this maneuvre, claiming that it loses most of the small edge that White has, but I have to say it does look quite strong to the human eye.Der Computer ist kein großer Fan dieses Manövers, da er behauptet, dass es den größten Teil des kleinen Vorteils, den Weiß hat, einbüßt, aber ich muss sagen, dass es für das menschliche Auge ziemlich stark aussieht.

[20.Rad1!? is the computer's choice, staying flexible for now.ist die Wahl des Computers, die Flexibilität bleibt vorerst gewahrt.]

20...Qa6



The start of a very, very desperate sequence. In fact the computer sees no reason to panic and just plays Qb8. The f8 knight will rejoin the game with N8d7, potentially Ne5, and Black's position is apparently still full of resources. The protected passed pawn on c4 is a long term asset and there is no immediate danger to Black either.Der Beginn einer sehr, sehr verzweifelten Sequenz. In der Tat sieht der Computer keinen Grund zur Panik und spielt einfach Db8. Der Springer auf f8 wird mit S8d7 wieder ins Spiel kommen, möglicherweise auch mit Se5, und Schwarz' Stellung ist offenbar immer noch voller Ressourcen. Der geschützte Freibauer auf c4 ist ein langfristiger Vorteil und es besteht auch keine unmittelbare Gefahr für Schwarz.

21.Bd4 Rxe1+?! The computer recommends not to panic and first bring the f8 knight back into the game with N8d7. Der Computer empfiehlt, nicht in Panik zu verfallen und zunächst den Springer f8 mit S8d7 wieder ins Spiel zu bringen.

[21...N8d7! 22.Qf4 Qa4! Prevents a3 Black has enough resources here to somehow maintain the balance in the end. Schwarz hat hier genug Ressourcen, um am Ende irgendwie das Gleichgewicht zu halten.]

22.Rxe1 Qxa2 Desperate, but at this point understandable decision. Trading rooks with Re8 was not so bad, but White would maintain advantage there, thanks to the strong d5 pawn and Nd4-Nc6 ideas potentially.Eine verzweifelte, aber zu diesem Zeitpunkt verständliche Entscheidung. Der Turmtausch mit Te8 war nicht so schlecht, aber Weiß würde dort dank des starken d5-Bauern und der möglichen Sd4-Sc6-Ideen im Vorteil bleiben. **23.Ra1** White is more active. **23...Qb3** 1.08/23 This looks like the only move, but actually 23...c3! resource was

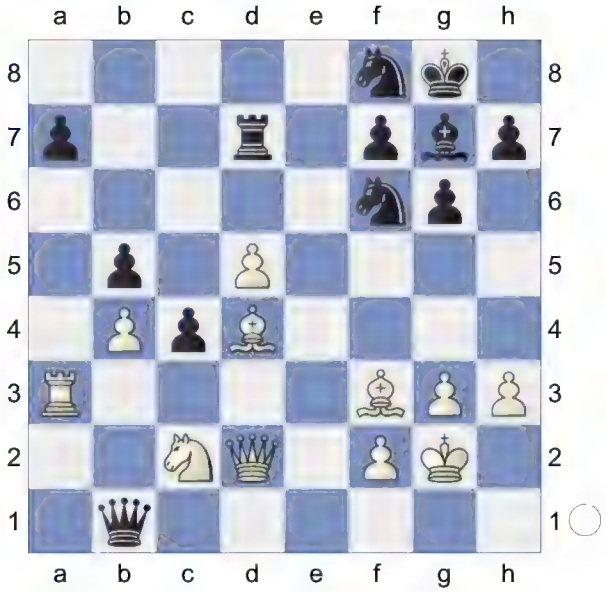
working out for Black.Das sieht nach dem einzigen Zug aus, aber tatsächlich funktionierte die Ressource 23...c3! für Schwarz.

[23...c3! There are some complex tactics here, but they worked out for Black just fine.Es gibt hier einige komplexe Taktiken, aber sie gehen für Schwarz sehr gut auf. 24.Bxc3 *(24.Qxc3* 0.24/19 24.Bxc3 0.70 *Nxd5!* This just works.Das funktioniert einfach. *25.Bxd5 Bxd4!)* 24...Qc4 Strongly threatening ...Ne4. And Black survives here. Und Schwarz überlebt hier. 25.Ne3 0.04/19 *(25.Bxf6±* 0.60/21 *Bxf6 26.Rxa7)* 25...Ne4! Is one of the key tactics one would have to see. Das ist eine der wichtigsten Taktiken, die man sehen muss.]

[23...c3± 0.66/23 feels stronger. 24.Bxc3 *(24.Qxc3 Nxd5 25.Bxd5 Bxd4±)* 24...Qc4 25.Rxa7 Nxd5 26.Bxg7 Kxg7]

24.Ra3!± White has strong compensation. **24...Qb1+ 25.Kg2** Black is up a pawn, but his pieces are extremely passive and the queenside pawns are falling eventually. Schwarz hat einen Bauern mehr, aber seine Figuren sind extrem passiv und die Bauern am Damenflügel fallen schließlich. **25...Rd7**

[25...N6d7 Is the best from all the bad options, at least trading White's powerful dark squared bishop. ist die beste von allen schlechten Möglichkeiten, da zumindest der starke schwarzfeldrige Läufer von Weiß getauscht wird. 26.Rxa7 Bxd4 27.Nxd4 Re8 28.Nxb5 Qd3 With some drawing chances. Mit einigen Remischancen.]



26.Ra5! Going for the b5 pawn is the strongest.Der Angriff auf den b5-Bauern ist am stärksten.

[26.Rxa7 Rxa7 27.Bxa7 Qa2]

26...Qb3 27.Ra3 Repeating the moves once, to get closer to the time control. White's position is dominant and Gukesh having no confidence issues was definitely not considering going for a draw here.Wiederholt einmal die Züge, um der Zeitkontrolle näher zu kommen. Die weiße Stellung ist dominant, und Gukesh, der keine Selbstzweifel hat, dachte definitiv nicht daran, hier ein Remis anzustreben.

[27.Bxa7?! c3 28.Qe2 Nxd5∓]

27...Qb1 28.Ra5

[28.Rxa7 Rxa7 29.Bxa7 N8d7±]

28...Qb3 29.Rxb5! Grabbing the pawn finally. Schnappt sich schließlich den Bauern.

[29.Bxa7 c3 30.Qe2 Nxd5∓]

29...Qd3 1.92/23 The first moment where Gukesh could get a winning advantage.Der erste Moment, in dem Gukesh sich einen Gewinnvorteil verschaffen konnte.

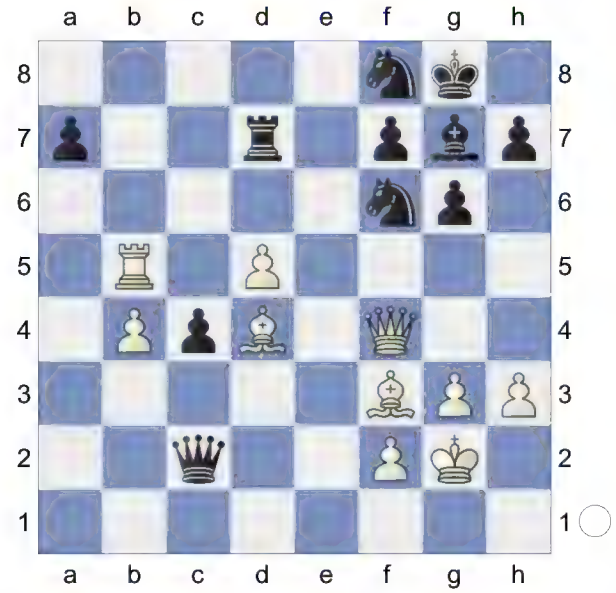
[29...h6± 1.25/20 30.Ra5 Qd3]

30.Qf4 1.18/26 This is probably good enough to win as well, but gives Black more chances.Das ist wahrscheinlich auch gut genug, um zu gewinnen, gibt Schwarz aber mehr Chancen.

[30.Be3! This unassuming retreat leaves Black in a hopeless position. The knight on c2 is a great blocker for the passed c-pawn and White retains domination without Black having any counterplay. Dieser unscheinbare Rückzug beschert Schwarz eine hoffnungslose Stellung. Der Springer auf c2 ist ein großartiger Blockeur für den c-Freibauern, und Weiß behält die Vorherrschaft, ohne dass Schwarz ein Gegenspiel hat.]

[30.Be3+- 1.92/23]

30...Qxc2



31.Bxf6 A strong pair of Bishops.

31...Qf5 **32.Qxf5** This move is absolutely obvious, but in fact the alternative was stronger.Dieser Zug ist absolut naheliegend, aber die Alternative war in der Tat stärker.

[32.Bg5! It is remarkable that it is better for White not to ruin Black's pawn structure with Qxf5 gxf5, because that opens the path for the f8 knight via g6.Es ist bemerkenswert, dass es für Weiß besser ist, die schwarze Bauernstruktur nicht mit Dxf5 gxf5 zu ruinieren, da dies den Weg für den Springer f8 über g6 öffnet. Qxf4 33.Bxf4 With the passive knight on f8, Black is in a technically lost endgame here.Mit dem passiven Springer auf f8 befindet sich Schwarz hier in einem technisch verlorenen Endspiel.]

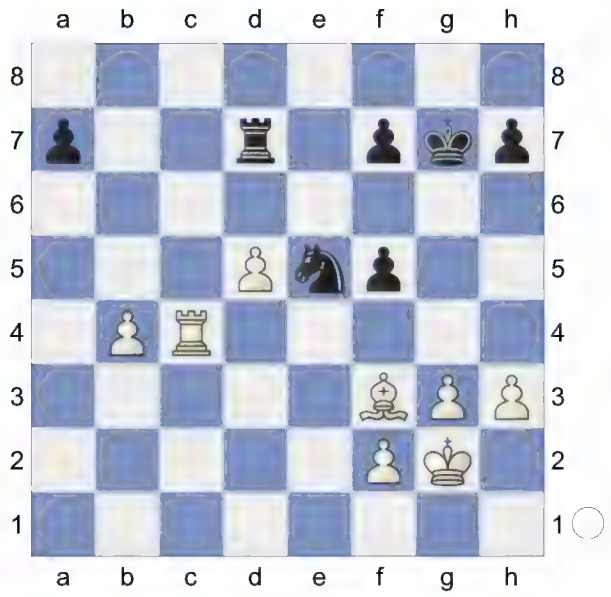
32...gxf5 **33.Bxg7** The most direct move, winning a pawn by force, but the arising position allows Black to setup an excellent defense.Der direkteste Zug, der forciert einen Bauern gewinnt, aber die entstehende Stellung erlaubt es Schwarz, eine ausgezeichnete Verteidigung aufzubauen.

[33.Bg5! Keeping the bishop pair would preserve a much larger advantage .Das Bewahren des Läuferpaars würde einen viel größeren Vorteil sichern. c3 34.Bd1 The c-pawn can be taken care of. Um den c-Bauern kann sich gekümmert werden.]

33...Kxg7 Endgame KRB-KRN **34.Rc5** **Ng6** The black knight unleashes itself. Der schwarze Springer befreit sich.

35.Rxc4 **Ne5**

(Diagram)



36.Rd4 Nc6! Some magic starts. Somehow White no longer has a clear road to victory.Ein gewisser Zauber beginnt. Irgendwie hat Weiß keinen klaren Weg mehr zum Sieg. **37.Rf4** The human way to keep the extra pawn and winning chances, but it is objectively not the best.Die menschliche Art, den Mehrbauern und die Gewinnchancen zu behalten, aber objektiv ist es nicht das Beste.

[37.Rd2! An incredible resource, followed by Bd1-Ba4, something you don't really expect a player to spot during a game.Eine unglaubliche Ressource, gefolgt von Ld1-La4, etwas, von dem man nicht wirklich erwartet, dass es ein Spieler während einer Partie entdeckt. Nxb4 38.d6 Rd8 39.Bd1 Black is on the verge of a disaster here, though it might still be holding somehow with best play. Black's f5 pawn is the main target. Schwarz steht hier am Rande einer Katastrophe, obwohl er sich mit bestem Spiel vielleicht noch halten kann. Der f5-Bauer von Schwarz ist das Hauptziel.]

[37.dxc6 Rxd4 38.Be2 Rd2∓ *(38...Rxb4? 39.c7+-)*]

37...Ne7 38.b5 0.36/26

[38.Rd4± 0.83/23]

38...Kf6 39.Rd4 h6 This move is still fine, though already here, going for Nc8-Nd6 idea would have been quite alright. Dieser Zug ist immer noch in Ordnung, obwohl schon hier die Idee Sc8-Sd6 ganz in Ordnung gewesen wäre.

40.Kf1!? An excellent try, asking Black the final question before the time control. The king is ready to support the passed pawn with a Ke2-Kd3-Kc4 march. Ein ausgezeichneter Versuch, der Schwarz die letzte Frage vor der Zeitkontrolle stellt. Der König ist bereit, den Freibauern mit einem Ke2-Kd3-Kc4-Marsch zu unterstützen. **40...Ke5?** 1.30/24 Dropping to the final seconds, Ding panics.In den letzten Sekunden gerät Ding in Panik.

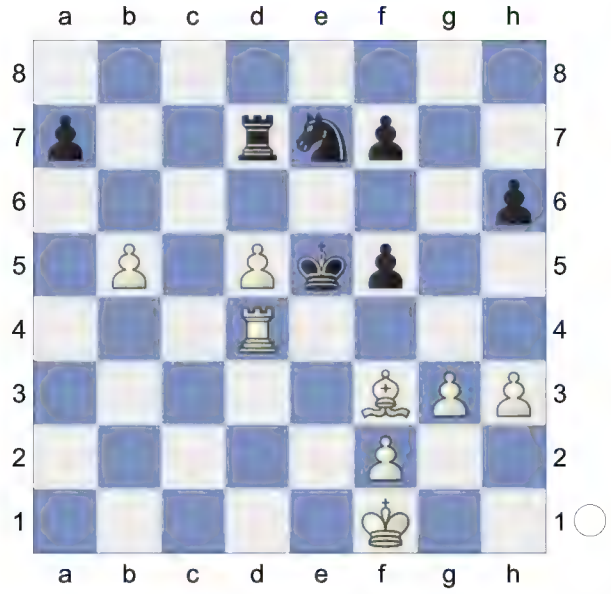
[40...Nc8! Rerouting the knight to d6 is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also just very strong. Black is in time to prevent the king from coming and sets up an excellent defense here. Die Umleitung des Springers nach d6 ist nicht nur ästhetisch ansprechend, sondern auch einfach sehr stark. Schwarz kann den Vormarsch des Königs rechtzeitig stoppen und baut hier eine hervorragende Verteidigung auf. 41.Rh4 This would be the best try, now Black would have to find 41... Kg7!. Das wäre der beste Versuch, jetzt müsste Schwarz 41...Kg7! finden. *(41.Rc4 Nd6 42.Rc6 Ke5* The b5 pawn now also needs protection.Der b5-Bauer muss nun ebenfalls geschützt werden. *)*

A) 41...Kg6? though loses an important tempo-verliert jedoch

einen wichtigen Tempo- 42.Rc4! Nd6 43.Rc6 Kf6 44.Ke2 Ke7 1.15/19 (Black should play *44...Ke5±* 0.63/22) 45.Ke3 The king has arrived quickly and Black is in trouble.Der König ist schnell angekommen und Schwarz steckt in Schwierigkeiten.;

B) 41...Kg7 Followed by Nd6 with timely counterplay.Gefolgt von Sd6 mit rechtzeitigem Gegenspiel.]

[40...Nc8± 0.44/20]



41.Rh4! Black loses the very important h6 pawn. Schwarz verliert den sehr wichtigen h6-Bauern. **41...Nxd5** 1.87/22

[41...Rd6 1.53/22 41...Ng8 1.08 42.Ra4! Rd7 43.Ra6 This leads to same. Dies führt zum selben Ergebnis.]

[41...Rd6± 1.09/20]

42.Rxh6+- **Nc3** 2.28/20 Possibly Ding was hoping for some primitive move here like 43.Bc6?, but Gukesh was accurate. Möglicherweise hoffte Ding hier auf einen primitiven Zug wie 43.Lc6?, aber Gukesh spielte genau.

[42...Rb7± 1.26/19 43.Ra6 Rxb5 44.Rxa7 Kf6]

43.Rc6! White retains the extra h-pawn and should be able to win this endgame now. Weiß behält den h-Bauern und sollte nun in der Lage sein, dieses Endspiel zu gewinnen. **43...Ne4** **44.Ke1?** 1.33/21 This move was criticized harshly and indeed, practically, this was probably the moment where Gukesh has let it slip. There was apparently no need to fear the rook endgames, since not all of them are drawn. Dieser Zug wurde heftig kritisiert, und in der Tat war dies in der Praxis wahrscheinlich der Moment, in dem Gukesh die Sache entglitt. Es gab offensichtlich keinen Grund, die Turmendspiele zu fürchten, da nicht alle von ihnen remis sind.

[44.Bxe4!? This leads to a won rook endgame. Dies führt zu einem gewonnenen Turmendspiel. fxe4 45.Rc5+ Ke6 46.g4 Rd3? 3.45/22 *(46...f6* 1.90/19 *47.Ke2 Rd3)* 47.Kg2+- Rd2 48.Rc6+ 3.63/22 *(⌓48.Rc8!* 2.43/19) 48...Ke5+- 49.Rc7 Kf6 50.Kg3! Rd3+? 4.20/20 *(50...Rb2* 2.01/18 might work better. *51.Rb7 Rb3+ 52.Kf4 Rb4 53.Rxa7 Rxb5 54.Kxe4 Rb4+ 55.Kf3 Rb1 56.Ra6+ Kg5)* 51.Kf4+- Rxh3 52.Rxa7 Rf3+? 6.61/5 *(52...Rb3* 3.65/20 *53.Ra6+ Kg7)* 53.Kxe4+- Rxf2 54.Kd5 and White wins. und Weiß gewinnt.]

[44.h4 The rook endgames that arise here are also winning for White. Die Turmendspiele, die hier entstehen, sind ebenfalls gewonnen für Weiß. Nd2+? 3.46/22 *(44...Rd2?* 4.00/20 44...Rd5 1.66 *45.Bxe4 fxe4 46.Rc7* White wins.Weiß gewinnt.*; 44...Rd5* 1.66/19 *45.h5 Rxb5)* 45.Kg2+- Nxf3

46.Kxf3 White is winning here, due to Black's unfortunate kingside pawn structure and just not being in time to somehow setup a defense there. Weiß gewinnt hier, weil Schwarz eine unglückliche Bauernstruktur am Königsflügel hat und einfach nicht rechtzeitig dazu kommt, dort irgendwie eine Verteidigung aufzubauen. Rd5 47.Ra6 *(47.b6* for instructiveness sake., um lehrreich zu sein. *axb6 48.Rxb6* Even this endgame is winning.Selbst dieses Endspiel ist gewonnen.*)* 47...Rxb5 48.Rxa7 Rb3+ 49.Kg2 Kf6 50.Ra6+! Kg7 51.h5! even this position is winning. Selbst diese Position ist gewonnen.]

[44.h4+- 2.41/20]

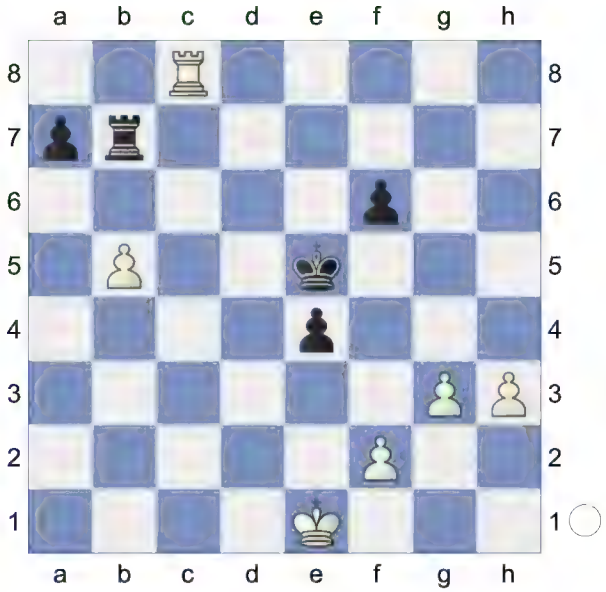
44...f6!? 1.73/23 This move got a lot of praise and I also liked it actually during the game, but the computer's defense of 44...Rd5! 45.Be2 Rd4! is a very good try as well. With f6, Ding removes the pawn from a vulnerable square on f7 and gets ready to activate his rook.Dieser Zug wurde sehr gelobt und gefiel mir auch während der Partie, aber die Verteidigung des Computers mit 44... Td5! 45.Le2 Td4! ist ebenfalls ein sehr guter Versuch. Mit f6 entfernt Ding den Bauern von einem verwundbaren Feld auf f7 und macht sich bereit, seinen Turm zu aktivieren.

[44...Rd5 45.Be2! Rd4 46.h4 Ra4 2.21/22 *(46...Rb4±* 0.81/19 *)* 47.Bd3+- Ra1+? 2.76/21 *(47...f4±* 1.04/19 *)* 48.Ke2+- aiming for Ra6. Ra2+ 49.Bc2 Nd6 50.Kf3 1.53/19 *(50.h5+-* 3.27/23 and the rest is easy. *Nxb5 51.Ke3 Ra3+ 52.Kd2)*]

[44...Rd5± 1.33/21 45.b6 axb6]

45.h4? 0.97/19 This is probably the final slip, from a practical point of view. It comes one move too late. Aus praktischer Sicht ist dies wahrscheinlich der letzte Fehler. Es kommt einen Zug zu spät.

[45.Rc8! Having Re8+ as an option in the position is of great help. Here White's position remains technically winning. Te8 als Option in der Stellung zu haben, ist eine große Hilfe. Hier bleibt die weiße Stellung technisch gewonnen. Rb7 46.Bxe4 fxe4

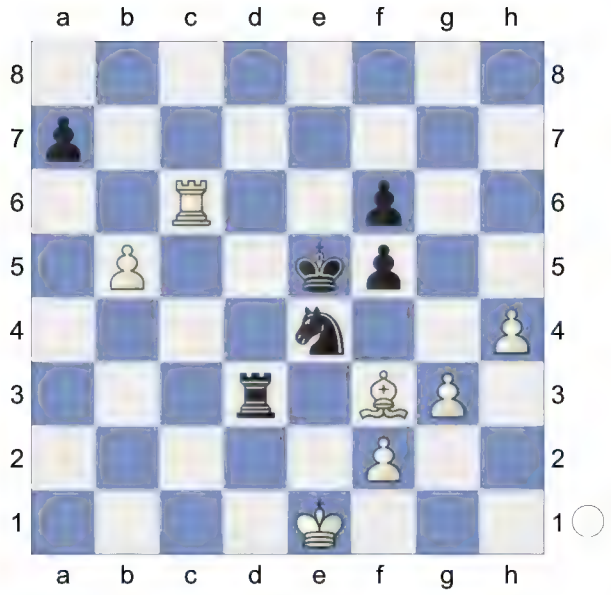


47.Rc5+!]

[45.Rc8!+- 1.73/23]

45...Rd3!±

(Diagram)

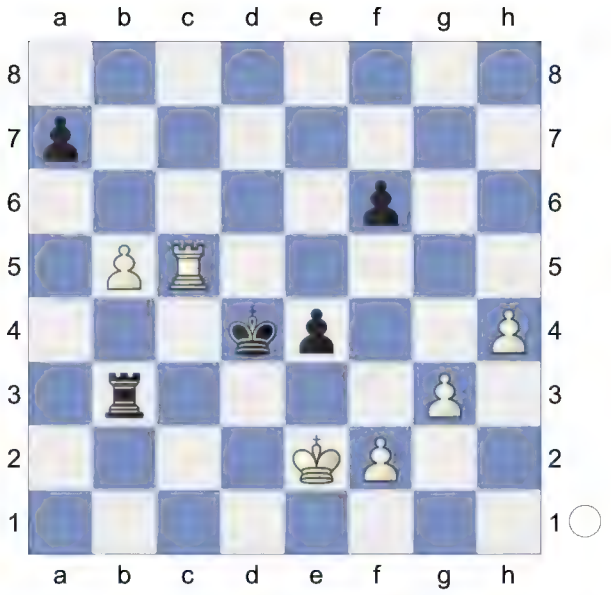


The rook gets active.Der Turm wird aktiv. **46.Bd1** 0.25/19 Gukesh miscalculates. Gukesh verrechnet sich.

[46.Ke2 0.95/24 46.Bxe4 2.17 Is the engine move to keep the winning advantage. If rook now moves to the side, then the rook endgames after Bxe4 are winning. ist der Enginezug, um den Gewinnvorteil zu behalten. Wenn der Turm jetzt zur Seite zieht, dann sind die Turmendspiele nach Lxe4 gewonnen.

A) 46...Rb3 1.99/21 46...Rd5 0.94 47.Bxe4 fxe4 48.Rc5+ Kd4 3.96/27 *(⌓48...Kd6 2.51/26 49.Rf5 Ke6)*

(Diagram)



49.Rf5! White wins here. Weiß gewinnt hier.;

B) 46...Rd5! 47.b6 axb6 48.Rxb6 Apparently White is winning here as well, though it is already far from obvious, with material being so limited. Offenbar gewinnt Weiß auch hier, obwohl es angesichts des begrenzten Materials alles andere als offensichtlich ist.]

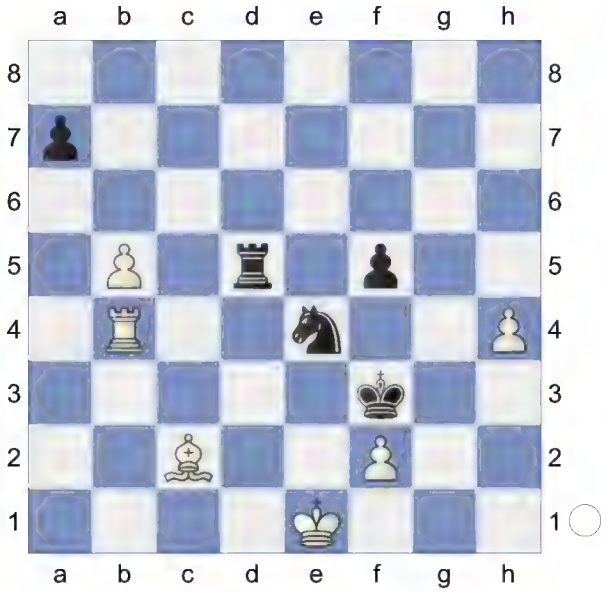
[White should try 46.Be2± 1.18/22 Rb3 47.h5]

46...f4!= 47.gxf4+ Kxf4 Here, although there are some pins and skewers, Black gets to defend.Obwohl es hier einige Fesselungen und Spieße gibt, kann Schwarz sich verteidigen. **48.Bc2**

[48.Rc4 Gukesh confessed that he missed Rh3! defense here. Gukesh gestand, dass er hier die Verteidigung Th3! übersah. Rh3! 49.f3 Rh1+ 50.Ke2 Rh2+! and White has to accept a draw, since Kd3 even loses to a cute Rd2 checkmate.und Weiß muss ein Remis akzeptieren, da Kd3 sogar verliert wegen des hübschen Matts Td2++.]

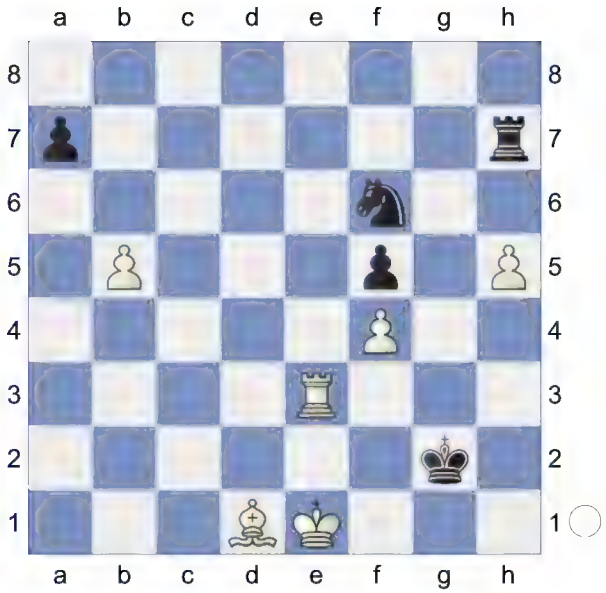
48...Rd5 There are already multiple

ways to hold this position. Black got rid of the doubled f-pawns and White's h-pawn is too vulnerable. The rest was played quite confidently by Ding and he no longer let the draw slip away. Es gibt bereits mehrere Möglichkeiten, diese Stellung zu halten. Schwarz ist die verdoppelten f-Bauern losgeworden und der h-Bauer von Weiß ist zu verwundbar. Der Rest wurde von Ding recht souverän gespielt und er ließ sich das Remis nicht mehr entgehen. **49.Rc4 f5 50.Rb4 Kf3**

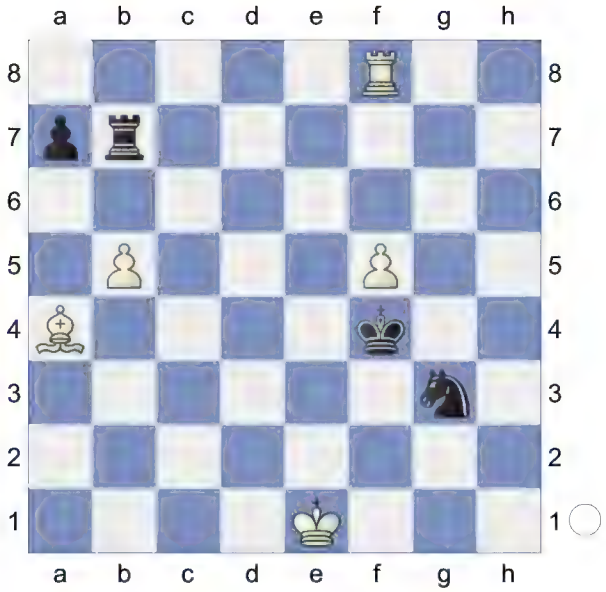


The position is equal.It was also possible to just go backwards with Ke5, but this also works out.Es war auch möglich, einfach mit Ke5 rückwärts zu gehen, aber das funktioniert auch. **51.Bd1+ Kg2 52.Rb3 Re5! 53.f4 Re7 54.Re3 Rh7 55.h5 Nf6**

(Diagram)



The position simplifies further. Die Position wird weiter vereinfacht. **56.Re5 Nxh5 57.Rxf5 Ng3** Black's pieces are too active and will easily neutralize the weak f-pawn. Die schwarzen Figuren sind zu aktiv und werden den schwachen f-Bauern leicht neutralisieren. **58.Rf8 Rb7 59.Ba4 Kf3 60.f5 Kf4**

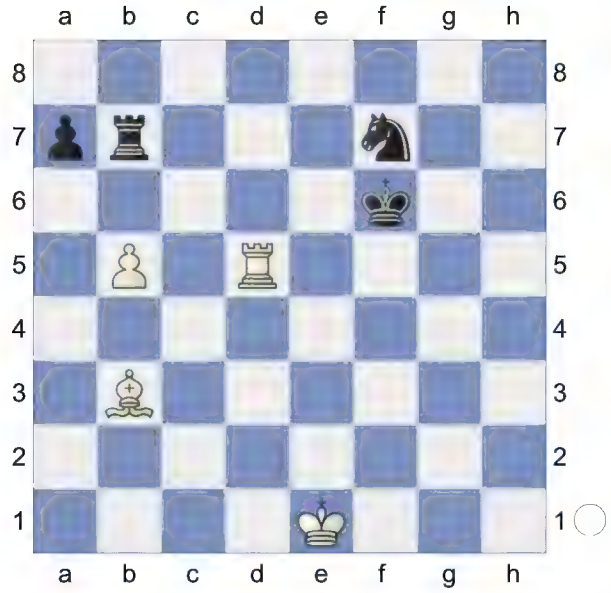


61.f6 Ne4 62.Bc2 Nd6 63.Rd8 Ke5 64.Bb3 Nf7 Ding brought all the pieces back safely and the f6 pawn is falling. It's a draw.Ding hat alle Figuren sicher

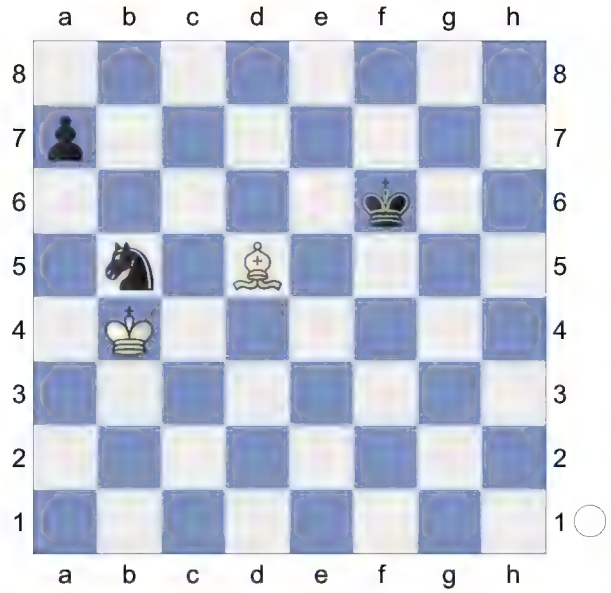
zurückgebracht und der f6-Bauer fällt. Es ist ein Remis.

[64...Rb6 65.f7 Nxf7 66.Bxf7±]

65.Rd5+ Kxf6



66.Kd2 Rb6 67.Bc4 Rd6 68.Kc3 Rxd5 69.Bxd5 Nd6 70.Kb4 Nxb5

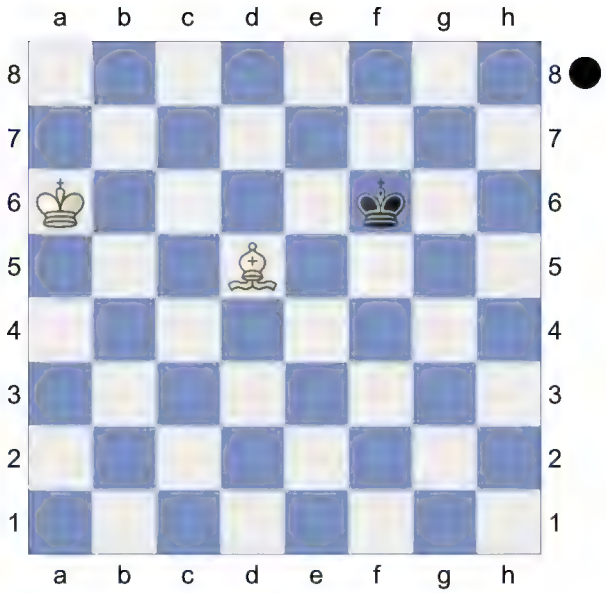


71.Kxb5 a6+ Black defended with fortune.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

72.Kxa6

(Diagram)



½-½

19 **D02**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2783**

■ **Ding,Liren** **2728**

WCh 2024 Singapore SIN (3.1) 27.11.24

[TA]

D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nc3

[5.Qc2 Nc6 6.a3 Bd6 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.e3 Ne7 10.Nc3 c6 11.Bd3 Bg4 12.Nd2 Bc7 13.h3 Be6 14.Ne2 Nf5 15.0-0-0 0-0-0 16.Nb3 Kb8 17.Kb1 Bc8 18.Rc1 Rhe8 19.g4 Nd6 0-1 (46) Houska,J (2419)-Sumets,A (2610) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (9)]

5...c6

(Diagram)

6.Qc2 g6N

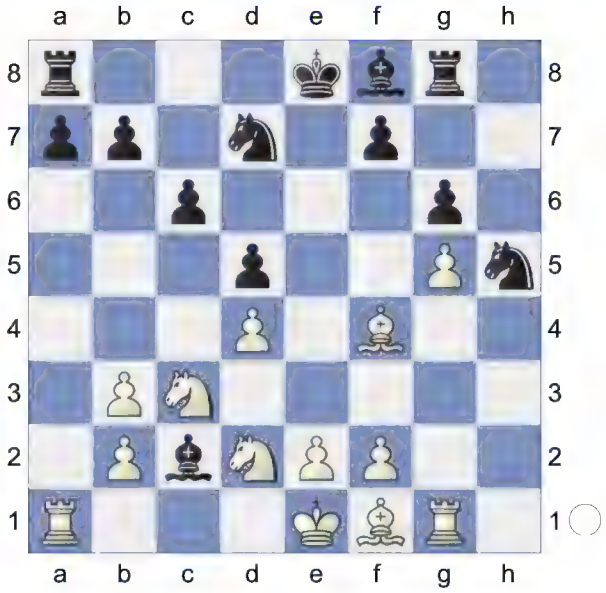
[6...Be7 7.Bf4 0-0 8.e3 Bd6 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.0-0 Re8 12.Rae1 Nf8 13.Ne5 N6d7 14.f4 f6 15.Nf3 Nb6 16.Qf2 Bg4 17.Nh4 Bh5 18.h3 Qd7 19.g4 Bg6 20.f5 Bf7 21.Qf4 1-0 (48) Paravyan,D (2620)-Hovakimyan,V (2247) Titled Tuesday intern op 24th Sep Early blitz 2024 (7)]

7.h3 Bf5 8.Qb3 Qb6 9.g4 The position is equal. **9...Qxb3 10.axb3 Bc2**

11.Bf4 h5 12.Rg1 hxg4 13.hxg4 Nbd7 14.Nd2 Rg8! 15.g5 -0.24/21

[⌓15.Be3 0.23/23]

15...Nh5=



16.Bh2 Rh8 17.f3 Ng7 18.Bg3 Rh5 0.58/18

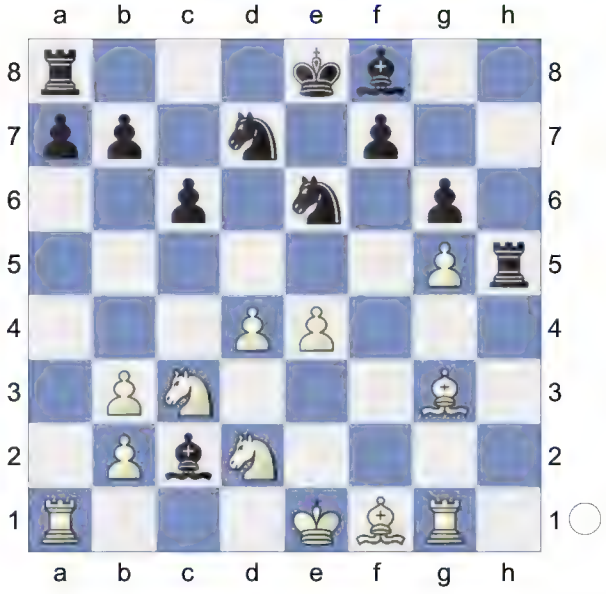
[Better is 18...Be7∓ -0.44/19]

19.e4!± dxe4 0.98/19

[19...Rxg5?! 20.Rc1±]

[19...Ne6± 0.58/21 feels stronger.]

20.fxe4± Ne6



21.Rc1! Strongly threatening Bf2.

21...Nxd4 22.Bf2 Bg7 1.37/22

[⌓22...Bc5 0.93/20]

23.Ne2 Nxb3

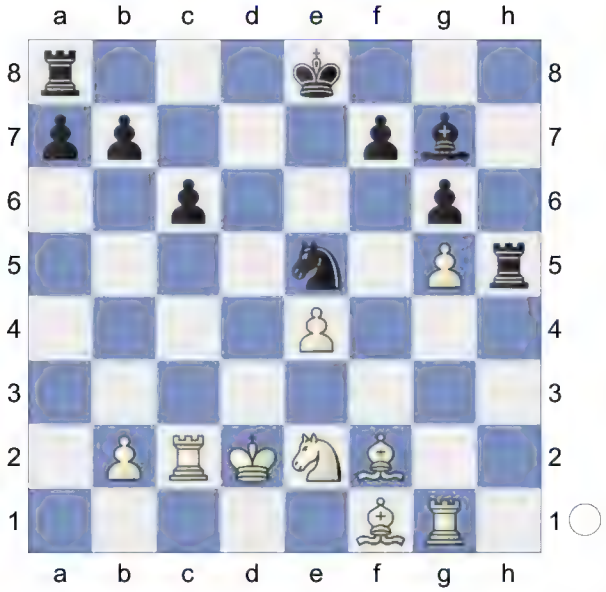
[23...Nxe2? 24.Bxe2 *(24.Rxc2? Nxg1 25.Bxg1 Rxg5-+; 24.Kxe2 Bxb3 25.Nxb3 Bxb2±)*]

24.Rxc2 Nxd2 25.Kxd2

[But not 25.Rxd2 Ne5±]

25...Ne5 1.71/21

[25...a5± 1.26/19 26.Nf4 Rh8]



26.Nd4+- Rd8 27.Ke2 Against Nf3

27...Rh2 1.99/20

[27...a5± 1.53/17 28.b3 Bf8]

28.Bg2 1.59/17

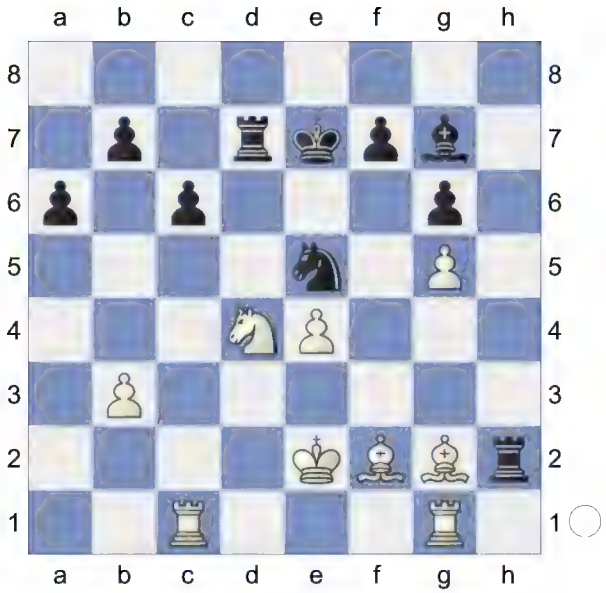
[28.Nf3+- 1.99/20 Nxf3 29.Kxf3]

28...a6 2.19/22

[28...a5± 1.59/17 29.b3 Bf8]

29.b3 Rd7 30.Rcc1 Ke7

(Diagram)



31.Rcd1 Ke8 2.33/20

[31...Ng4± 1.55/21 32.Nf3 Rxd1 33.Bc5+ *(33.Nxh2 Nxf2 34.Rxd1 Nxd1±)* 33...Rd6]

32.Bg3 Rh5 33.Nf3 Nxf3 2.51/20

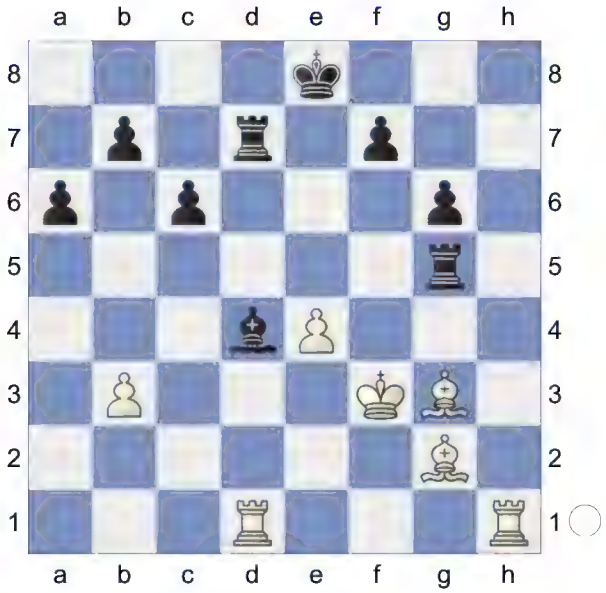
[33...Rxd1 1.93/20 34.Rxd1 Nd7]

34.Kxf3 Bd4 3.00/19

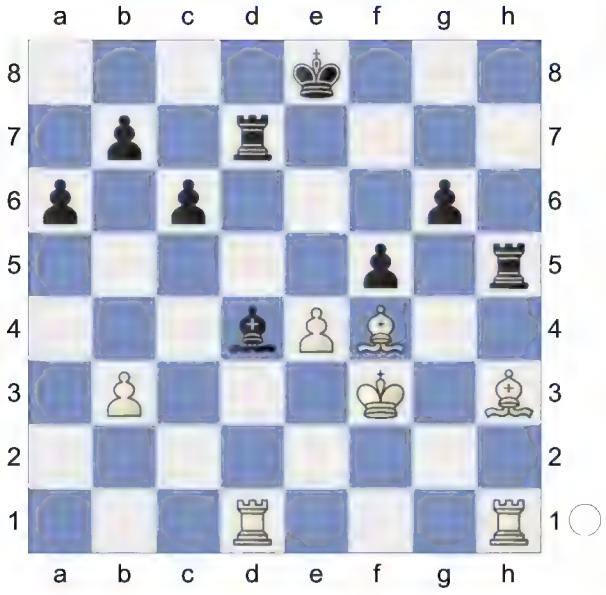
[34...Rxg5 1.89/18 was necessary. 35.Rxd7 Kxd7 36.Rd1+ Ke6 37.Bh3+ f5]

35.Rh1 Rxg5 3.37/18

[⌓35...Rxh1 2.26/18 36.Rxh1 Bc3]



36.Bh3 f5 37.Bf4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.32
37...Rh5



1-0

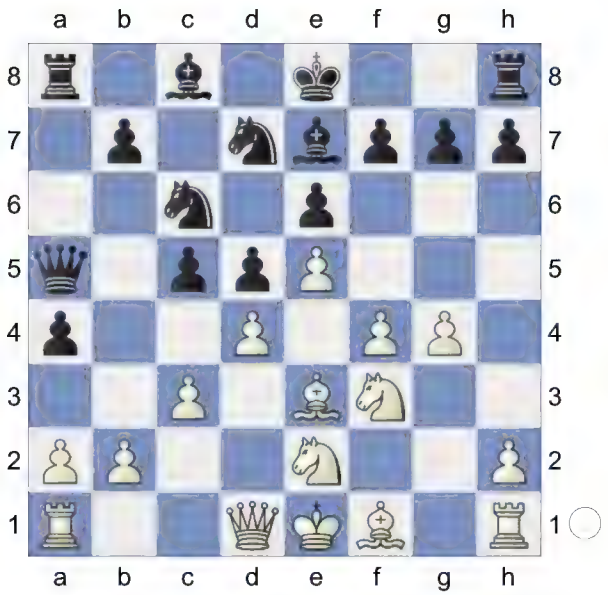
20 **C11**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2783**
■ **Ding,Liren** **2728**
WCh 2024 Singapore SIN (1.1) 25.11.24
[TA]

C11: French: Classical System: 4 e5 and 4 Bg5 dxe4
In this chapter, we'll be covering the sidelines for White in the Steinitz system.
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5

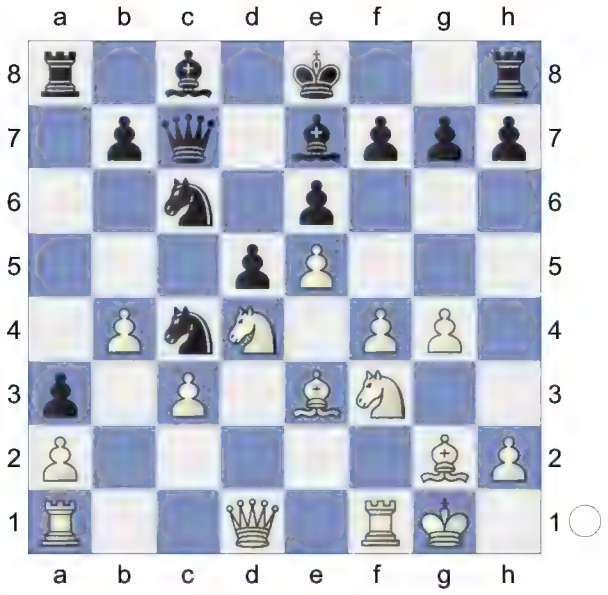
(Diagram)

6.Nce2 Nc6 7.c3 a5
[7...Be7 8.Nf3 f6 9.Be3 0-0 10.g3 Qb6 11.Qd2 cxd4 12.Nfxd4 Nc5 13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Nb3 Ne4 15.Qd3 Qc7 16.Bg2 Nd6 17.Bf2 Nc4 18.Qc2 Ne7 19.0-0 e5 20.fxe5 Bf5 21.exf6 Bxc2 22.fxe7 ½-½ (41) Corfield,J (2762)-Ernst,H (2777) EU-ch 14th Legnica 2013]
8.Nf3 a4 9.Be3N
[9.Kf2 Be7 10.g4 Qc7 11.Ng3 cxd4 12.cxd4 a3 13.bxa3 Nb6 14.Nh5 0-0 15.g5 Bxa3 16.Qc2 Kh8 17.Bd3 Nc4 18.Bxh7 Bxc1 19.Qxc1 Ra3 20.Bb1 Qb6 21.Rd1 Rxf3+ 22.Kxf3 Nxd4+ 23.Rxd4 Qxd4 1-0 (59) Lodici,L (2564)-Panda,S (2381) Masters Open 2024 (3.28)]
[9.a3 Be7 10.h4 f6 11.Ng3 Qa5 12.Nh5 0-0 13.Bd3 cxd4 Chapter 4-Steinitz-3.Nc3 Nf6 sidelines 2023]
9...Be7 White has an edge. **10.g4** -0.34/18
[10.Ng3± 0.37/17]
10...Qa5

(Diagram)

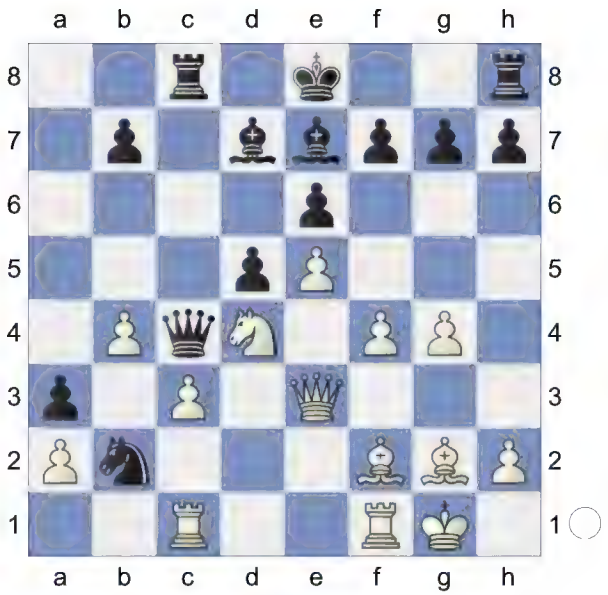


11.Bg2 a3 0.39/20
[11...b5= -0.25/21]
12.b3± cxd4 13.b4 Qc7 14.Nexd4 Nb6 15.0-0
[15.Nb5!? Qd8□ 16.Bf1=]
15...Nc4



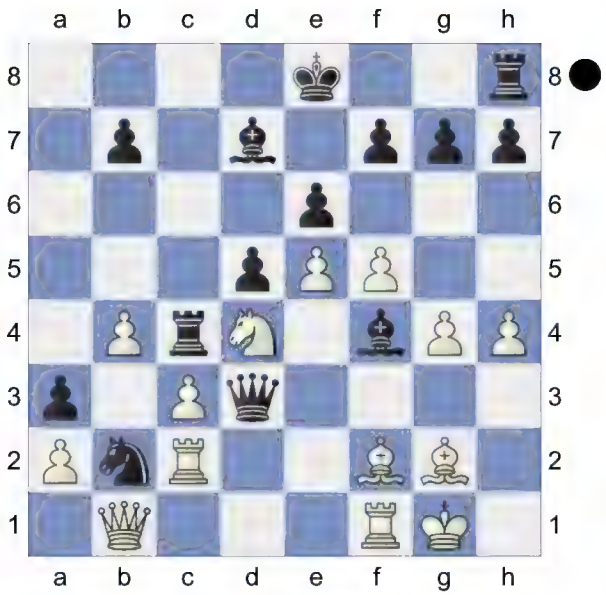
16.Bf2 Bd7 17.Qe2 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Nb2 19.Qe3 Rc8 20.Rac1 Qc4

(Diagram)

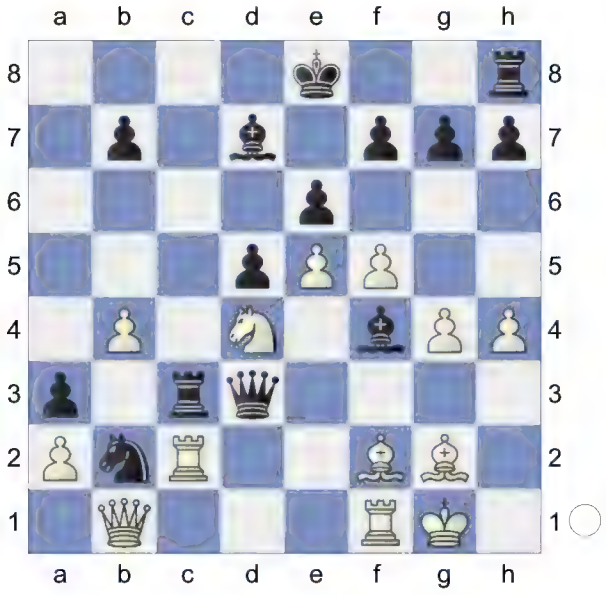


21.f5 -0.90/19
[White should play 21.Rfe1∓ -0.34/21]
21...Qd3∓
[21...Qxa2 22.Ra1 Qc4 23.Rxa3±]
22.Qe1 -1.86/21
[22.Rc2∓ -0.87/18 is a better defense.]
22...Bg5-+
[22...exf5? 23.e6 *(23.Bxd5 Qa6±)* 23...Bf6 24.Bxd5+- *(24.exd7+ Kxd7 25.Qe3 Rhe8+-)*]
23.Rc2 Rc4
[23...exf5 24.e6 fxe6 25.Nxe6 Qxc2 26.Nxg5+ Kf8 27.Qe5+-]
[23...Ba4 24.fxe6 fxe6 *(24...Bxc2 25.exf7+ Kxf7 26.e6+ Kg6 27.Nxc2±)* 25.Nxe6 *(25.Re2? Bd1-+)* 25...Bxc2 *(25...Qxc2 26.Nxg7+ Ke7 27.Nf5+ Ke8 28.Ng7+ Ke7 29.Nf5+ Ke8 30.Ng7+ Kd8 31.Ne6+ Ke7 32.Nxg5∓)* 26.Nxg7+ Kd7 *(26...Kf7 27.Bd4+ Kxg7 28.e6+±)* 27.e6+ Kc6 28.e7±]
24.h4 Bf4 25.Qb1

(Diagram)



Rxc3

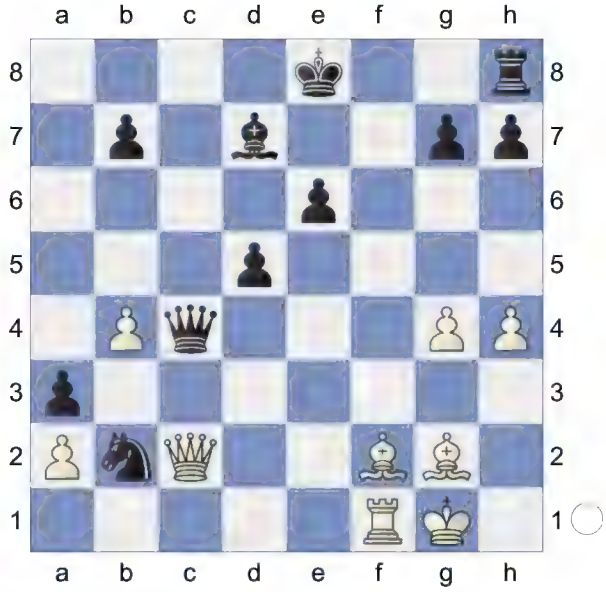


Black is much more active. **26.Rxc3 Qxc3 27.fxe6 fxe6→** White is in trouble. **28.Ne2 Qxe5 29.Nxf4 Qxf4 30.Qc2** -2.14/20

[30.Bc5∓ -1.21/20 Qxg4 31.Qxh7 Qd4+ *(31...Qxh4 32.Qxh4 Rxh4 33.Rf8#; 31...Qxg2+ 32.Kxg2 Kd8 33.Bb6+ Ke7 34.Qxh8 Be8 35.Qxg7+)* 32.Bxd4 Rxh7 33.Bc5]

30...Qc4!

[30...Qxb4 31.Qc7 0-0 *(31...Qxg4? 32.Bb6+-; 31...Rf8 32.Qb8+ Kf7 33.Bc5+* Skewer, Discovered Attack (Check), Double Attack *Kg6 34.Qxf8 h6 35.Bxb4 e5 36.Bxd5 Bxg4 37.Bf7+ Kh7 38.Qg8#)* 32.Qxd7 Qxg4 33.Kh1=]



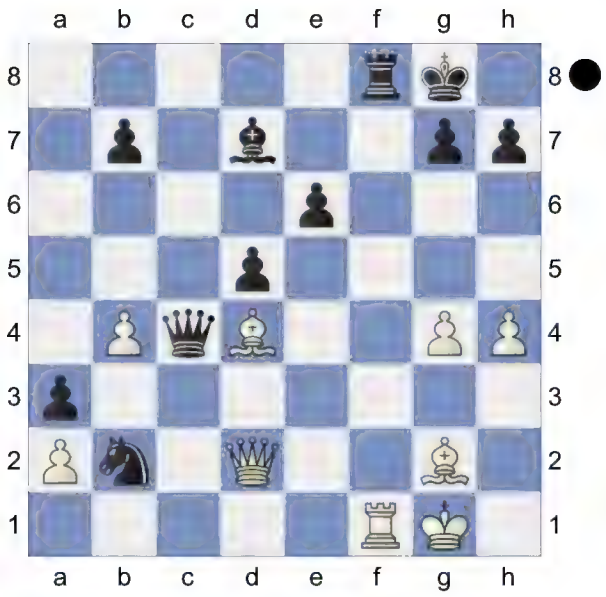
31.Qd2 0-0 aiming for ...Bb5!.

[31...Qxa2? 32.Qg5 Na4 *(32...0-0 33.Bd4 Rxf1+ 34.Bxf1 e5 35.Qxe5 Kf7 36.Qxg7+ Ke8 37.Bf6 Be6 38.Qe7#)* 33.Bd4+- *(33.Qxg7 Rf8=)*]

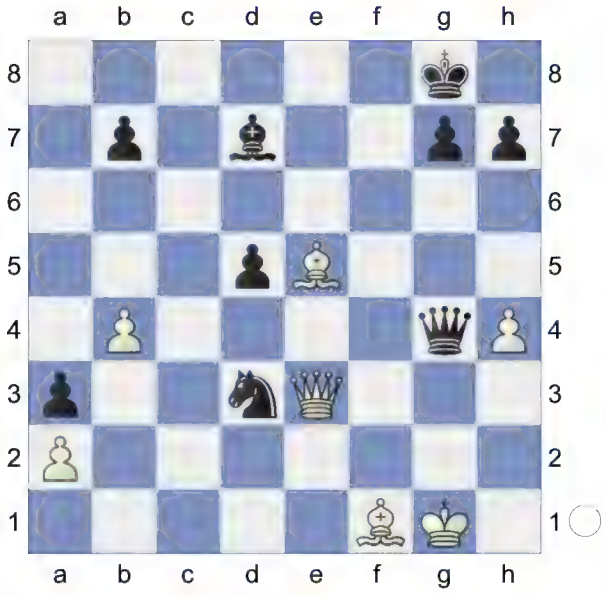
[31...Qxg4 32.Bc5 b6 *(32...Qxh4 33.Qc3∓)* 33.Bxb6]

32.Bd4

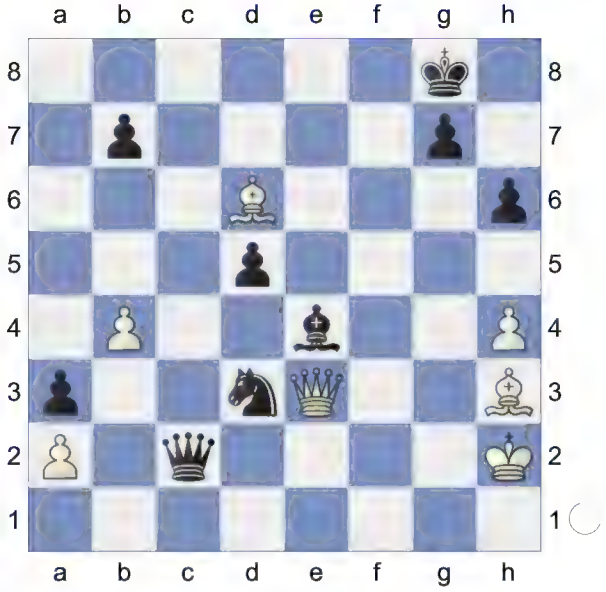
(Diagram)



Nd3!
[32...Qxa2 33.Qg5 Rxf1+ 34.Bxf1 e5 35.Qxe5 *(35.Qd8+ Kf7 36.Qxd7+ Kf6 37.Bc5 g5 38.h5 h6 39.Qe7#)* 35...Kf7 36.Qxg7+ Ke8 37.Bf6 Be6 38.Qe7#]
33.Qe3 Rxf8+ is the strong threat.
33...Rxf1+
[33...Nxb4 34.Rxf8+ Kxf8 35.Bf1=]
34.Bxf1 This pair of bishops is nice.
34...e5! Discovered Attack **35.Bxe5**
Qxg4+

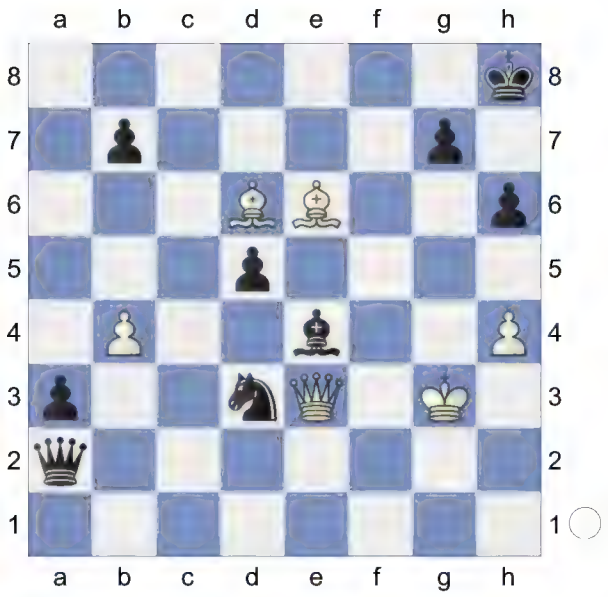


36.Bg2 -3.73/20
[⌓36.Bg3 -2.37/19 Nxb4 37.Qxa3]
36...Bf5
[36...Nxb4? 37.Qxa3 Bc6 *(37...Qxh4 38.Bc3=)* 38.Qb3-+]
37.Bg3 Be4
[37...Nxb4 38.Qe8#]
38.Kh2 h6
[Not 38...Nxb4 39.Qxa3 h6 40.Bxe4 *(40.Qxb4?* perishes. *Qe2-+)* 40...Qxe4 41.Qb2-+]
39.Bh3? -7.15/19
[39.b5 -3.97/17]
39...Qd1 Black is clearly winning.
40.Bd6 Qc2+



41.Kg3 Qxa2 42.Be6+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.07 (flawless)
42...Kh8

(Diagram)



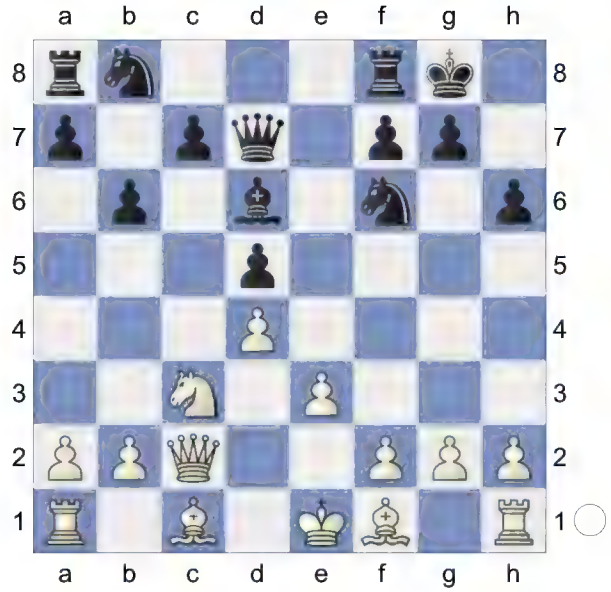
0-1

21 **D37**
□ **Eljanov,P** **2672**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2794**
39th ECC Open 2024 (6.3) 25.10.2024
[TA]

D37: Queen's Gambit Declined: 5 Bf4
This is a nice game where Aronian shows how the quick kingside attack can come from almost nowhere. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 h6N**
[4...dxc4 5.e3 a6 6.Bxc4 b5 7.Bb3 Bb7 8.0-0 c5 9.Qe2 Nbd7 10.Rd1 Qb8 *(10...Be7 11.e4 b4 12.e5 bxc3 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Ba4+ Kf8 15.bxc3 Qa5 16.Bb3 cxd4 17.Nxd4 Qh5 18.f3 e5 19.g4 Qh3 20.Qxe5 Bxf3 21.Nxf3 Qxf3 22.Qxe7+* 1-0 Gossler,S (2613)-13. ♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2683) Argentina ch-15 1997 (6)*; 10...c4 11.Bc2 Be7 12.e4 b4 13.Nb1 Rc8 14.Bf4 h6 15.Nbd2 0-0 16.Rac1 c3 17.bxc3 bxc3 18.Nf1 Re8 19.Rb1 Bc6 20.Ng3 Bb5 21.Qe1 Nf8 22.a4 Bc4 23.Ne5 a5 24.Rb7 Ba6 25.Rbb1* ½-½ (86) Gormally,D (2423)-Kozak,A (2595) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Jan Early blitz 2025 (11)*)* 11.d5 c4 12.dxe6 fxe6 13.Bc2 Bd6 *(13...Bc5 14.Nd4 Bxd4 15.exd4 Kf7 16.Re1 Qd6 17.Bg5 Rhe8 18.Rad1 b4 19.Ne4 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 Qd5 22.Qf4+ Kg8 23.Re3 Rac8 24.Rde1 c3 25.b3 c2 26.Rc1 e5 27.Qf5 g6 28.Qe4* 0-1 (34) Juic,R-Wilfert,E (Game 5) 59070 2005*)* 14.a4 0-0 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Bxa8 17.Nxb5 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Bxh2+ 19.Kh1 (31) 3. The Classical 7 Qe2-Model game #1: Istratescu,A]
[4...Bd6 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 0-0 7.Rc1 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Nbd7 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0 b6 11.Qc2 Bb7 12.Ne5 g6 13.Bh6 Re8 14.Rfd1 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Nd5 16.Nxd5 exd5 17.e6 f5 18.Bxf5 gxf5 19.Qxf5 1-0 (27) Capablanca,J-Anon Lessons from (2): attacking 1916]
5.e3 b6

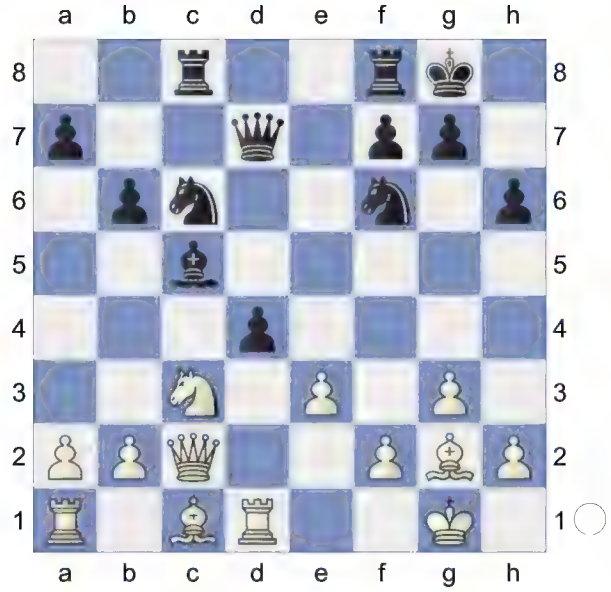
6.cxd5 exd5 7.Qa4+ 0.25/22
[7.Ne5± 0.63/20]
7...Bd7 8.Qc2 White has an edge.

8...Bd6 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Nxd7 Qxd7



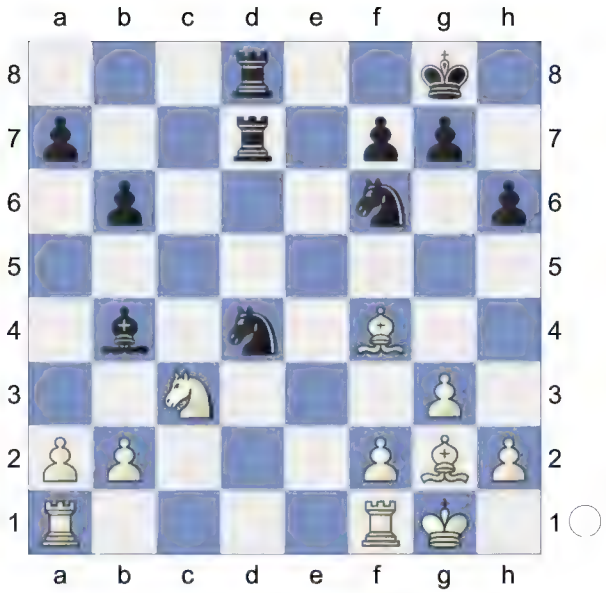
11.g3 c5 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Bg2 Nc6 14.0-0 Rac8 15.Rd1 d4

[15...Rfd8!?]

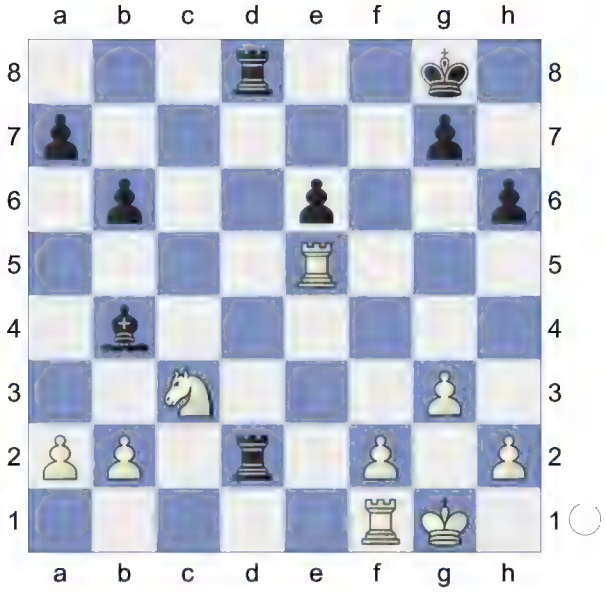


16.Qa4 Rfd8 17.exd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd7 Rxd7 19.Bf4 Rcd8 20.Rf1 Bb4

(Diagram)



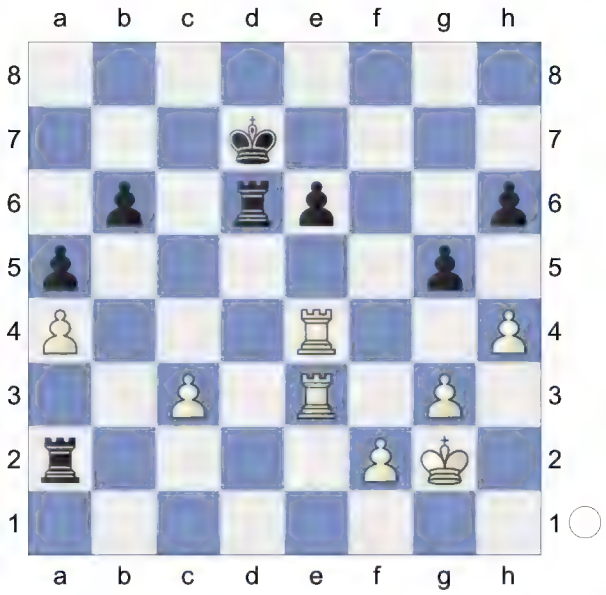
21.Rae1 Ne6 Excellent horsemanship. **22.Be5 Ng4 23.Bh3! Nxe5 24.Rxe5 Rd2 25.Bxe6 fxe6**



26.a3 Bxc3 The position is equal. **27.bxc3=** Endgame KRR-KRR **27...Kf7 28.Rfe1 R8d6 29.R5e4 Ra2 30.a4 Rdd2**

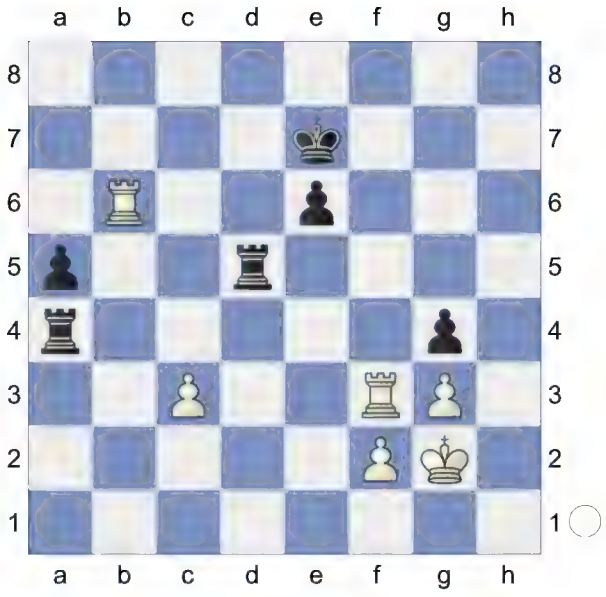
(Diagram)

31.Rf4+ Ke7 32.h4 g5 33.Rfe4 Rd6 34.R1e3 a5 35.Kg2 Kd7

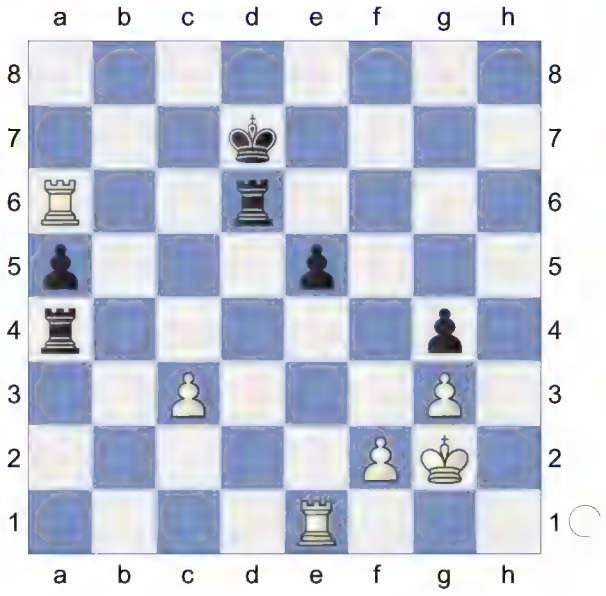


36.Rf3 Ke7 Repels Rf7+ **37.Rc4 Rd5 38.hxg5 hxg5 39.Rc6 Rxa4** ...g4 is the strong threat. **40.Rxb6 g4**

(Diagram)



41.Re3 e5 42.Ra6 Kd7 43.Re1
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
43...Rd6

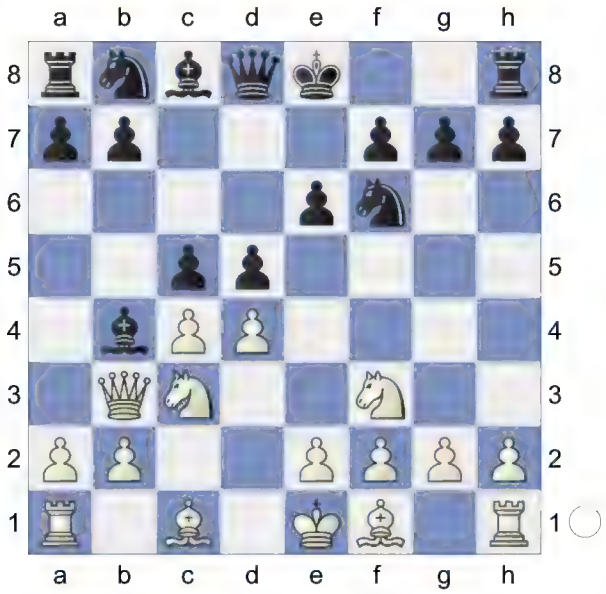


½-½

22 **D38**
□ **Andreikin,Dmitry** **2729**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2794**
39th ECC Open 2024 (4.1) 23.10.2024
[TA]

D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4)

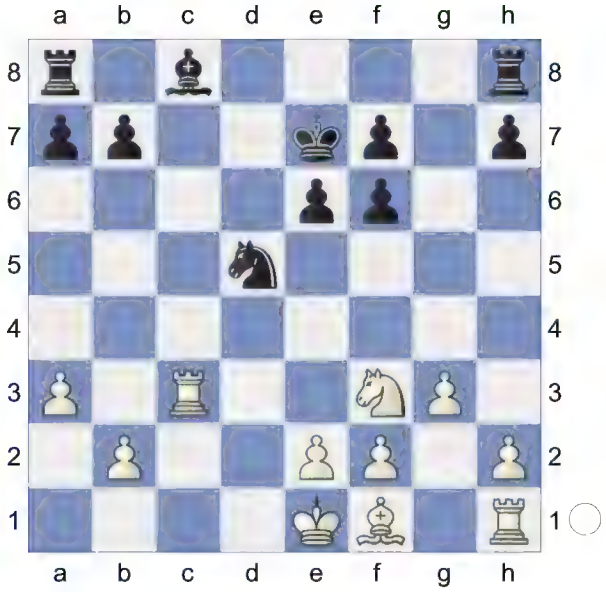
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qb3 c5



6.dxc5 Nc6 Hoping for ...d4. 6...Nc6 scores better than 6...Na6. 6...Sc6 punktet besser als 6...Sa6.
7.Bg5 Qa5! ...d4 is the strong threat.
8.Bxf6 dxc4 The position is equal.
9.Qxc4 gxf6 10.Rc1 Qxc5

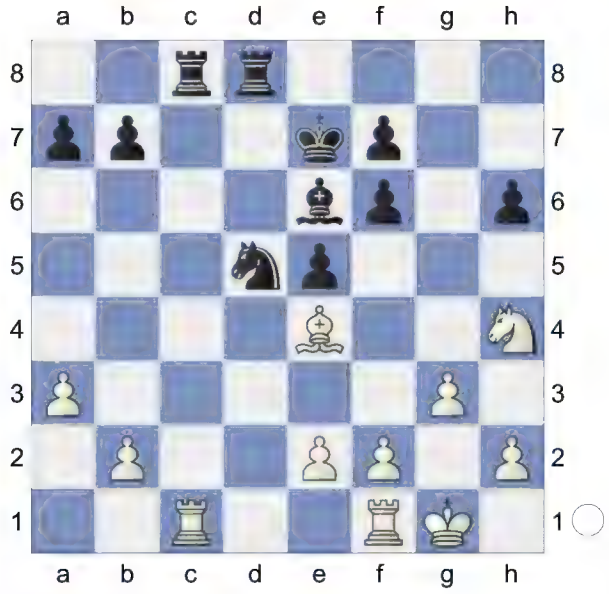
(Diagram)

11.Qh4 Ke7 12.g3 Bxc3+ 13.Rxc3 Qb4 14.Qxb4+
[14.Bg2 is interesting. Qxb2 15.Qc4 Qb1+ 16.Rc1]
14...Nxb4 15.a3 Nd5



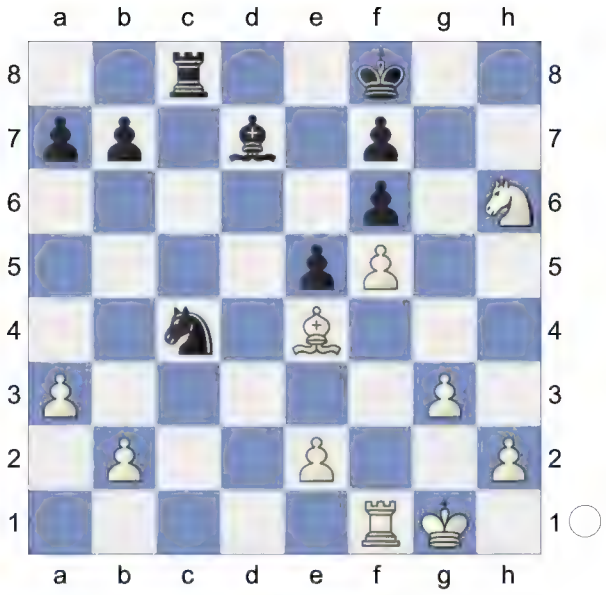
16.Rc1↑ White is more active. **16...e5N** 0.36/26
[16...Bd7 17.Bg2 Rac8 18.0-0 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Rc8 20.Rxc8 Bxc8 21.Nd2 Nb6 22.b3 f5 ½-½ Moranda,W (2618)-Donchenko,A (2659) EU-Cup Online Final rapid 2021 (7.2)]
[16...Nb6= 0.01/26]

17.Bg2 Be6 18.Nh4 Rac8 19.0-0 Rhd8 20.Be4! h6

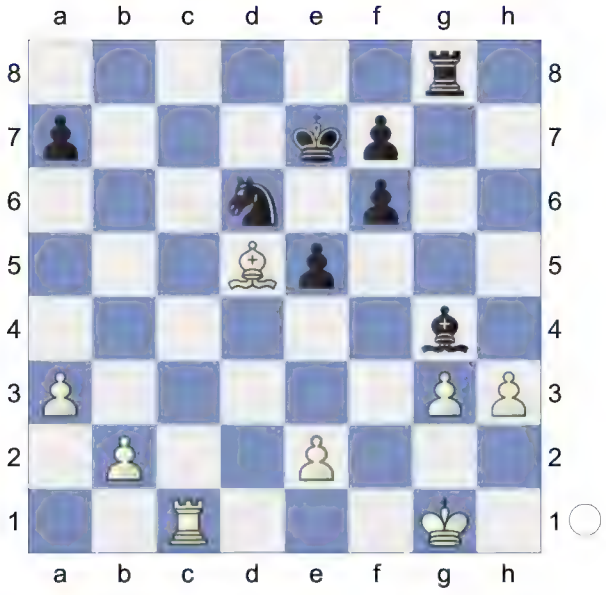


21.Nf5+ Kf8N 22.Rxc8!
[22.Nxh6 Ne7=]
22...Rxc8 23.Nxh6 Nb6 1.60/26
[⌓23...b5 0.74/25]
24.f4 0.64/24
[24.Bxb7?! Rc2±]
[White should try 24.Rd1± 1.60/26]
24...Nc4 1.20/28
[24...exf4± 0.64/24 25.Rxf4 *(25.Bxb7 Rb8=)* 25...Rc4]
25.f5!±
[25.Bxb7 Rb8 26.f5 Bd7±]
25...Bd7

(Diagram)



26.Ng4 Against Ne3
[Resist 26.Bxb7 Rc7 27.Bf3 Ne3±]
26...Ke7 27.Bxb7 Rg8 28.h3 Nd6
29.Bd5 0.39/25
[29.Bg2± 1.08/24]
29...Bxf5 0.85/26
[29...Nxf5± 0.39/25 30.Kf2 Rc8]
30.Rc1! Black must now prevent Rc7+.
30...Bxg4

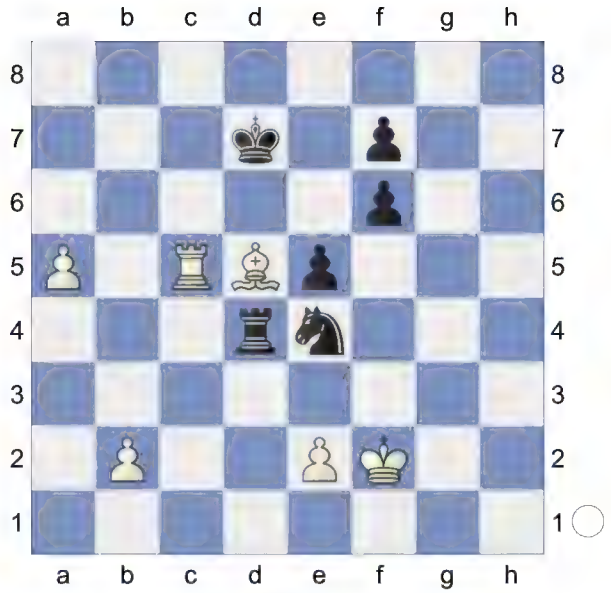


31.hxg4 Endgame KRB-KRN **31...Kd7** Against Rc7+ **32.Rc6** And now Ra6 would win. **32...Rxg4** **33.Ra6!** Prevents Ra4. **33...Rxg3+ 34.Kf2 Rh3**

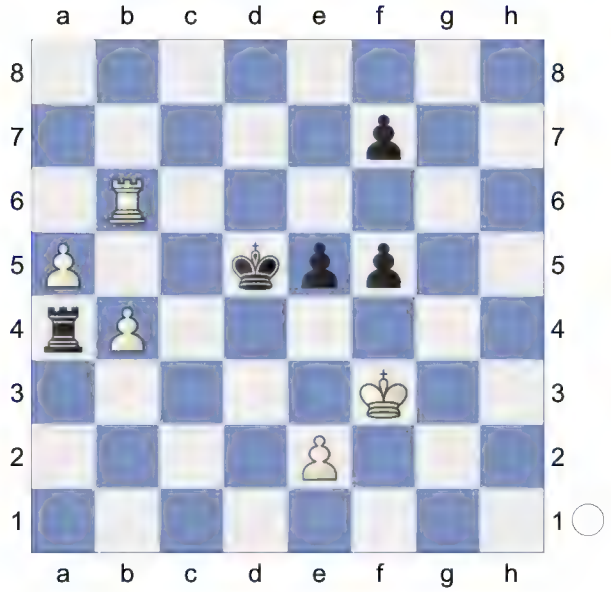
35.Rxa7+ Kc8

36.a4 0.68/24
[36.Ra6± 1.03/24 Kc7 37.Bxf7!]
36...Rh4± 37.Ra6 0.49/23 &Bianco is more active.
[Reject 37.Bxf7 Kb8 38.Rd7 Ne4+ 39.Kg2 Rg4+ 40.Kh2 Rh4+ 41.Kg2 Rg4+ 42.Kh2 Rh4+ 43.Kg2=]
[37.b3!± 0.80/24]
37...Kc7 1.23/25
[Black should play 37...Ne4+!± 0.49/23 38.Kg2 f5]
38.a5± Threatens to win with Rc6+.
38...Rd4 2.44/26
[38...f5± 1.16/23]
39.Rc6++- Kd7 40.Rc5 Ne4+? 4.66/26
[40...Nc8 2.01/23 41.b3 *(41.Bxf7 Rh4±)* 41...Rh4 42.Bxf7 Na7]

(Diagram)

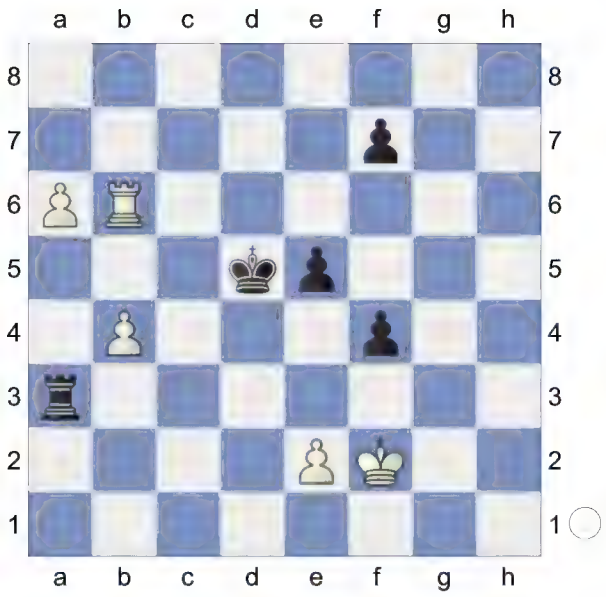


41.Bxe4 Rxe4 KR-KR **42.Rb5**
Inhibits Rb4. **42...Ra4 43.Kf3?** 0.73/29
[43.b3+- 4.60/29 has better winning chances. Ra3 44.b4]
43...Ke6? 5.65/29
[43...Kc6± 0.73/29 44.Rb6+ Kc7]
44.Rb6+ White is clearly winning.
44...Kd5 45.b4 f5

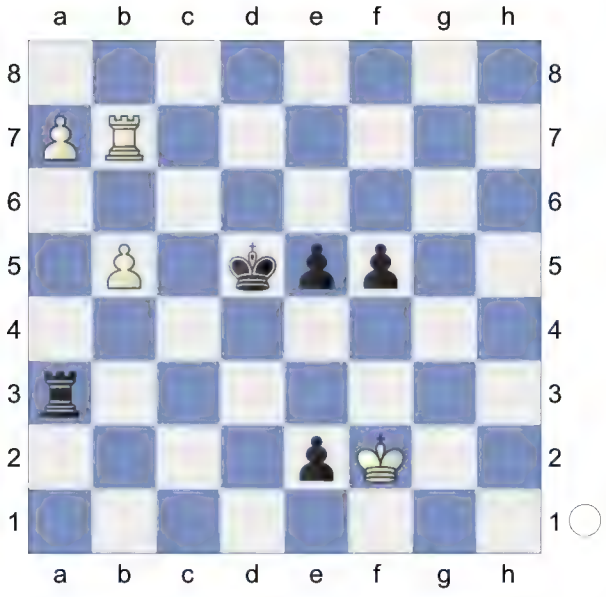


46.a6! Ra3+ 47.Kf2 f4

(Diagram)

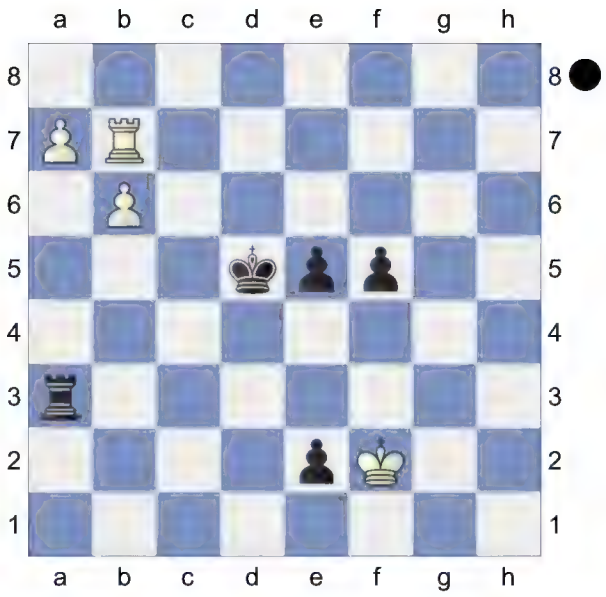


48.b5! f3 49.Rb7 fxe2 50.a7 f5



51.b6

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.45

1-0

23 **D27**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2794**

■ **Mamedov,Rauf** **2643**

39th ECC Open 2024 (3.1) 22.10.2024

[Kitty Kat]

D27: Queen's Gambit Accepted: Classical main line: 7 e4!? and 7 a4

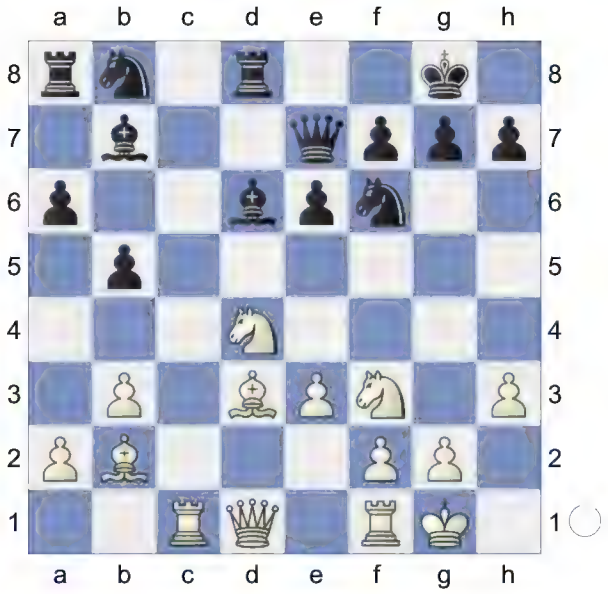
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 a6

(Diagram)

6.0-0 c5 7.Be2 Recently 7.b3 got a lot of attention.7.b3 erhält neuerdings viel Aufmerksamkeit. **7...cxd4 8.Nxd4N**
[8.exd4 Nc6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Bf4 Nf6 12.Rc1 0-0 13.Na4 *(13.a3 b6* 22) 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 7.Be2-6. O-O a6 7.Be2 cxd4 #1*)* 13...Nd5 14.Bg3 Bd6 15.Bd3 Nce7 16.Qb3 b6 17.Be4 Rb8 18.Rfe1 Bb7 19.Nc3 Nxc3 20.Bxb7 Nxa2 21.Qxa2 Rxb7 22.Qxa6 Rc7 0-1 (110) C 06/32 (2809)-Deslandes,P (2807) GER-ITA email 2012 (2) 23.b3 Nf5 24.Rxc7 Qxc7 25.Qb5 h6 26.d5 exd5 27.Qxd5 Nxg3 28.hxg3 Rd8 29.Qb5 g6 30.Ne5 Qc5 31.Qxc5 Bxc5 32.Kf1 Kg7 33.Ke2 Bb4 34.Rc1 Re8 35.f4 f6 36.Rc7+ Kh8 37.Rc6 fxe5 1-0 (110) Aronian,L (2750)-Dominguez Perez,L (2717) Linares 26th 2009 (4)]
8...Be7 9.Nd2 White is slightly better.
9...0-0 10.b3 b5

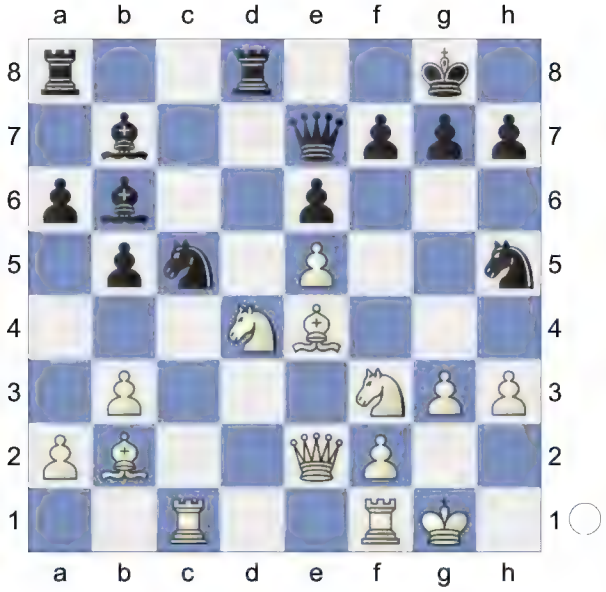
(Diagram)

11.Bb2 Bb7 12.Rc1 Qd7 13.N2f3 Bd6 14.h3N
[14.Qc2? -1.75/20 14.a4 0.24 e5! 15.Nf5 Be4 16.Nh6+ gxh6 17.Qd1 -2.78/20 *(17.Bd3* -1.82/17 *Bxd3 18.Qxd3)* 17...Nc6 18.Nd2 and Nxe4 should not be overlooked Bf5 19.f4 Rad8 20.Qe1 0-1 Radjabov,T (2753)-So,W (2776) Norway Masters blitz 10th 2022 (8)]
14...Rd8 15.Bd3 Qe7



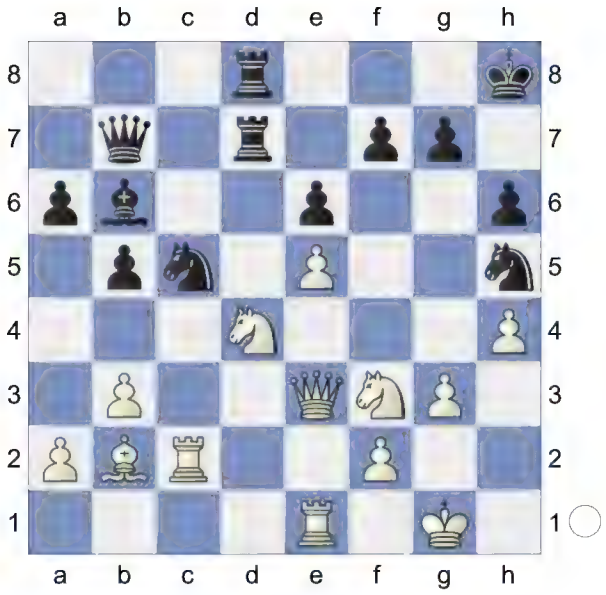
16.e4 -0.34/19 **Nbd7**
[16...Bxe4?! 17.Nxe6 Qxe6

18.Ng5±]
17.Qe2! Nh5 0.43/20
[17...Bc5!= -0.04/19]
18.g3!±
[18.Nc6 Bxc6 19.Rxc6 Nf4=]
18...Bc5 19.e5 Bb6 20.Be4 Nc5

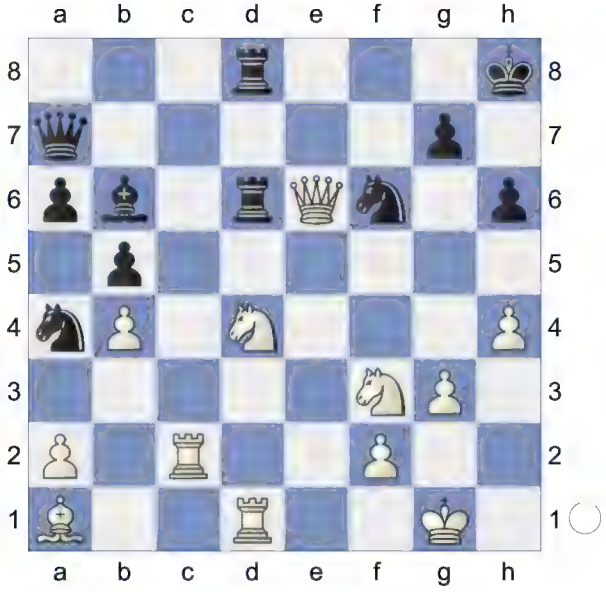


21.Bxb7 Qxb7 22.Rfe1 0.48/21
[22.Rc2± 1.05/20]
22...Rd7 0.90/19
[22...Rac8± 0.48/21]
23.Qe3 Rad8 24.Rc2
[24.g4 Nf4 25.Rcd1 g5∓
(25...Nxh3+ 26.Kg2+-)]
24...h6 25.h4 0.10/18
[25.g4 Nf4 26.Qxf4 Nd3∓]
[25.Kh2± 0.73/20]
25...Kh8 1.39/21
[25...f5!= 0.10/18]

(Diagram)



26.b4±
[26.g4 Nf4 27.Rxc5 *(27.Qxf4? Nd3-+)* 27...g5 28.hxg5 hxg5∓]
26...Na4 27.Ba1 Qa7 28.Rd1 f5 1.77/18
[28...a5± 1.31/19]
29.exf6+- Nxf6 30.Qxe6 Rd6



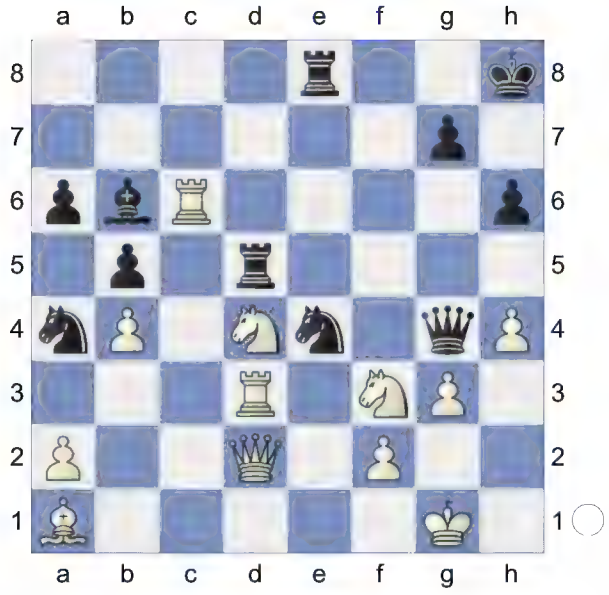
31.Qb3 Rd5 Prevents Ne5. **32.Rc6 Qd7** 2.46/17
[32...Bxd4 1.79/17 was called for. 33.Nxd4 *(33.Rxd4 Rxd4 34.Nxd4 Rxd4+-)* 33...a5 34.bxa5 Nc5]
33.Qc2 Qg4 34.Rd3 Re8? 3.61/20

[34...Kg8± 1.60/18 35.Rd1 Ne4]

35.Qd2 1.91/18

[⌓35.Rxf6 3.61/20 gxf6 36.Qc6]

35...Ne4



36.Qe1 Qd7 2.05/17

[36...Nf6± 1.58/16 37.Qc1 Qg6]

37.Re3 Bxd4 38.Nxd4 Rxd4

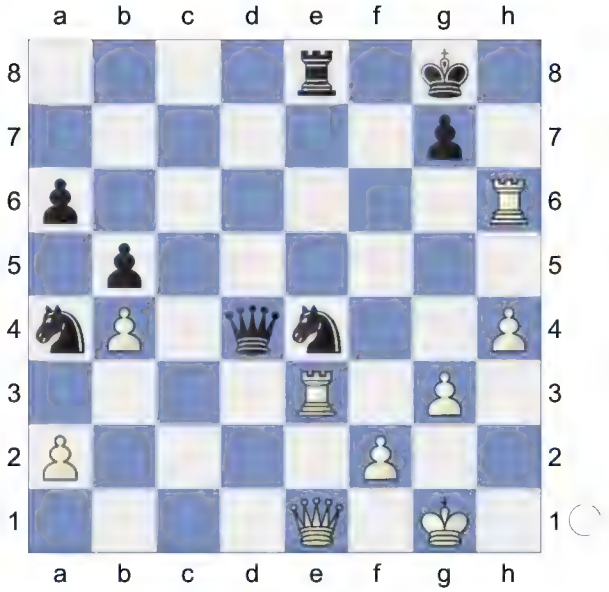
39.Rxh6+!! Kg8

[39...gxh6? 40.Rxe4 Kg8 *(40...Rexe4? 41.Qxe4* Pin *Kg8 42.Bxd4+-)* 41.Rxe8+ *(41.Bxd4 Rxe4 42.Qxe4 Kf8+-)* 41...Kf7 42.Bxd4 Qxe8 43.Qc1+-]

40.Bxd4

[40.Rxa6? Rd1 41.h5 Rxe1+-+]

40...Qxd4



41.Rxa6 0.77/18

[41.Rg6!+- 1.73/20 and the rest is easy.]

41...Nac3± 42.Ra3! Rc8

43.Rf3 0.27/17

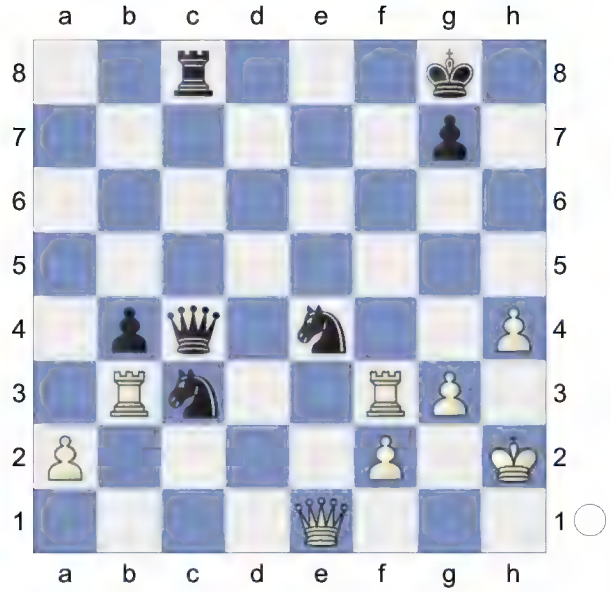
[43.Kg2!± 0.71/20]

43...Qxb4= 44.Rb3

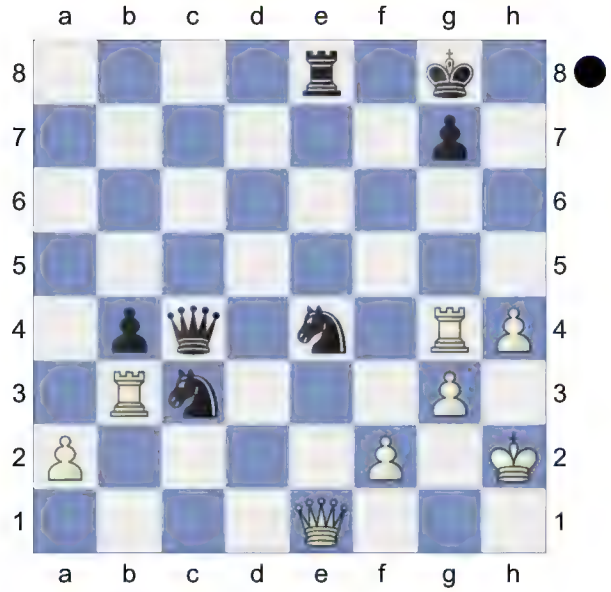
[44.Ra7 is interesting. Rd8 45.Qe3 Rd1+ 46.Kh2]

44...Qc4↑ Black has good play. **45.Kh2**

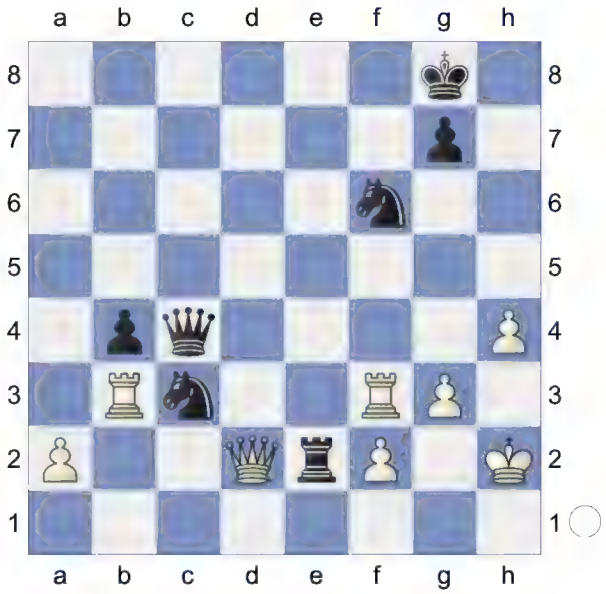
b4



46.Rf4 Re8
[46...Nxa2?! 47.Rb2 *(47.Re3 Nac3±)* 47...Re8 *(47...Nac3? 48.f3+-)* 48.Qa1± *(48.Qb1 Nac3±)*]
47.Rg4? -1.59/20
[Better is 47.Rb2= 0.00/25 Nd5 48.Rg4]

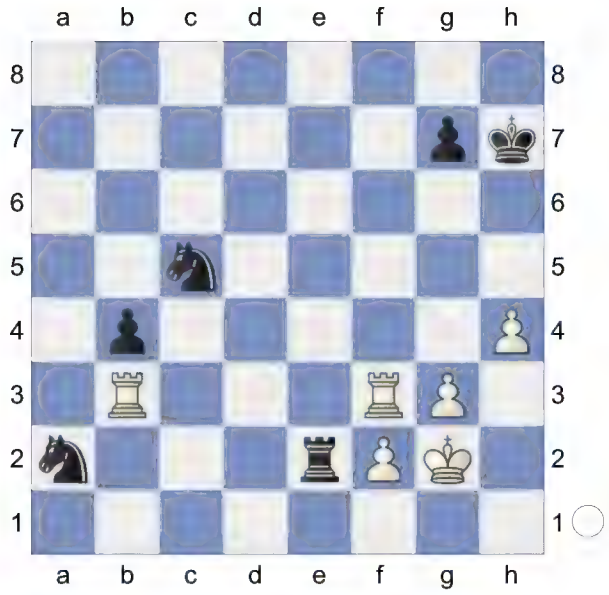


47...Qc5 -0.31/21
[47...Nxa2 48.Qa1 Nac3 *(48...Qxb3 49.Qxg7#)* 49.Qa7∓]
[47...Qc8!∓ -1.59/20 48.Rxe4 Remove Defender Rxe4 49.Rxc3 Rxh4+ *(49...Rxe1? 50.Rxc8+ Kh7 51.Rc2+-)* 50.gxh4 bxc3]
48.Rf4 Qc4 0.00/23
[48...Re5∓ -0.42/19 should be considered. 49.Qe3 Nd5 *(49...Qxe3 50.fxe3 Nd5 51.Rg4∓)* 50.Qxc5 *(50.Rxe4? Nxe3 51.Rexe3 Rxe3-+)* 50...Nxc5 51.Rbxb4 Nxb4 52.Rxb4 Nd3 53.Rb8+ Kh7]
49.Rf3 Nf6 Excellent horsemanship.
50.Qd2 Re2

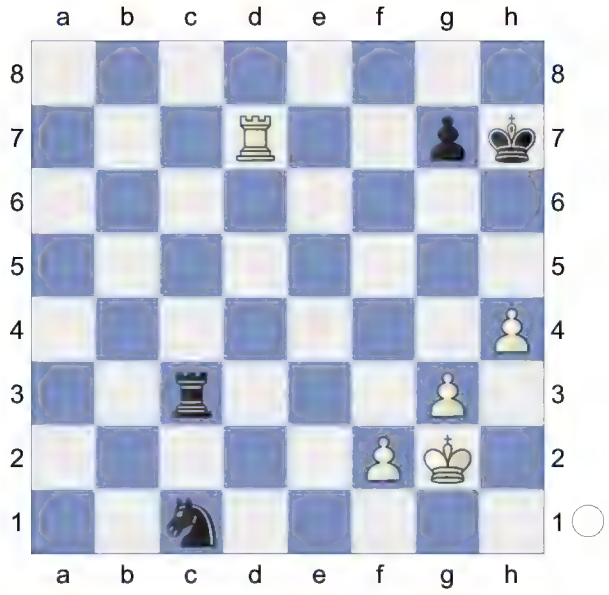


51.Qd8+ Kh7 52.Qd3+? -2.17/26
[Only move: 52.Rxf6!∓ -0.37/20 gxf6 53.Qxf6]
52...Qxd3-+ 53.Rxd3 Nxa2 -0.70/18
[53...Rxf2+-+ -2.23/20 54.Kh1 Nxa2 *(54...Rxa2 55.Rxb4 Nce4 56.Kg1∓)*]
54.Rf3∓ Ne4 aiming for ...Nd2!. **55.Kg2! Nc5**

(Diagram)



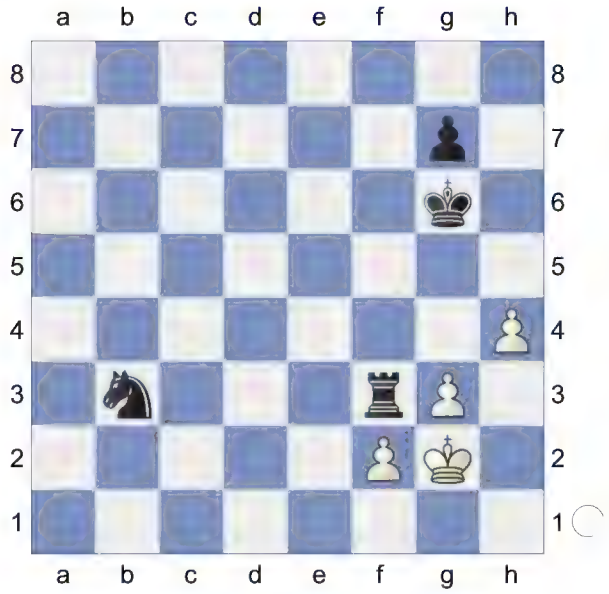
56.Rb1 b3 -0.04/28
[56...Rd2∓ -0.73/18 With the idea ... Nd3. 57.Re1 b3]
57.Rbxb3 The position is equal.
57...Nxb3 58.Rxb3= Endgame KRN-KR **58...Rc2 59.Rb7 Nc1 60.Rd7 Rc3**



61.Re7 Kg6 62.Re6+ Kf5 63.Re7 Kf6 64.Re4 Nb3 65.Rf4+ Kg6

(Diagram)

66.Rf3 What a bad dream for Black.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.27 (precise)
66...Rxf3



½-½

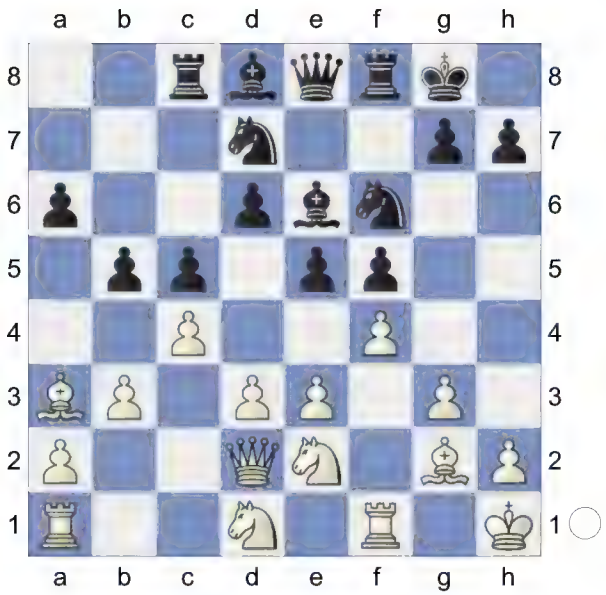
24 **A20**
□ **Gorodetzky,David** **2497**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2794**
39th ECC Open 2024 (2.1) 21.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

A21: English Opening: 1...e5 2 Nc3
Welcome to chapter B6. In this chapter, we will cover White's setup with c4, Nc3 & e3. We will be covering White's options where they don't go for d4 with this configuration. Most of these lines arise from the g3-move order, but there is a single line arising from the e3, Be2 & d3 setup. **1.c4 e5 2.g3 d6 3.Bg2 f5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e3 Be7**

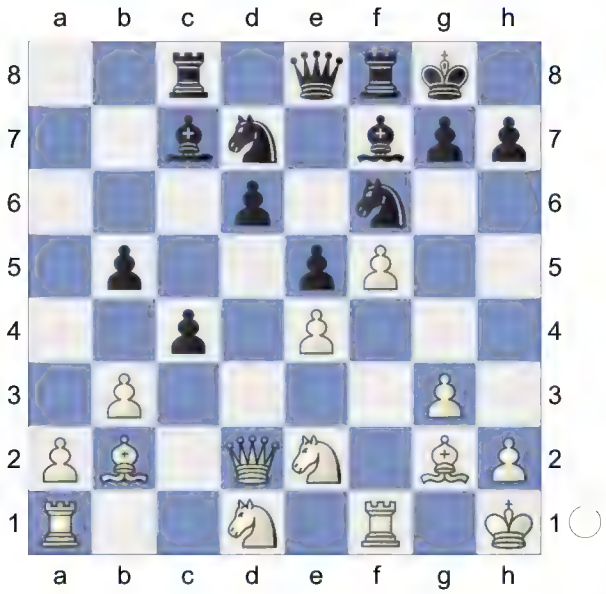
6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.d3 Be6 9.f4 Nbd7
[9...a5 10.b3 Na6 11.Qd2 Nc7 12.Bb2 exf4 13.Nxf4 Bf7 14.Bh3 Bg6 15.Rae1 d5 16.cxd5 Nfxd5 17.Ncxd5 Nxd5 18.Ne6 Bb4 19.Qc1 Qe7 20.Nxf8 Rxf8 21.a3 Bxe1 22.Rxe1 Re8 23.e4 Nf6 24.Qc4+ 1-0 (42) Dyer,I (2570)-Meyer,R (2535) (open) 60/(231) 1993]
10.b3 Rc8N
[10...a5 11.Bb2 Qe8 English – e3 Without d4 –-B6) English – e3 Without d4 Kushager's Killer Repertoire for Black]
[10...Ng4 11.h3 Ngf6 12.fxe5 Nxe5 13.d4 Nf7 14.d5 Bd7 15.Nd4 Qc8 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.Qc2 g6 18.e4 Nh5 19.Nde2 Bf6 20.Bb2 Be5 21.Kh2 Qd8 22.Na4 Nxg3 23.Nxg3 f4 24.Bxe5 Nxe5 25.Nf5 0-1 (39) Victor,G (2566)-Harabor,D (2478) Bucuresti 101/(103) 2007 (8) gxf5 26.Rxf4 Ng6 27.Rff1 f4 28.c5 Qg5 29.Qc3 Ne5 30.Rg1 Kh8 31.cxd6 Rf6 32.Bf1 Qh5 33.Nc5 Rxd6 34.Nxd7 Rxd7 35.Bc4 Rad8 36.Rg2 Rd3 37.Bxd3 Rxd3 38.Qxd3 Nxd3 39.Rag1 Qe8 0-1 Sivuk,V (2566)-Chakkravarthy,D (2478) 8th International Grand Master 2016 (8)]

11.Qd2 The position is equal. **11...a6 12.Bb2 b5 13.Kh1 Qe8 14.Nd1 Bd8 15.Ba3 c5**

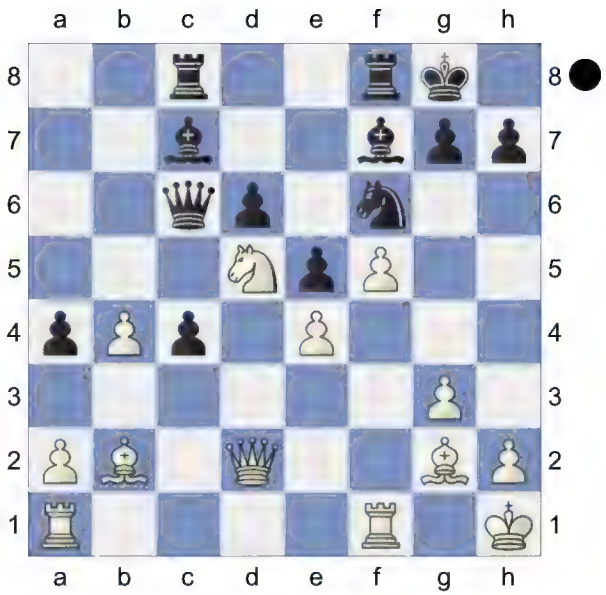
(Diagram)



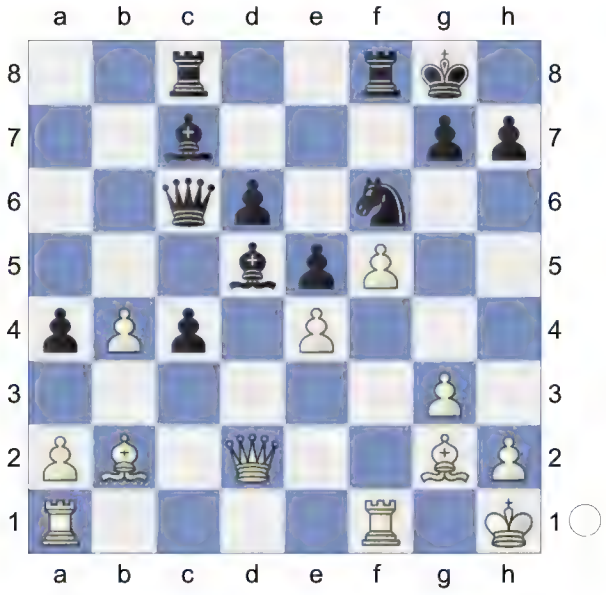
16.Bb2 -0.65/16
[16.Nf2= 0.14/18]
16...Bc7 0.41/18
[Black should try 16...e4∓ -0.65/16]
17.cxb5 -0.35/18
[Better is 17.Nec3± 0.41/18]
17...axb5∓ 18.e4 fxe4 19.dxe4 c4 20.f5 Bf7



21.b4 Nb6 22.Nec3 Qc6
Black continues to play with concentration. **23.Ne3** -1.01/21
[23.Rc1∓ -0.62/18]
23...Na4∓ 24.Nxa4 bxa4 25.Nd5

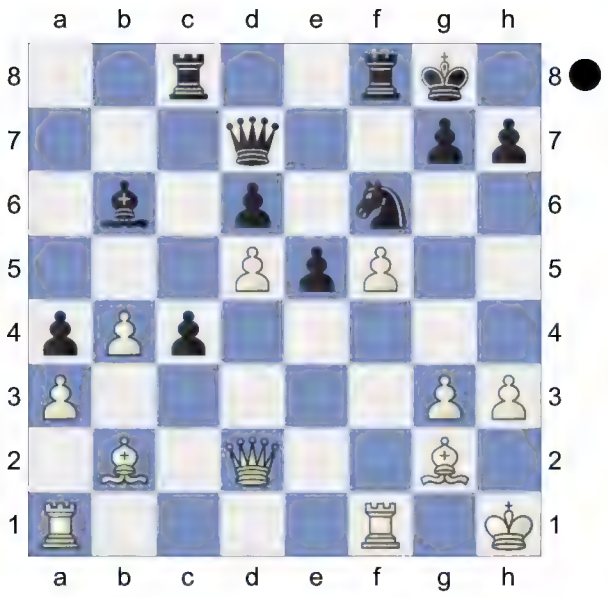


Bxd5

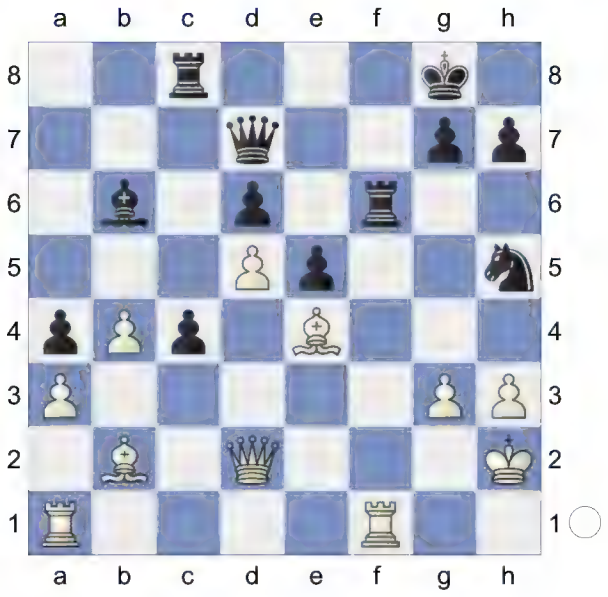


26.exd5 Qd7 27.a3 Bb6 28.h3 -1.83/19
[28.Bc3∓ -1.15/21]

(Diagram)

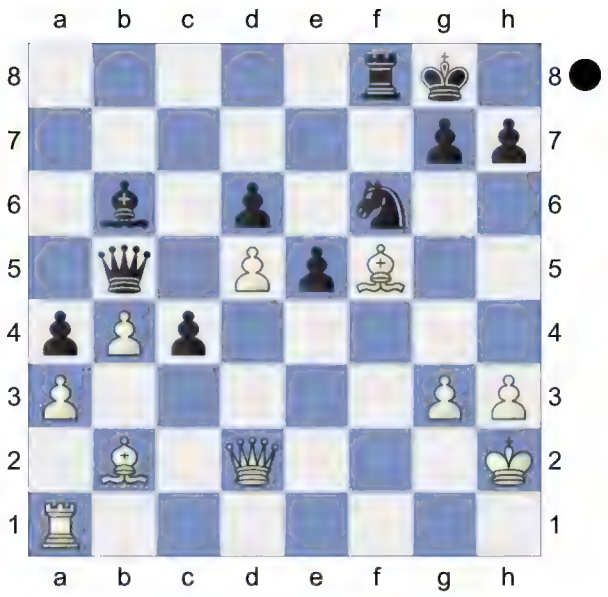


Repels Ng4 **28...Nh5!-+** **29.Kh2** **Rxf5**
Black is more active. **30.Be4** **Rf6**

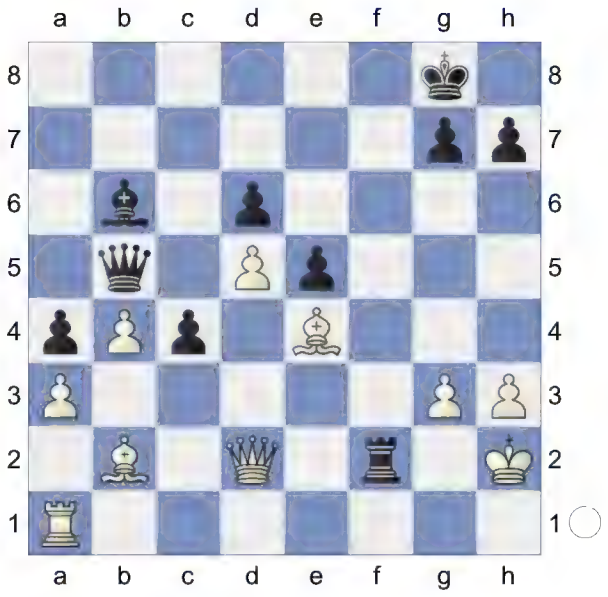


31.Qg5 -2.99/22
[31.Qe2 -1.82/18 was necessary. c3 32.Qxh5]
31...Rcf8 **32.Rxf6** **Nxf6** **33.Bf5** -3.51/19
[⌓33.Bg2 -2.17/20]
33...Qb5 And now ...c3! would win.
34.Qd2 -5.72/21
[⌓34.Bc3 -3.59/17 Qxd5 35.Rf1]

(Diagram)



34...Ne4! Black is clearly winning.
35.Bxe4 **Rf2+**



36.Qxf2 **Bxf2** **37.Rf1**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/ Black=0.11 (very precise)
37...Bd4

(Diagram)

0-1

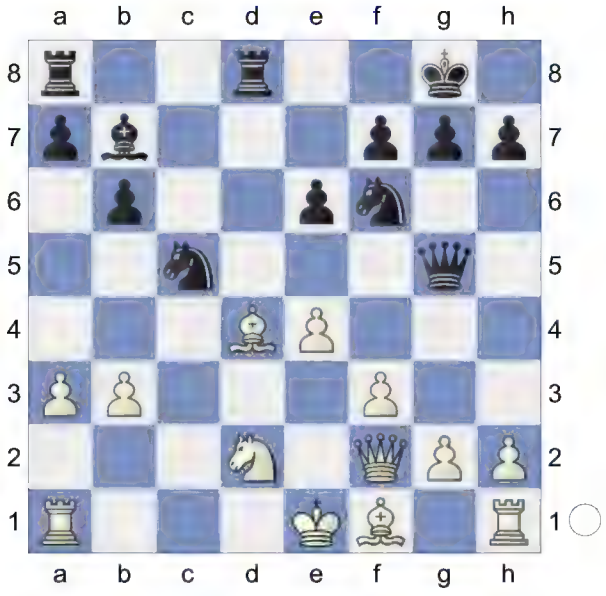
25 **E11**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2794**
■ **Petursson,Mar** **2405**
39th ECC Open 2024 (1.1) 20.10.2024
[TA]

E11: Bogo-Indian
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 b6 5.a3 Bxd2+

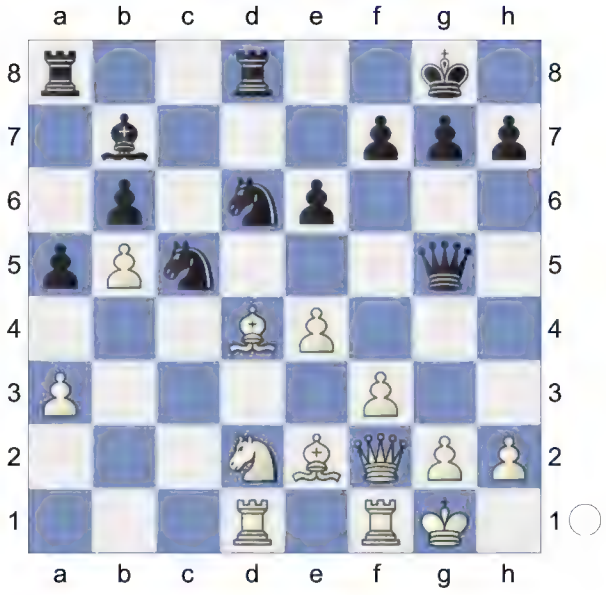
6.Nxd2
[6.Kxd2 0-0=]
6...Bb7 Inhibits e4. **7.e3!** is now more promising than 7.Qc2.im Vergleich zu 7. Dc2 vielversprechender. **7...0-0 8.b3N** An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante.
[8.Bd3 Bxg2 *(8...d5 9.0-0 c5 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.b3 d4 12.Re1 dxe3 13.Rxe3 Qd4 14.Ra2 Ng4 15.Ne4 f5 16.Qe2 fxe4 17.Bxe4 Nxe3 18.Bxb7 Ng4 19.Rd2 Qa1 20.Rd1 Nxf2 21.Re1 Qf6 22.Bxa8 Nd3 23.Bg5* Chapter 9-4...b6 Bogo Indian for White [GM Alexey Dreev]*)* 9.Rg1 Bb7 10.e4 d6 11.Nf3 Bxe4 12.Bxe4 Nxe4 13.Bh6 g6 14.Qe2 d5 15.Bxf8 Qxf8 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Ne5 Qe7 18.0-0-0 Nd7 19.Qb5 Nxe5 20.Qxd5 Nd3+ 21.Rxd3 Rd8 22.Qb3 Qd6 Sahl,B (2380)-Pedersen, N (2465) Chapter 5 2007 [Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s)] 1-0 (47)]
[8.b4 d6 9.Bb2 Nbd7 10.Bd3 e5 11.d5 c6 12.dxc6 Bxc6 13.0-0 Qe7 14.e4 Rfe8 15.Qe2 Nf8 16.f3 Ne6 17.Qe3 Nf4 18.Rfd1 Rab8 19.Bf1 b5 20.Rac1 Red8 21.c5 h6 22.cxd6 Rxd6 Atakhan,A (2414)-Pranav,V (2615) Chess.com INT 2025 0-1 (68)]
8...d5N White is slightly better.
[8...c5 9.dxc5 bxc5 10.Bb2 d6 11.Bd3 Nbd7 12.0-0 a5 13.Qc2 Qb6 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 1-0 Van Foreest,J (2665)-Naiditsch,A (2661) FRA-chT Top 16 Haute 2024 (1.19)]
9.cxd5 Qxd5 10.Bb2 Nbd7

(Diagram)

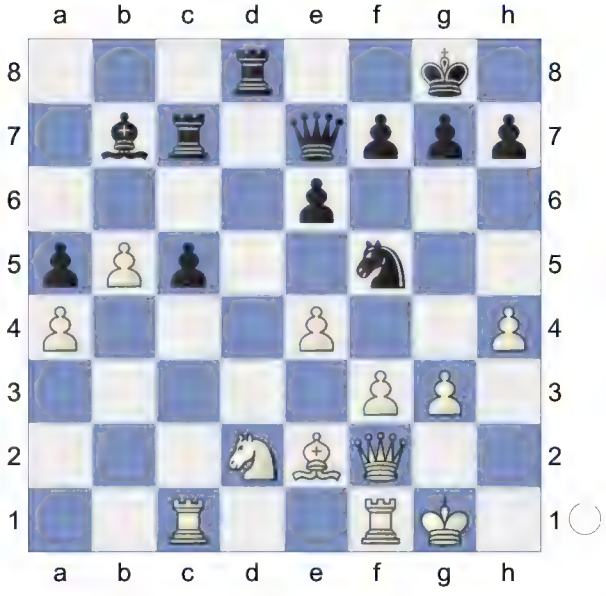
11.f3 c5 12.e4 Qg5 13.Qe2 cxd4 0.48/20
[13...Rfd8= 0.00/24 should be considered.]
14.Bxd4± Nc5 15.Qf2 -0.09/24
[15.Qe3± 0.64/23 Qxe3+ 16.Bxe3]
15...Rfd8=



Hoping for ...Ncxe4! **16.Rd1 Ne8** 0.47/23
[16...Rac8= -0.22/21]
17.b4± Nd7 18.Be2 a5 1.60/23
[18...Nf8± 0.45/24]
19.b5± Nc5 2.09/22
[19...Nd6± 1.60/19 was called for. 20.0-0 Rab8]
20.0-0 Strongly threatening Nc4.
20...Nd6

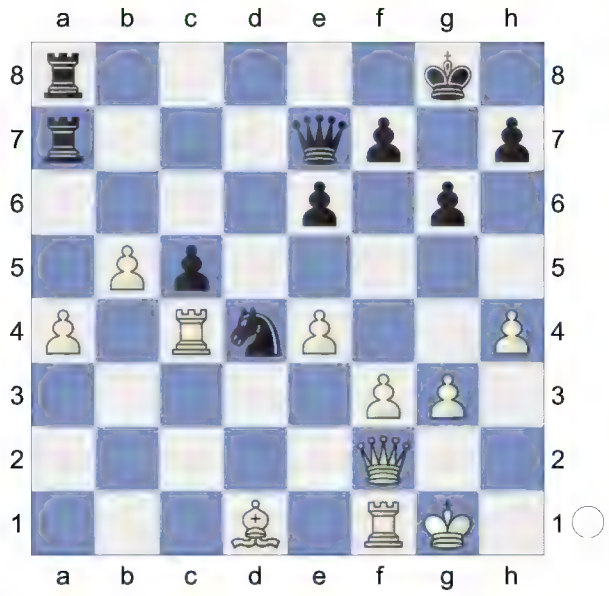


21.h4 Qe7 22.g3 0.71/22
[22.Qg3 Nf5! 23.exf5 Rxd4=]
[22.Bxc5+- 1.62/22 bxc5 23.a4 *(23.Qxc5 Rac8±)*]
22...Rac8 23.Rc1 Rc7 1.18/22
[23...h6± 0.53/23]
24.Bxc5 bxc5 25.a4 Nf5

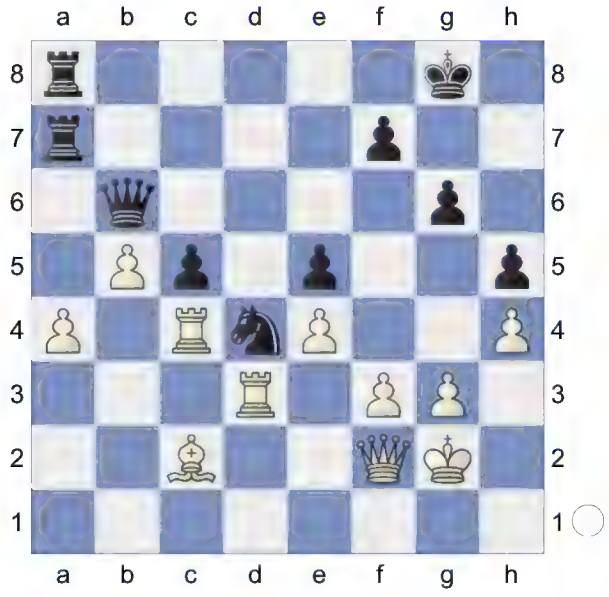


26.Nc4 Nd4 27.Nxa5 Ra8 28.Nxb7 Rxb7 29.Rc4 Rba7 30.Bd1 g6 1.45/22

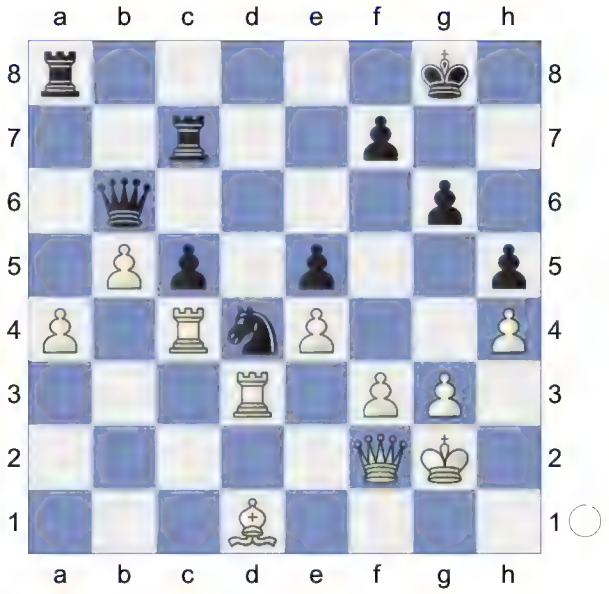
[Black should play 30...e5 1.08/20]



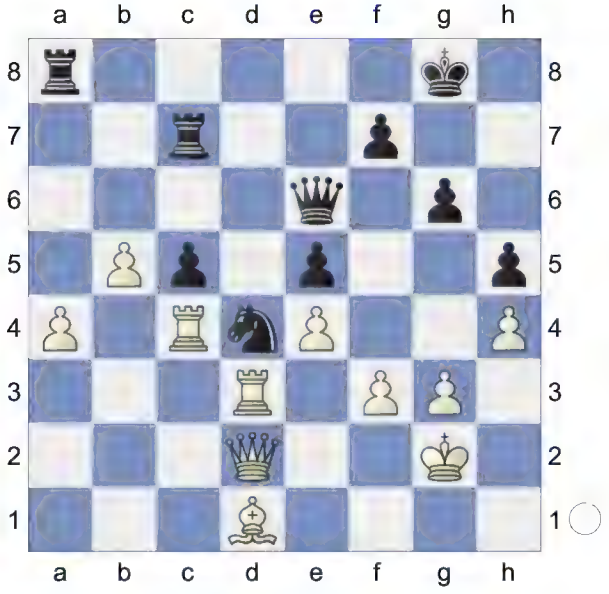
31.Bc2 0.70/18
[31.f4± 1.45/22]
31...Qd6 1.15/21
[31...e5± 0.70/18]
32.Kg2 h5 33.Rd1 0.96/21
[⌓33.f4 1.36/21]
33...Qb6 1.48/22
[⌓33...Rd7 0.96/21 34.Rd3 e5]
34.Rd3 0.90/21
[⌓34.e5 1.48/22]
34...e5



35.Bd1 0.54/21
[35.Qd2!± 1.09/23]
35...Rc7 0.96/18
[35...Rd8± 0.54/21]



36.Qd2 0.50/19
[White should try 36.Rd2± 0.96/18]
36...Qe6 1.27/21
[36...Rd7± 0.50/19]



37.Qc1! Qb6 1.58/17
[⌓37...Kh7 1.22/18 38.Rxc5 Rxc5 39.Qxc5 Qa2+ 40.Kg1 Qb1 41.Rxd4

exd4]

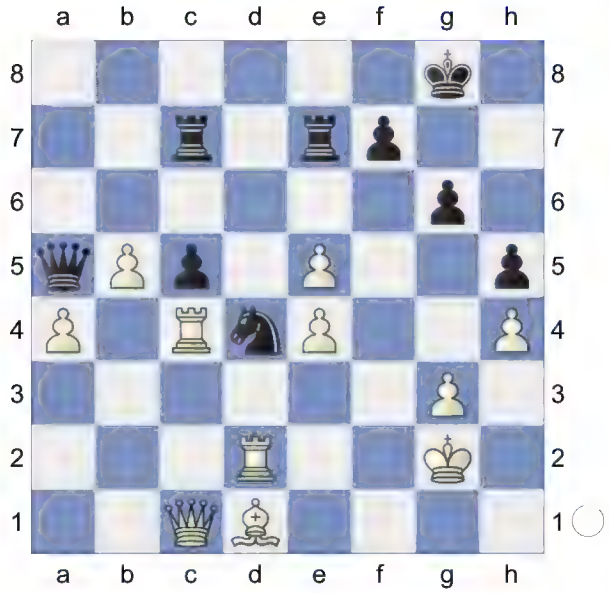
38.Rd2 1.06/23

[⌓38.f4 1.58/17]

38...Qa5 39.f4 Re8 2.47/19

[39...Rd7 1.63/20 is a better defense.]

40.fxe5+- Ree7



41.Rd3 1.55/20

[41.Qc3+- 3.23/22 and White stays clearly on top. Qb6 42.Qc1]

41...Rcd7? 4.74/19 This move loses the game for Black.

[41...Qe1? 42.Qc3 *(42.Rxc5 Rxc5 43.Qxc5 Qxe4+ 44.Rf3 Rxe5∓; 42.Rdxd4 cxd4 43.Rxc7 Rxc7=)* 42...Qxe4+ 43.Bf3 Qxe5 44.b6 Nxf3 45.Rxf3+- *(45.Rd8+ Kg7±)*]

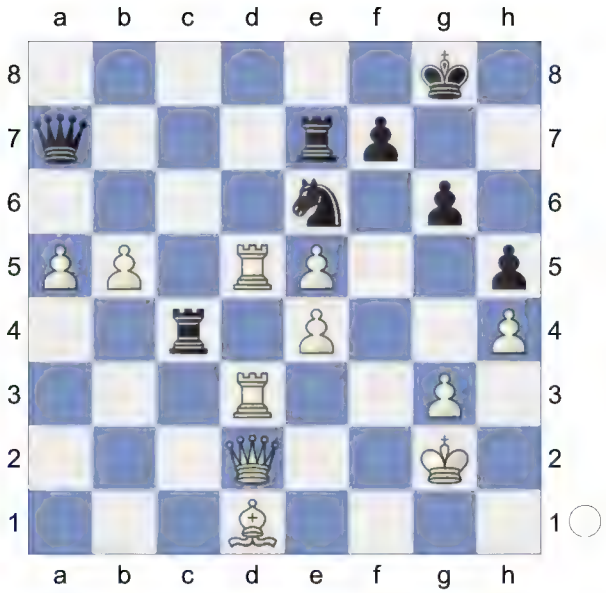
[41...Qb6± 1.55/20 is more resistant. 42.Kh2 Red7]

42.Rxc5 White is clearly winning.

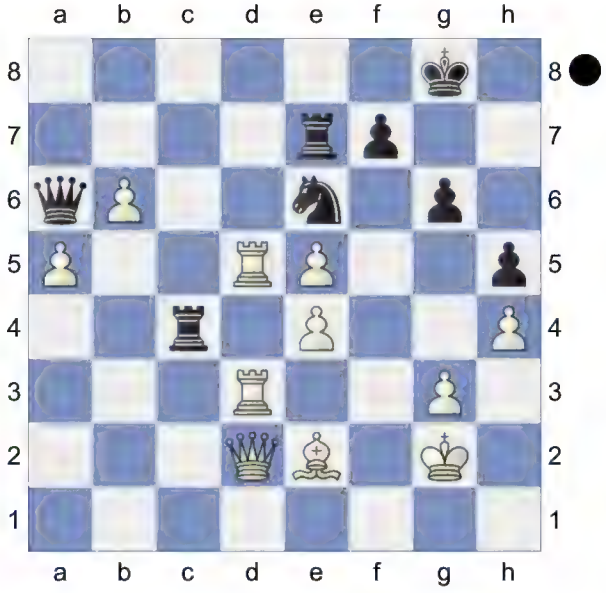
42...Ne6 43.Rcd5 Rc7 Prevents Qc8+.

44.Qd2 Qa7 45.a5 Rc4

(Diagram)



46.b6 Qa6 47.Be2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.40

1-0

26 **A45**
□ **Fedoseev,Vl3** **2692**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
45th Olympiad 2024 (11.1) 22.09.2024
[TA]

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4

1.d4 Nf6
[1...d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 g6 *(3...Nbd7 4.f4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 b6 7.Nbd2 Bb7 8.c3 0-0 9.Ne5 Ne4 10.a4 a6 11.Qb3 Nd6 12.a5 b5 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Qc2 e6 15.Nb3 Bc6 16.Nc5 Qc8 17.Be2 Rd8 18.b3* Can,E (2483)-Erdogan,H (2234) Kemer-Antalya TUR 2011 [Jones, Gawain] 1-0 (36)*)* 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c3 b6 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.Bd2 Qc8 10.Be1 Ba6 11.Bh4 Qb7 12.Ne5 Bxd3 13.Nxd3 Ne4 14.f5 Nc6 15.Nd2 c4 16.Nf4 Abdulla,A (2359)-Rausis,I (2525) Calcutta 2001 CBM 82 [Ernst] 0-1]

2.Bf4 d5N
[2...c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.a4 Na6 8.Be2 Nc7 9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nd7 12.Qd2 a6 13.Be2 Rb8 14.a5 b5 15.axb6 Rxb6 16.Nd1 Benoni Benko Defense-3...d6 with 4...g6 #2]

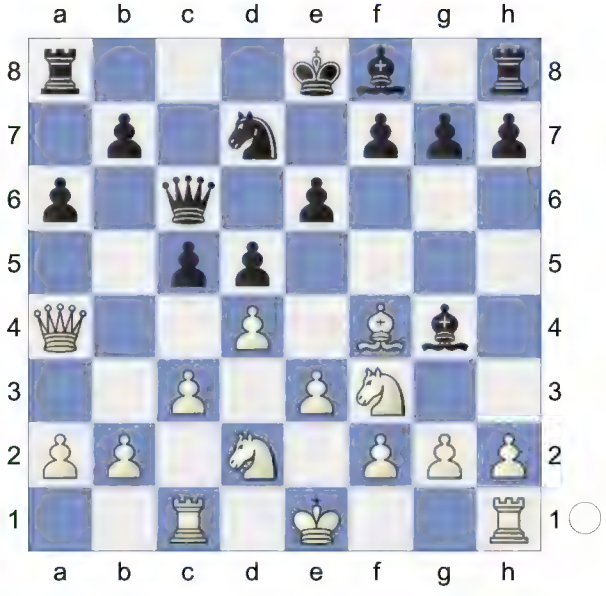
3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 Bg4

(Diagram)

6.c3 e6 7.Qa4 Nd7 8.Bb5 Qc8 0.58/3
[8...Qb6= 0.24/6
is more appropriate.]

9.Rc1 -0.06/5
[9.Ne5± 0.58/3 Ncxe5 10.dxe5 *(10.Bxe5 a6=)*]

9...a6 10.Bxc6 Qxc6

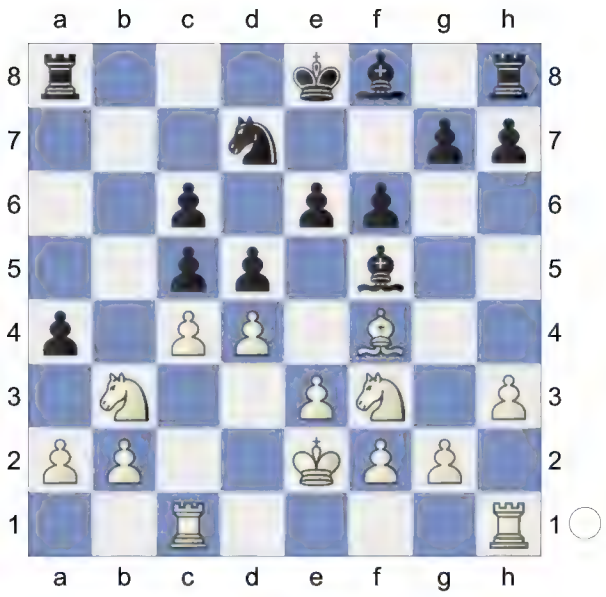


11.Qxc6 bxc6 12.c4 f6 Prevents Ne5.

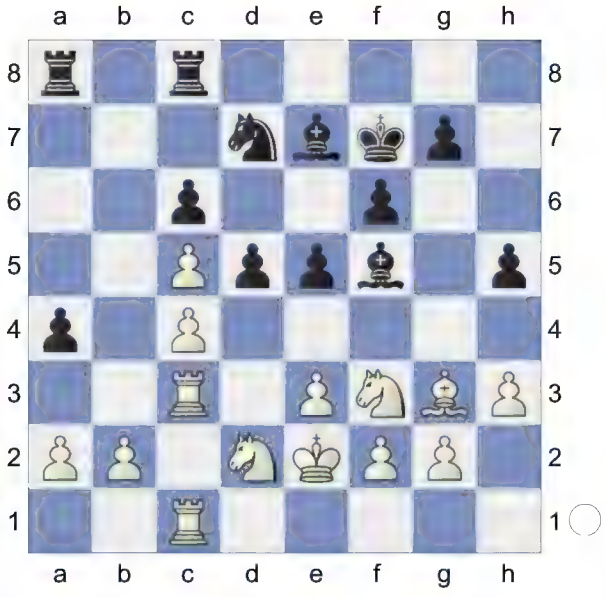
13.Nb3 -0.68/6
[Better is 13.h3= -0.11/3 Bf5 14.0-0]

13...a5 14.h3 Bf5 15.Ke2 -0.57/5
[15.cxd5= -0.16/6 cxd5 16.Nxc5]

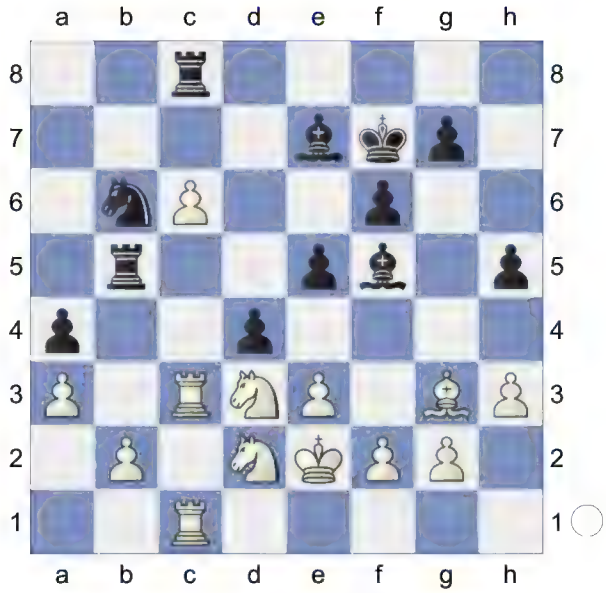
15...a4∓



16.Nbd2 -1.12/4
[⌓16.Nxc5 -0.73/6 Nxc5 17.dxc5]
16...h5 17.Bg3 -1.32/6
[White should play 17.Rc3 -1.01/6]
17...Be7 18.Rc3 Kf7 19.Rhc1 Rhc8 20.dxc5 e5!
[But not 20...Bxc5 21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Bd6!±]

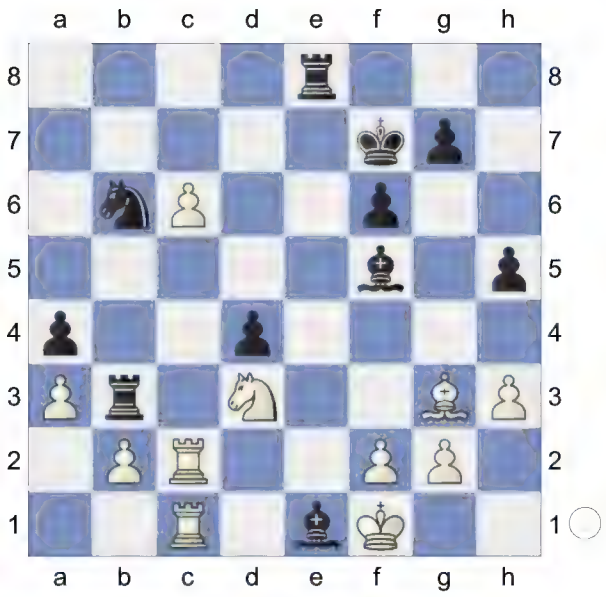


21.cxd5 cxd5 22.c6 -0.75/6
[White should try 22.Nh4 -1.19/6 Be6 23.c6]
22...Nb6∓ Black has strong compensation. **23.a3** Prevents Bb4.
23...Ra5 24.Ne1 -1.90/4
[24.Bxe5∓ -1.26/6 fxe5 25.Nxe5+ Kg8 26.g4 hxg4 27.hxg4]
24...Rb5-+ 25.Nd3? -3.46/5 Loses the game.
[25.b4∓ -1.12/6]
25...d4!

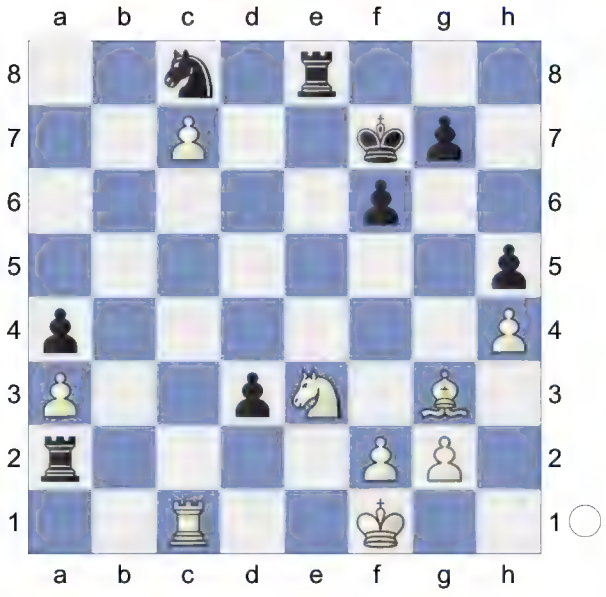


26.exd4 exd4 27.R3c2 Re8 28.Nf3 Rb3 29.Nfe1 -4.50/6
[29.Rd2 -2.71/4 Bd6+ 30.Kd1 Bxg3 31.fxg3 Rxd3 32.Rxd3 Bxd3 33.Kd2]
29...Bb4+ A strong pair of Bishops.
30.Kf1 -4.10/4
[⌓30.Kd1 -2.82/5 Bxd3 31.axb4 Bxc2+ 32.Rxc2]
30...Bxe1

(Diagram)

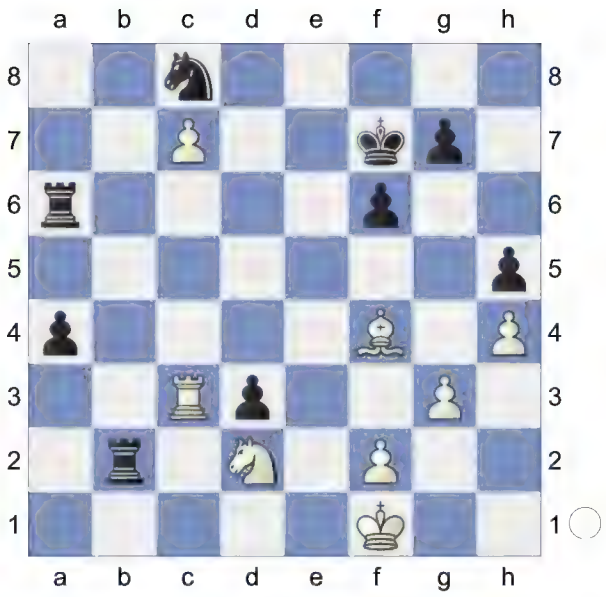


31.Nxe1 Bxc2 32.Nxc2 d3
[Weaker is 32...Rxb2 33.Nxd4 Nc8 34.c7∓]
33.Ne3 Rxb2 34.c7 -4.63/6
[⌓34.Bf4 -3.13/6]
34...Nc8 35.h4 Ra2

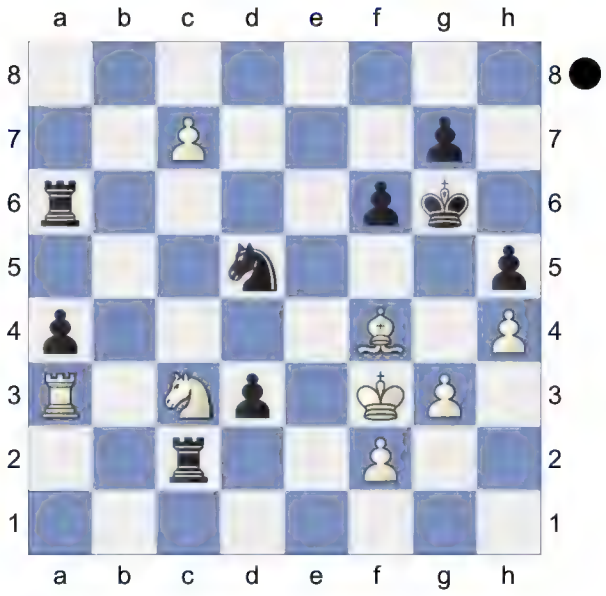


36.Bf4 Rxa3 37.g3 Rb3 38.Nc4 Re6 39.Nd2 Rb2 White must now prevent ... a3. **40.Rc3 Ra6**

(Diagram)

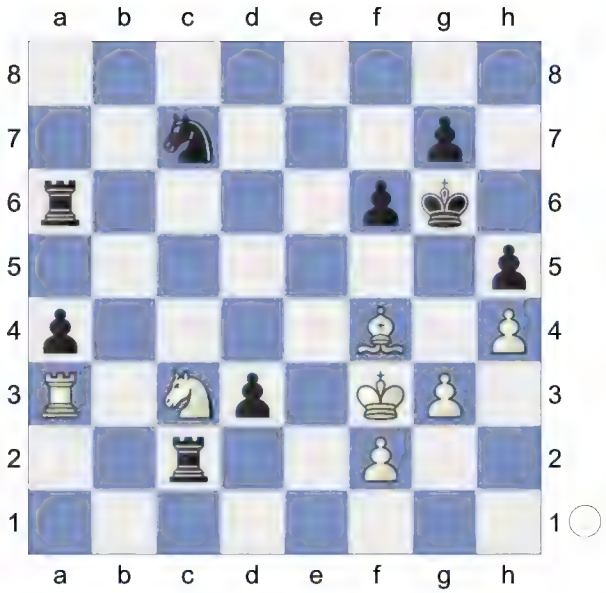


...a3 is the strong threat. **41.Ra3 Rc2** And now ...Ne7 would win. **42.Ne4 Kg6**
43.Kg2? -5.99/6
[43.Nd2 -3.35/4]
43...Ne7 44.Kf3 Nd5 Black is clearly winning. **45.Nc3** -6.27/5
[⌓45.Rxd3 -4.29/4 Nxf4 46.Kxf4]



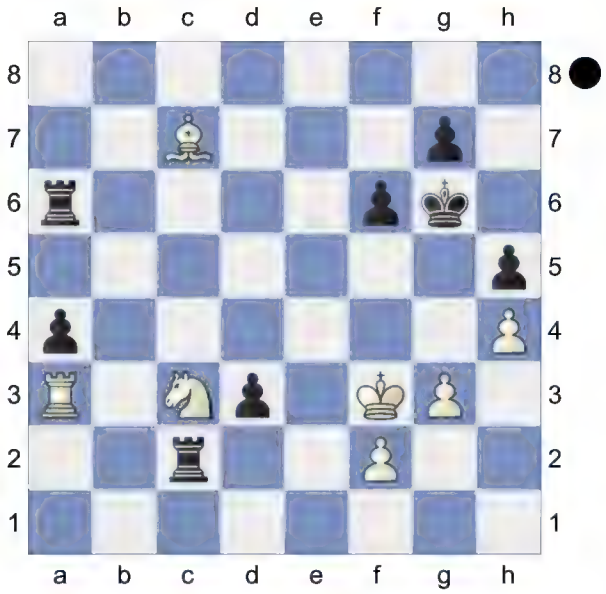
45...Nxc7!

(Diagram)



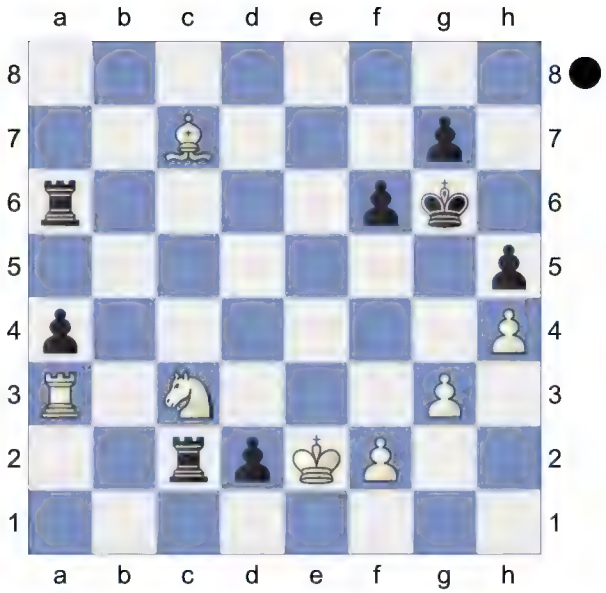
46.Bxc7

[46.Nb1 Nb5]

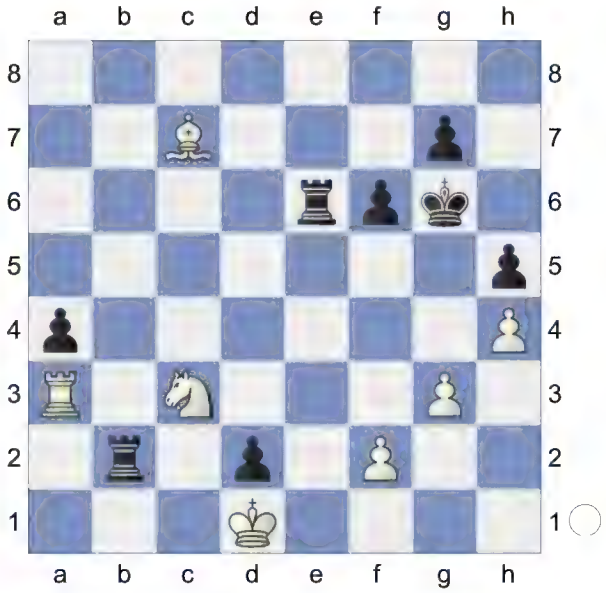


46...d2! aiming for ...Rxc3+! **47.Ke2**

(Diagram)



Re6+! 48.Kd1 Rb2

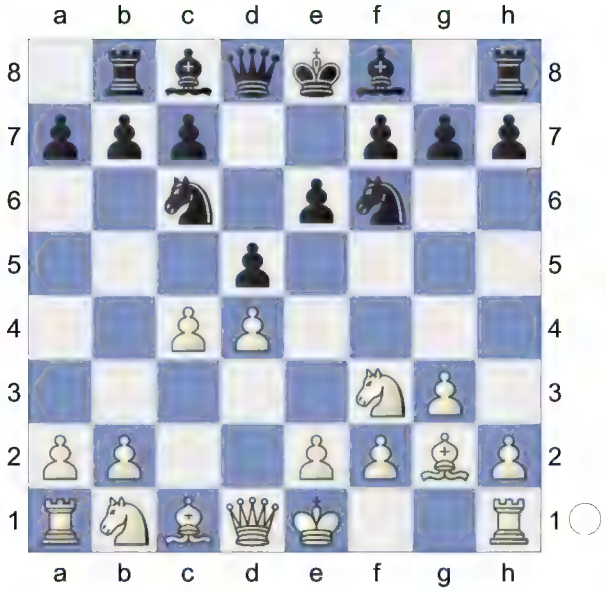


Weighted Error Value: White=0.58/ Black=0.01 (flawless)

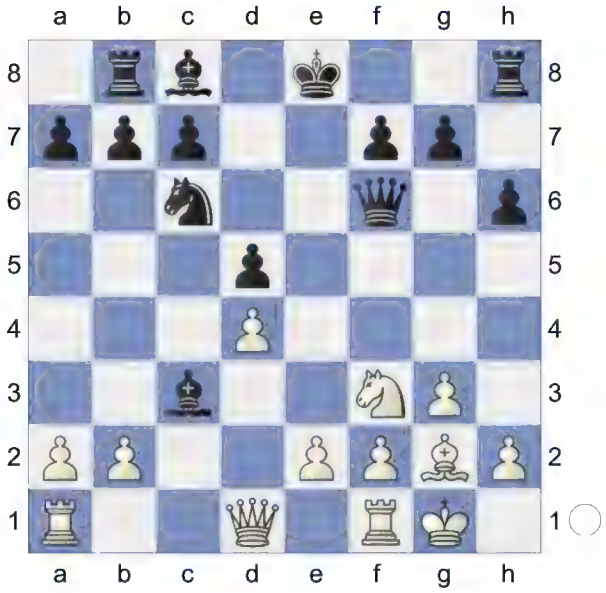
0-1

27 **E01**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2798**
45th Olympiad 2024 (10.1) 21.09.2024
[TA]

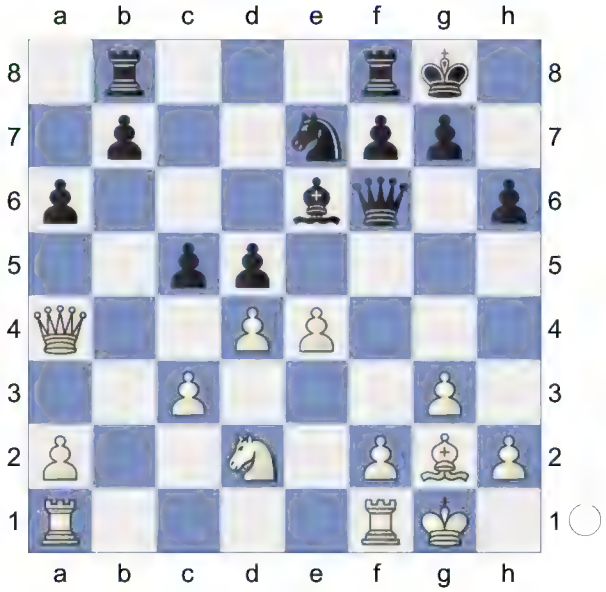
E01: Catalan: Early deviations
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.Nf3 Rb8
[5...Bd6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nbd2 a5 8.Qc2 Nb4 9.Qc3 c5 10.cxd5 cxd4 11.Nxd4 Nfxd5 12.Qb3 Bc5 13.a3 Bxd4 14.axb4 Nxb4 15.Nc4 e5 16.Bd2 Bc5 17.Bxb4 Bxb4 18.Nxe5 Be6 19.Qf3 Qd4 20.Nd3 Mchedlishvili,M (2595)-Yakubboev,N (2630) Sharjah 2022 Opening Encyclopaedia 25 [Santiago,Yago] ½-½]



6.cxd5N
[6.0-0 dxc4 7.e3 b5 8.b3 cxb3 9.axb3 a6 10.Qe2 Bb7 11.Bd2 Be7 12.Rc1 Qd7 13.Ne1 e5 14.Nd3 e4 15.Nc5 Bxc5 16.Rxc5 0-0 17.Nc3 Rfe8 18.g4 Nxg4 19.Rd5 Qc8 20.Bxe4 Nf6 Ribstein,O (2265)-Galperin,P (2495) Rishon Le Ziyyon 2025 0-1 (31)]
6...Bb4+ 7.Nc3 exd5 8.Bg5
White is slightly better. **8...h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.0-0 Bxc3**

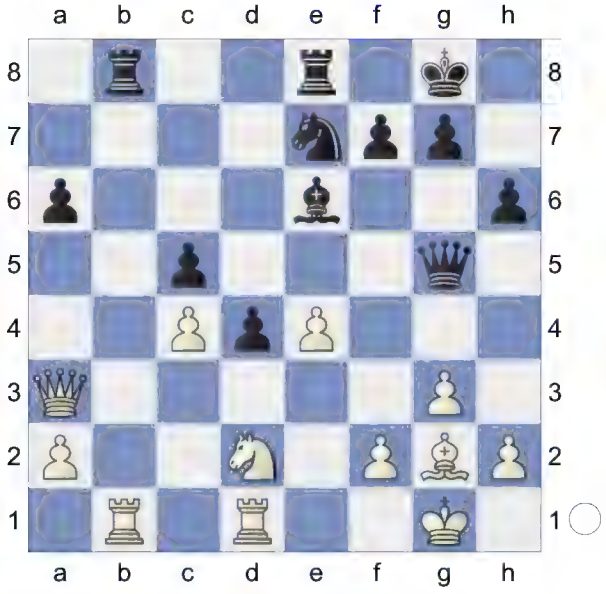


11.bxc3 0-0 12.Nd2 Ne7 13.e3 Be6 14.Qa4 a6 15.e4 c5 0.82/21
[15...dxe4= 0.30/21 16.Nxe4 Qg6]

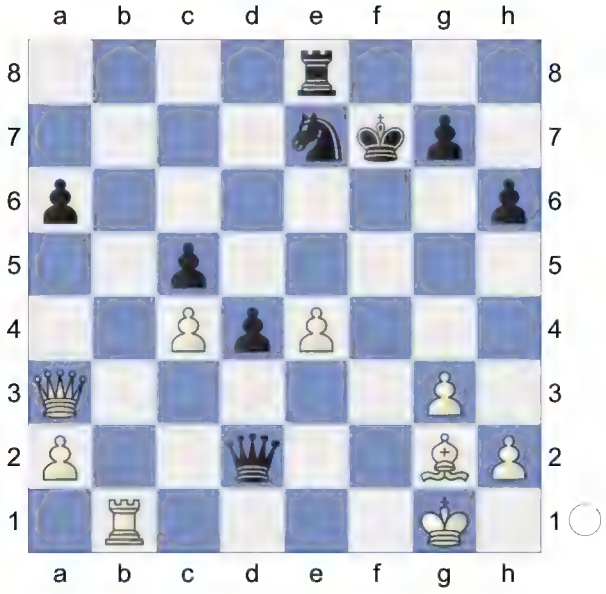


16.Qa3!± b6 17.Rab1
[17.Qxa6?! cxd4 18.cxd4 Qxd4=]
17...Rfe8 18.dxc5
[18.Qxa6 cxd4 19.e5 Qxe5=]
[18.e5!? Qg5 19.Rb2±]

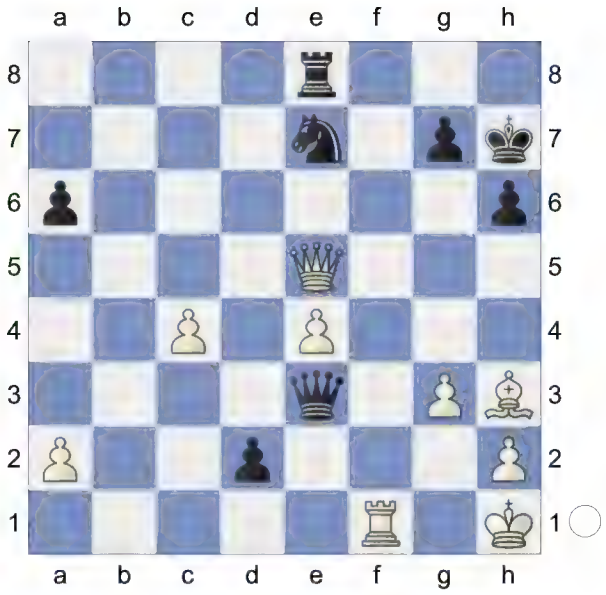
18...d4 19.c4 0.38/20
[19.Rxb6± 0.72/23 Black must now prevent c4. dxc3 20.Nf3]
19...Qg5± 20.Rfd1 bxc5 0.31/23
[20...Qxc5= 0.00/24 21.Qxa6 d3]



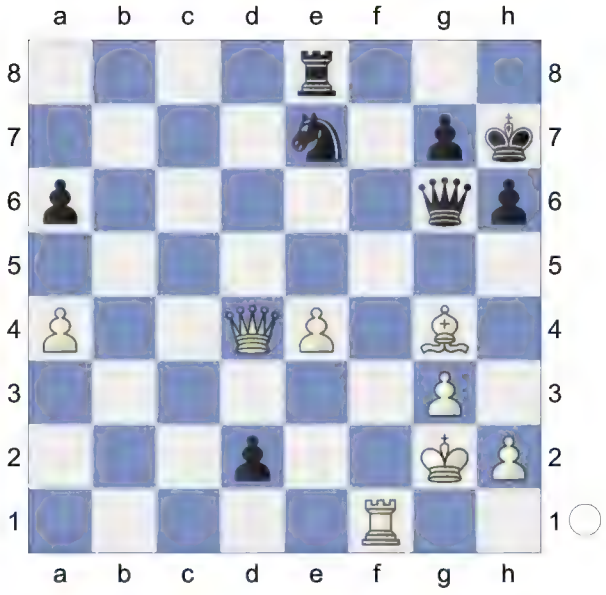
21.f4 Qh5 22.f5! Rxb1! 23.Rxb1 Qe2! 24.fxe6 Qxd2 25.exf7+ Kxf7



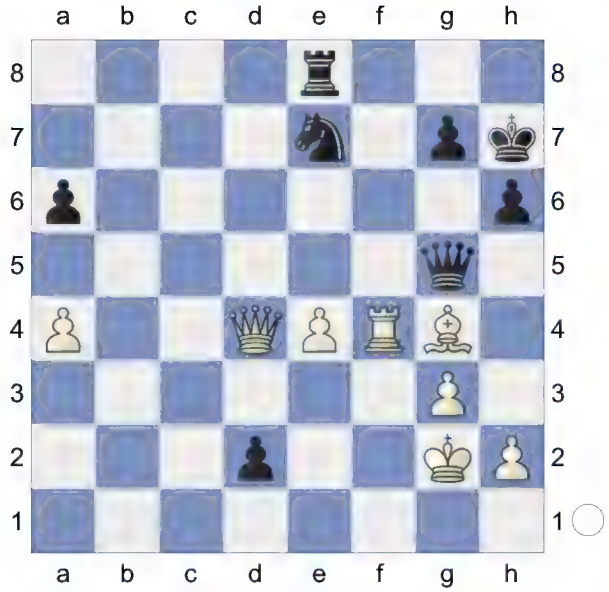
26.Qxc5 Kg8 27.Rf1 Kh7 28.Qe5 Strongly threatening Bh3. **28...Qe3+! 29.Kh1** Threatens to win with Qe6. **29...d3 30.Bh3** And now Kg2 would win. **30...d2**



31.Bg4 Qd3 32.Kg2 Rf7 is the strong threat. **32...Qxc4 33.a4→** 0.01/24 White is up to no good.
[33.a3± 0.49/19 should be considered.]
33...Qc6= 34.Qd4 Qg6 2.19/20
[34...Ng6= 0.10/21 35.Qxd2 *(35.Bf5 Qc2=)* 35...Qxe4+ 36.Bf3 Qxa4]



Prevents Rf7. Loses the game. **35.Rf4!+- Qg5?** 3.60/21
[35...d1Q 1.90/20 36.Qxd1 *(36.Bxd1 Nc6±)* 36...Rb8]



36.h4!

[36.Qxd2 Ng6±]

36...Qg6 37.Qxd2 Rb8 38.Qd7 h5

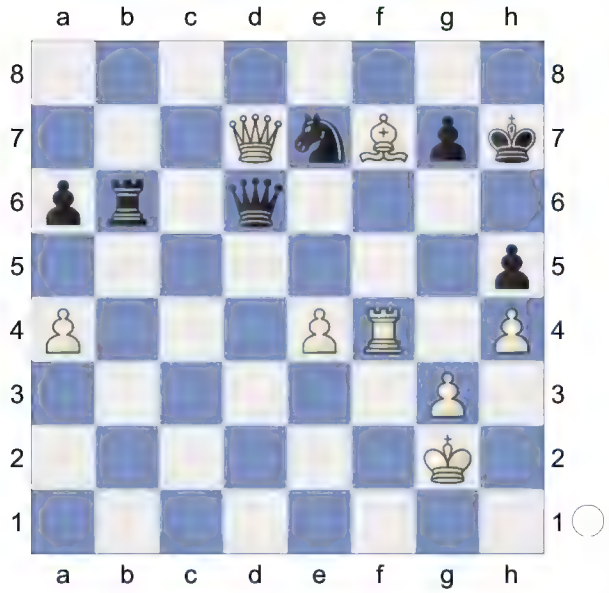
39.Be6 Hoping for Bf7.

[Weaker is 39.Qxe7 hxg4 40.Qe5 Rb1±]

39...Rb6 40.Bf7

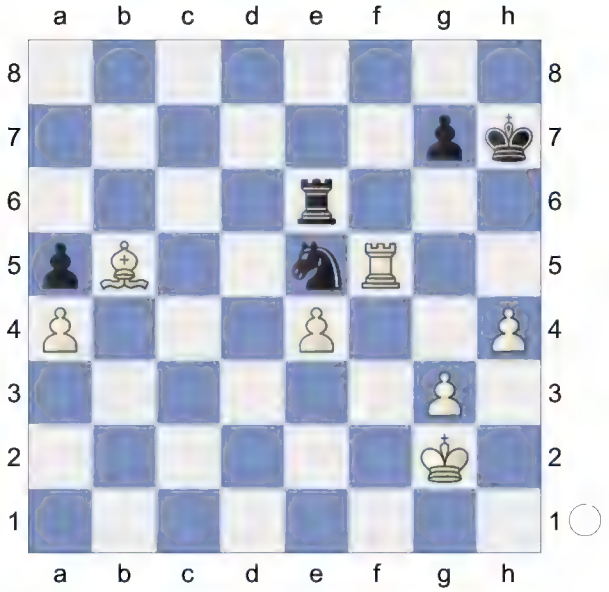
[Less strong is 40.Qxe7 Rxe6 41.Qb4 Rc6±]

40...Qd6

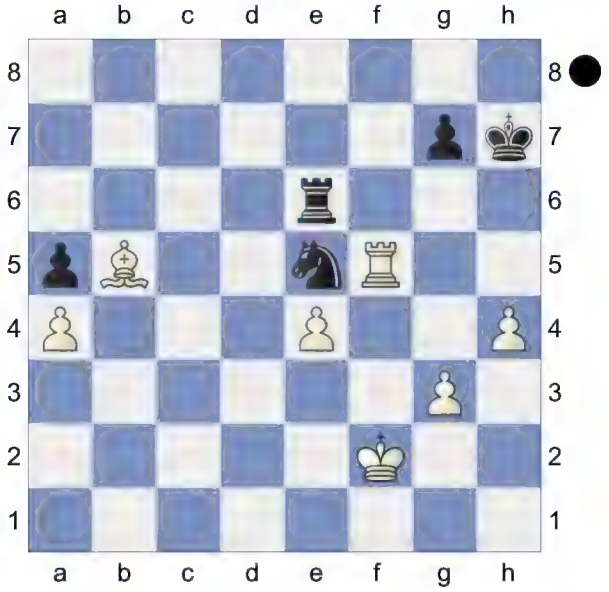


41.Qxd6 Rxd6 42.Bxh5 Nc6 43.Be2

White is clearly winning. **43...a5 44.Bb5 Ne5 45.Rf5 Re6**



46.Kf2

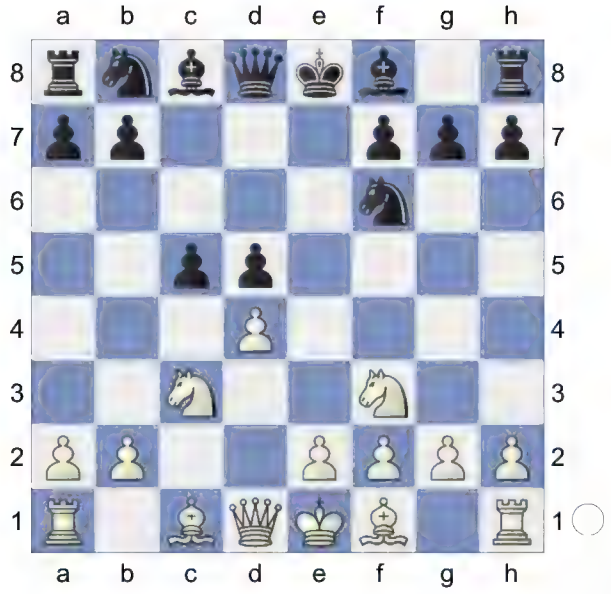


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.25 (precise)

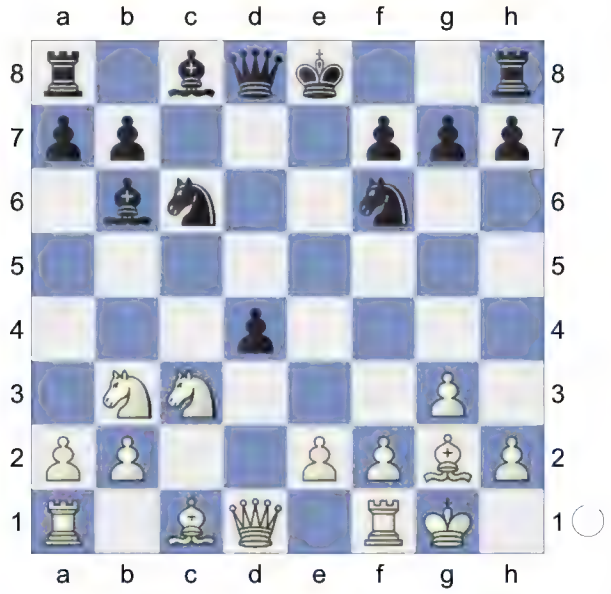
1-0

28 **D33**
□ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2723**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
45th Olympiad 2024 (8.1) 19.09.2024
[Kitty Kat]

D33: Tarrasch Defence: 6 g3 sidelines
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nf6



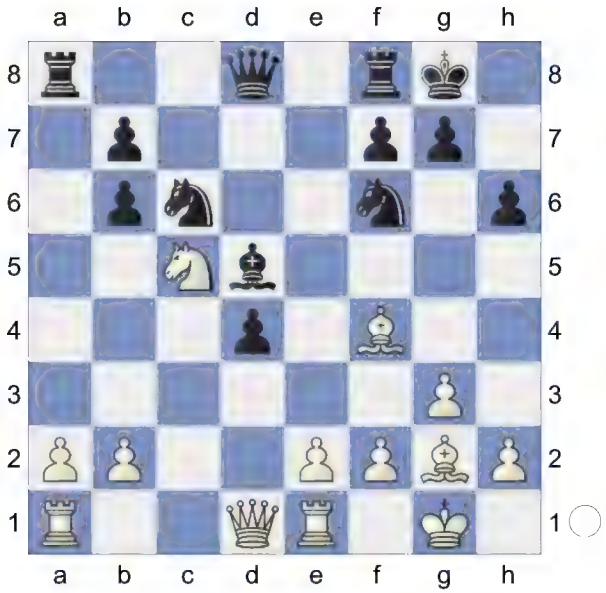
6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.Nb3 Bb6 10.0-0 d4!



11.Na4 0-0 The position is equal.

12.Re1N
[12.Nxb6 axb6 13.Bg5 Be6 14.Qd3 h6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Qxd4 Rfd8 18.Qxb6 Qxb2 19.Qe3 Bxb3 20.Qxb3 Qxe2 ½-½ Mezentsev,I (2370)-Akhilbay,I (2140) Almaty Academy IM 12 2022 (8)]
[12.Bg5 h6 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Rc1 Re8 15.h3 Bf5 16.Nbc5 Bxc5 17.Nxc5 b6 18.Nd3 Be4 19.Bxe4 Rxe4 20.Qc2 Re6 21.Nf4 Rd6 22.Qe4 Rad8 23.Rfd1 g5 24.Nd3 Re6 25.Qg4 Ne5 26.Nxe5 Qxe5 ½-½ Nakamura,H (2794)-Firouzja,A (2737) Norway Chess 12th 2024 (3)]
[12.Nac5 Qe7 13.Nd3 Bg4 14.Re1 Rfe8 15.Bf1 Rad8 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Qd2 Ne5 19.Rac1 Bf5 20.Bg2 Re7 21.a4 a5 22.Nbc5 Bxc5 23.Nxc5 b6 24.Nd3 Bxd3 25.exd3 Rde8 26.Re4 Nd7 1-0 Thunder,F (2350)-Kabatianski,A (2221) Cappelle op 25th 2009 (9)]
12...h6 13.Bf4 Be6 14.Nbc5 Bd5 And now ...Bd5xg2 would win. **15.Nxb6** -0.18/21
[15.Nxb7 0.20/23 deserves consideration. Qe7 16.Nxb6 axb6 17.e4 *(17.Nd6 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Nh5∓)* 17...dxe3 18.Rxe3]
15...axb6=

(Diagram)

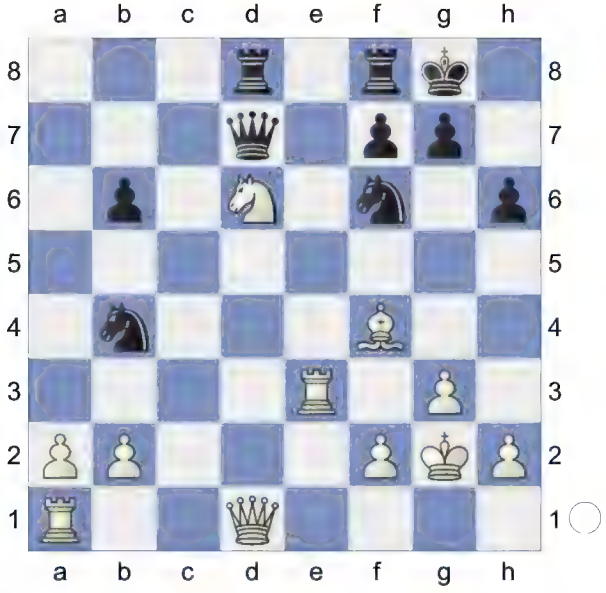


16.Nxb7 Qd7 ...Bd5xg2 is the strong threat. **17.e4! dxe3 18.Rxe3** -0.96/22

[18.Bxe3? Nb4 19.Qd2 *(19.Bxd5? Nbxd5 20.Bxb6 Nxb6-+)* 19...Qxb7-+]

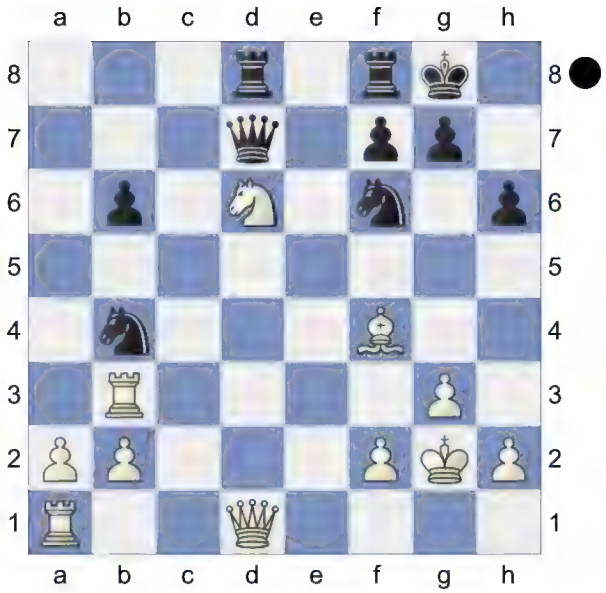
[18.fxe3= -0.22/20 keeps the balance. Ne7 19.Bxd5 Nexd5 20.e4]

18...Nb4!∓ 19.Nd6 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Rad8



Strongly threatening ...Nb4-d5. **21.Rb3**

(Diagram)



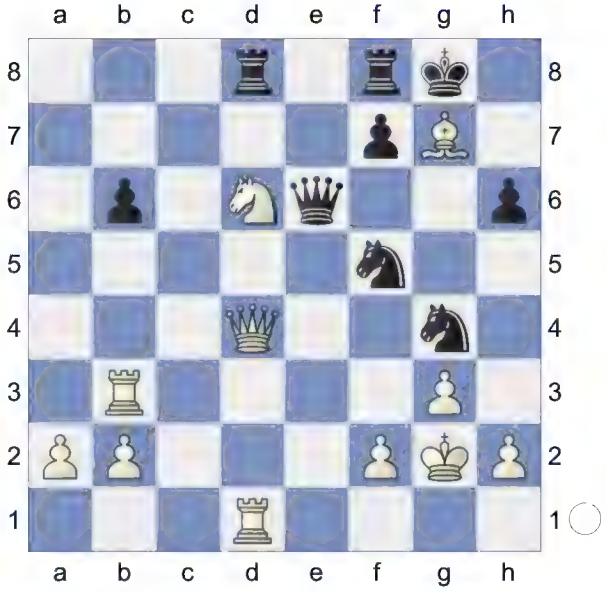
Nbd5 Black has strong compensation. **22.Be5 Qe6 23.Qd4**

[23.Bxf6? gxf6 24.Qd2 Rxd6-+ *(24...Qxd6? 25.Qxh6 Rfe8 26.Qh4-+)*]

23...Ng4 -0.15/25

[Better is 23...Rxd6∓ -0.97/19 24.Bxd6 Qxd6]

24.Rd1 Ne7 Excellent horsemanship. **25.Bxg7 Nf5!**



Deflection. Dancing on a razor blade. **26.Qf4**

[26.Qxg4? perishes. Ne3+

(26...Nxg7? 27.Qxe6 Nxe6 28.Rxb6+-) 27.Rxe3 Qxg4 28.Bxf8 Qxd1-+]

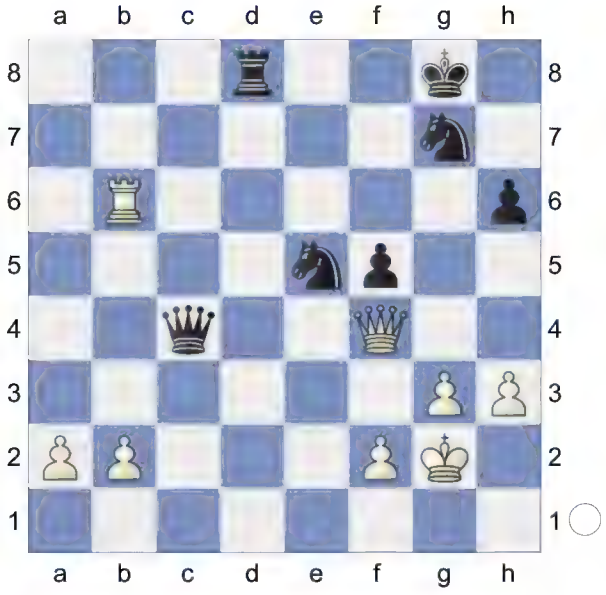
26...Nxg7 27.Rxb6 f5↑ Black fights for an advantage. **28.h3**

[28.b3 seems wilder. Qe2 29.Rd5 Ne6 30.Qd2]

28...Ne5 -0.02/22

[28...Nf6!∓ -0.54/23 29.Qxh6 Rd7]

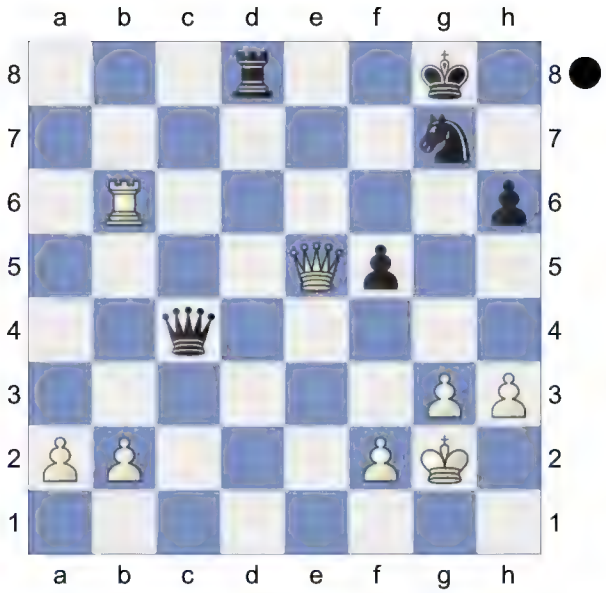
29.Nc4? -3.52/22 This move loses the game for White. **29...Qxc4-+ 30.Rxd8 Rxd8**



31.Qxe5 -5.91/24

[31.Qxc4+ -3.29/18 Nxc4 32.Rxh6]

(Diagram)



31...Rd1! 32.Rb3 Qf1+ Skewer **33.Kf3 Qh1+** -8.70/20

[⌓33...Rd2 -#13/18 34.Qe3 Qh1+ 35.Kf4 Qd5 36.g4 Ne6+ 37.Qxe6+ Qxe6 38.gxf5 Rxf2+ 39.Rf3 Qd6+ *(39...Qxa2? 40.Rxf2 Qb3 41.Rf3-+)* 40.Ke4 Qb4+ *(40...Rxb2* leads to mate. *41.Re3 Qc6+ 42.Kf4 Rf2+ 43.Ke5 Qc5+ 44.Ke4 Qc4+ 45.Ke5 Rd2 46.Rg3+ Kf7 47.Rg7+* Decoy *Kxg7 48.f6+ Kf7 49.Kf5 Rd5#)* 41.Ke5 Rxf3 42.Kd5 Rd3+ *(42...Rxf5+* is a self mate. *43.Ke6 Qe4+ 44.Kd6 Qb7 45.Ke6 Rd5 46.h4 Qf7#)* 43.Kc6 Rd6+ *(43...Rxh3 44.f6 Rh5 45.b3 Rc5+ 46.Kd6 Qd4+ 47.Ke7 Re5#)* 44.Kc7 Qb6+ 45.Kc8 Rd8#]

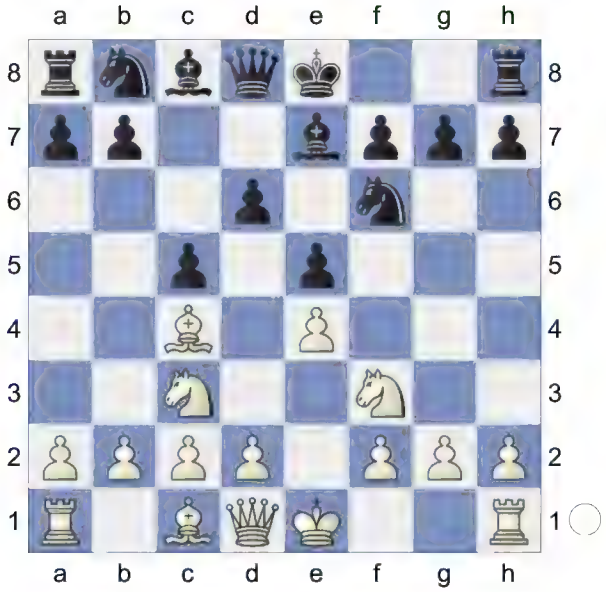
34.Kf4 Rd5

(Diagram)

Decoy.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.69/ Black=0.29 (precise)
0-1

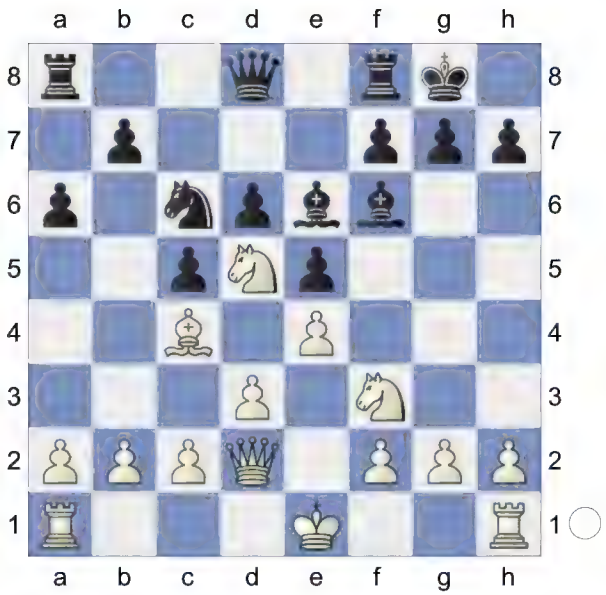
29 **B50**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2762**
45th Olympiad 2024 (7.1) 18.09.2024
[TA]

B50: Sicilian: 2...d6, Miscellaneous
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Be2N
[4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 Nc6 8.Re1 e5 9.a3 Nd4 10.h3 h6 11.Nd2 Kh7 12.b4 b6 13.Bb2 Be6 14.Nd5 Rc8 15.c3 Nc6 16.c4 Nd4 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.a4 Nxd5 Mamedov,R (2646)-Sarana,A (2668) Chess.com INT 2022 0-1 (45) 19.exd5 Bf5 20.Qb3 a5 21.c5 bxc5 22.b5 Ra8 23.Nc4 Qe7 24.Qc2 Rfb8 25.Qd2 Qd8 26.Rab1 h5 27.Red1 Bh6 28.Qe1 Bc8 29.b6 Ba6 30.Nxa5 Rxb6 31.Nc6 Qc7 32.Qe2 Re8 33.Qc2 f5 Mendez Fortes,E (2646)-Sivenkov,O (2668) Tilburg 2022 ICCF 2019 [John Watson] 0-1 (45)]
[4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qd3 g6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nd5 Nh5 10.Rd1 Bg4 11.c3 Rc8 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 e6 14.Nf4 Ne5 15.Qe3 Nxf4 16.Qxf4 Qb6 17.Qe3 Qc6 18.Qxa7 Qxe4 Sokolovsky,Y (2532)-Bronstein,O (2439) Jerusalem 2024 1-0 (64)]
4...e5 5.Bc4 Be7

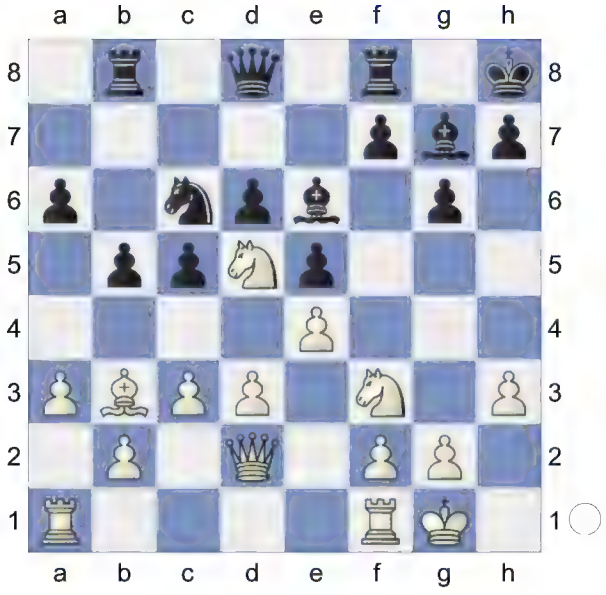


6.d3 Nc6 7.Bg5 0-0 8.Bxf6
The position is equal. **8...Bxf6 9.Nd5 Be6 10.Qd2 a6**

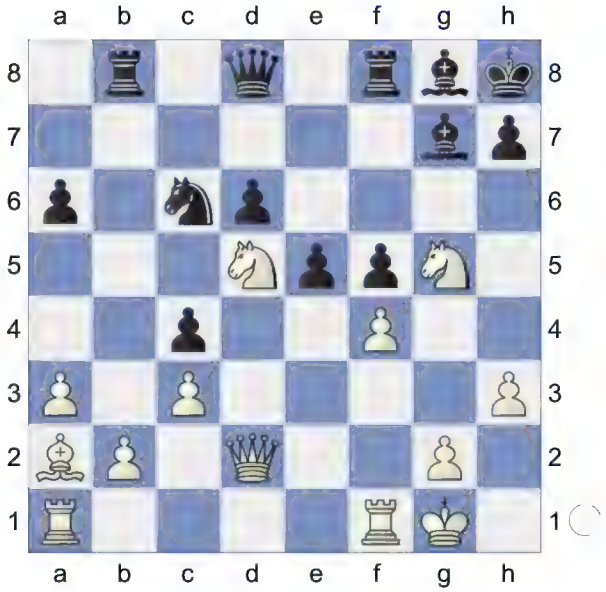
(Diagram)



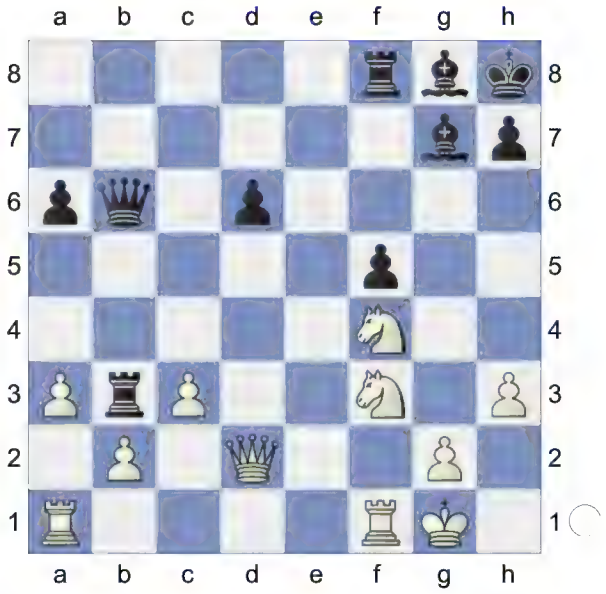
11.0-0 b5 12.Bb3 Kh8 13.a3 Rb8 14.h3 g6 15.c3 -0.19/4
[⌓15.Nxf6 0.17/5 Qxf6 16.Bxe6 Qxe6 17.b4]
15...Bg7=



16.Ba2 f5 17.Ng5 -0.47/3
[17.Nb4= -0.16/4 Bd7 18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.Ng5]
17...Bg8∓ 18.exf5 -1.22/5
[18.Rfe1∓ -0.46/6]
18...gxf5∓
[But not 18...Rxf5 19.Ne4±]
19.f4 c4 -0.49/5
[19...h6∓ -1.03/6 20.Nf3 Bxd5 21.Bxd5 Ne7]
20.dxc4∓ bxc4



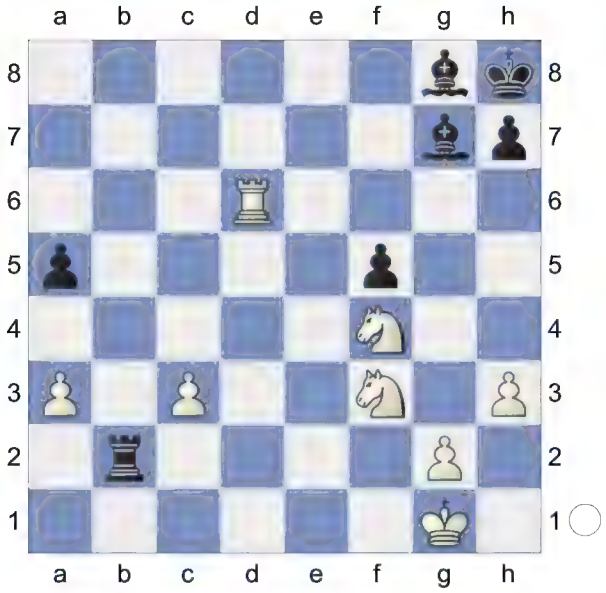
21.Bxc4 exf4 0.31/3
[21...Na5!∓ -1.00/3 22.Ba2 *(22.Bxa6? Nb3-+)* 22...Nb3 23.Bxb3 Rxb3]
22.Nf3± Na5 23.Ba2 Nb3 24.Bxb3 Rxb3 25.Nxf4 0.09/2 &Bianco is more active. Pair of Knights!
[25.Rf2± 0.99/5]
25...Qb6+=



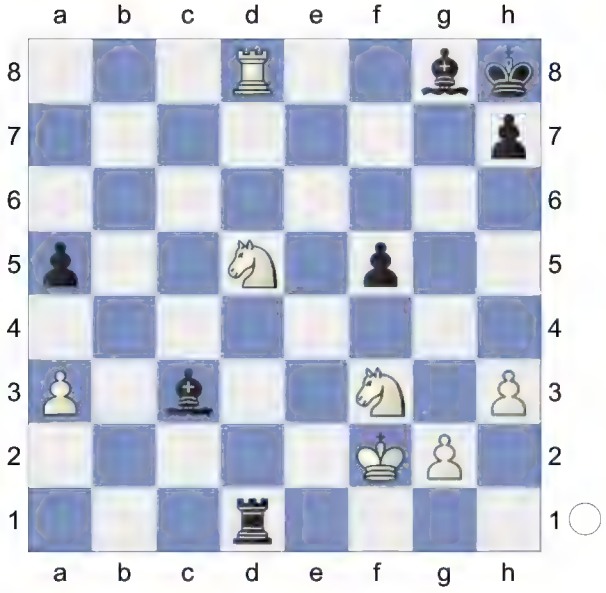
26.Rf2 aiming for Nh5. **26...Rb8 27.Rd1**

[27.Nd3 is interesting. Bc4 28.Raf1 Bxd3 29.Qxd3 Rxb2]

27...Rxb2 28.Qxb2 Qxb2 29.Rxb2 Rxb2 30.Rxd6 a5

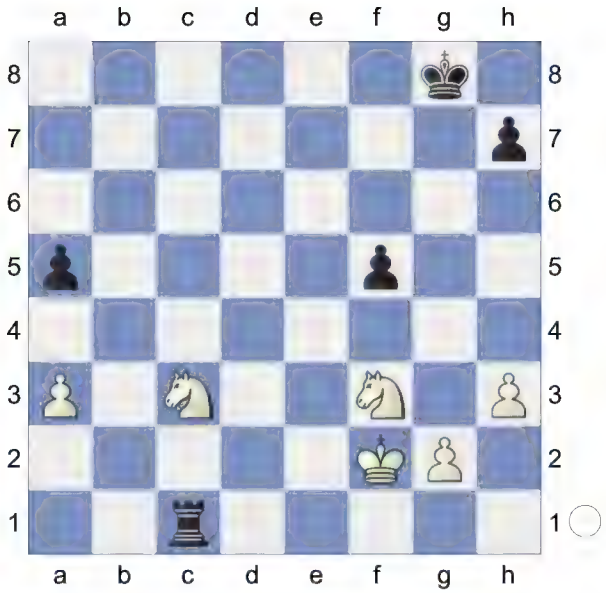


31.Rd8 Bxc3 32.Nd5 Rb1+! 33.Kf2 Rd1!

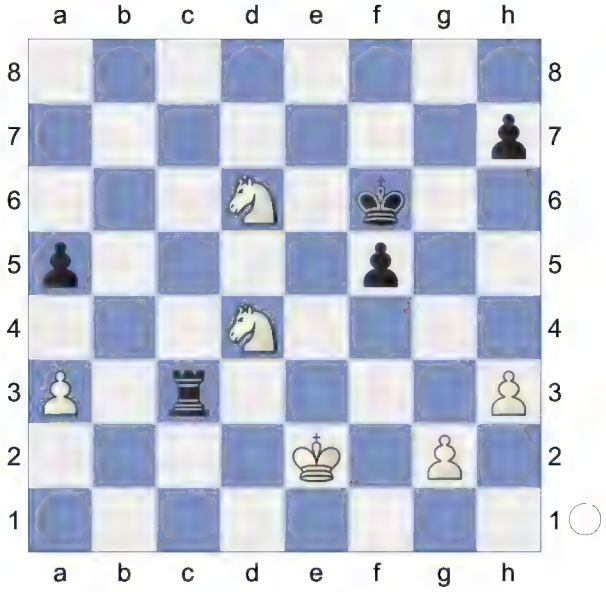


34.Rxg8+! Kxg8 35.Nxc3 Rc1

(Diagram)

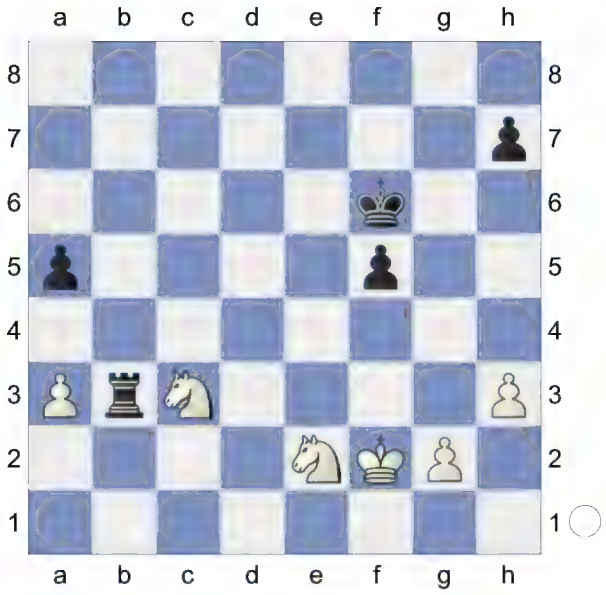


36.Nb5 Rc2+ 37.Kf1 Kf7 38.Nfd4 Rc1+ 39.Ke2 Kf6 40.Nd6 Rc3

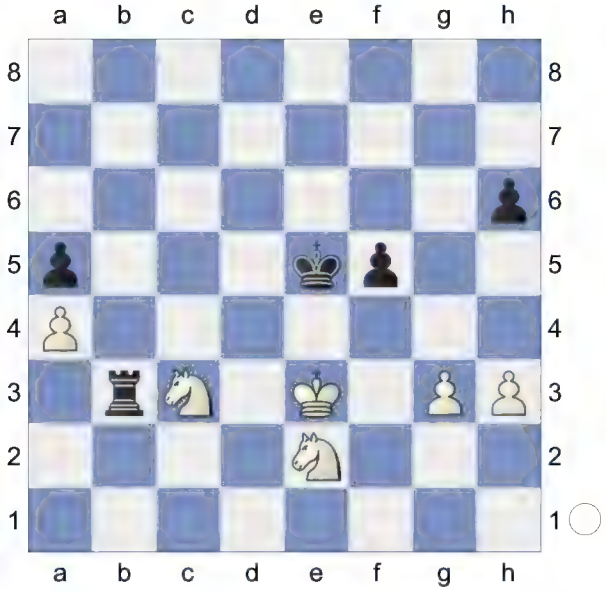


41.N6b5 Rc1 42.Ke3 Rg1 43.Kf2 Rc1 44.Ne2 Rb1 45.Nbc3 Rb3

(Diagram)

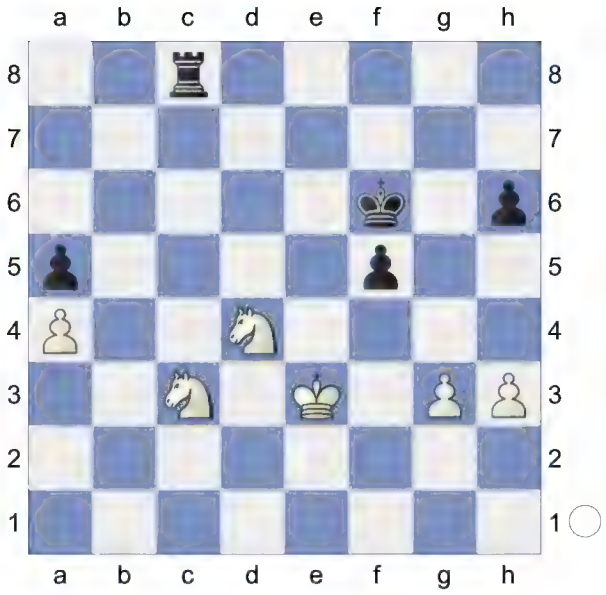


46.a4 Ke5 47.g3 Rb6 48.Ke3 Rb4 49.Kd3 h6 50.Ke3 Rb3

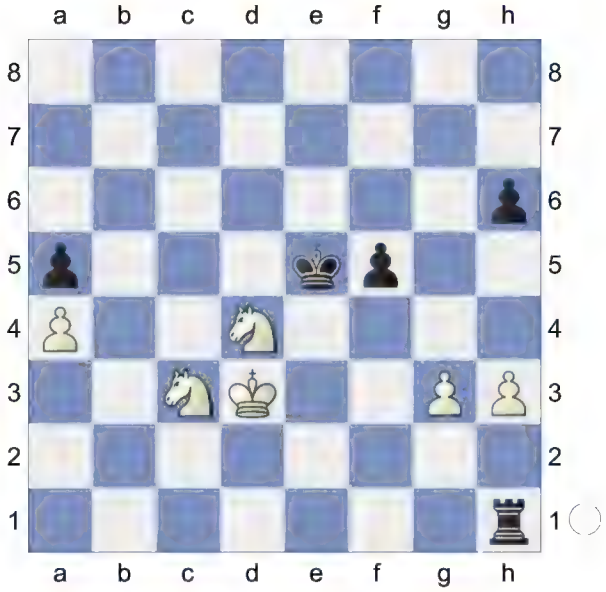


51.Kd3 Rb4 52.Ng1 Rb8 53.Nf3+ Kf6 54.Nd4 Rd8 Against Nd5+ **55.Ke3 Rc8**

(Diagram)

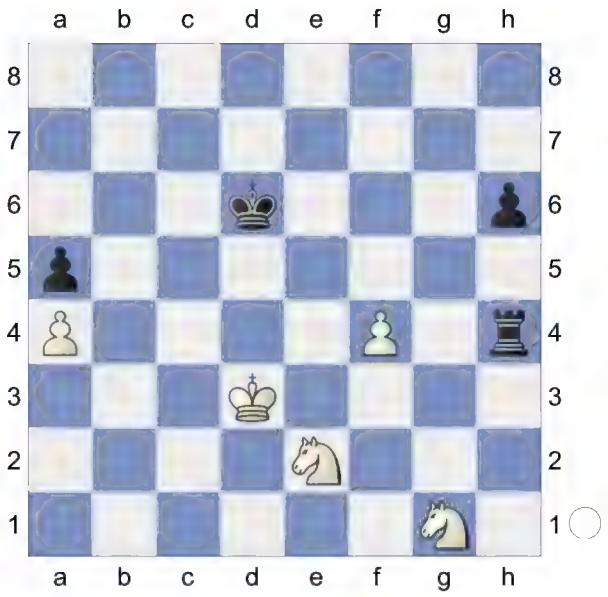


56.Kd3 Rd8 57.Nce2 Rb8 58.Nf4 Rb1 59.Nd5+ Ke5 60.Nc3 Against Rd1+ **60...Rh1**

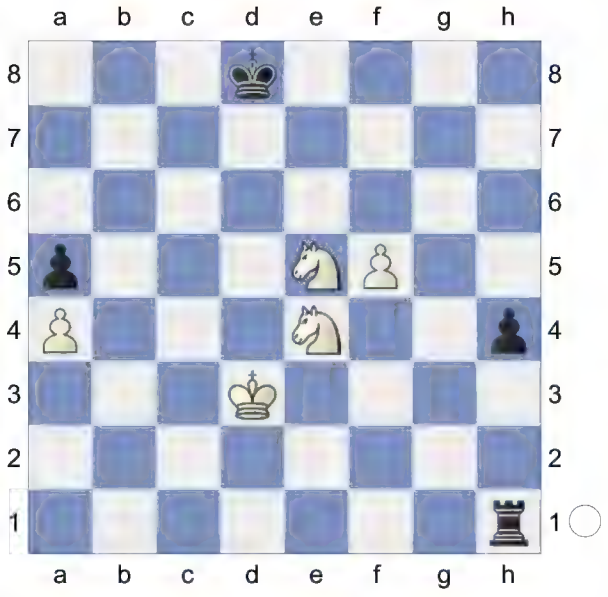


61.Nf3+ Kd6 62.h4 Rh3 63.Ne2 f4 64.Nfg1 Rh1 Hoping for ...fxg3. **65.gxf4 Rxh4**

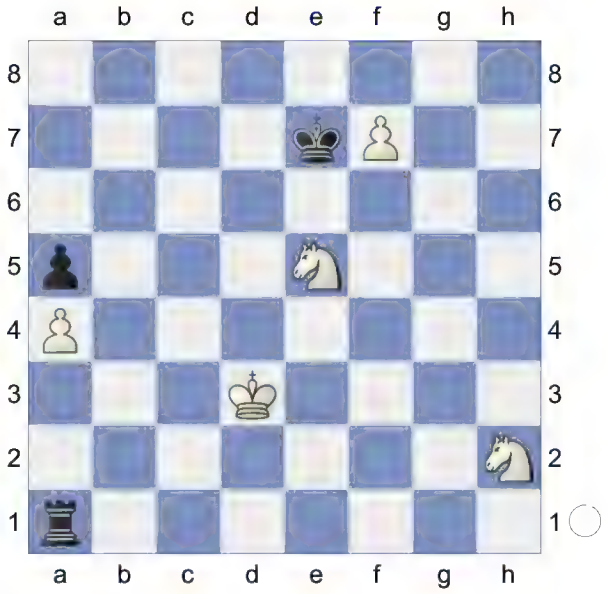
(Diagram)



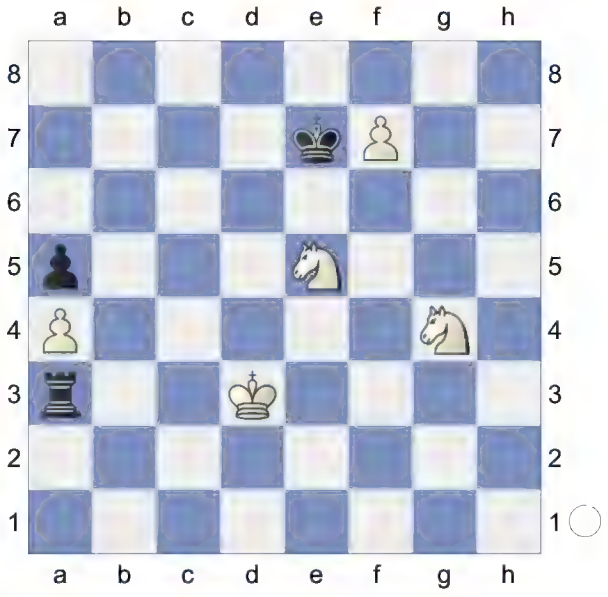
66.Nf3 Rh1 67.f5 h5 1.26/6
[67...Ke7= 0.09/5 keeps the balance.]
68.Nc3 0.02/4
[White should play 68.f6!± 1.26/6]
68...h4 69.Ne4+ Kd7! 70.Ne5+ Kd8



71.f6 Black must now prevent Ng5.
71...h3? 4.90/4
[71...Rg1!= 0.28/6 and Black stays safe.]
72.f7!+- Rf1 0.02/3
[Black should try 72...Ke7± 1.24/5]
73.Ng5 h2 74.Ngf3 Ke7? 7.81/3
[74...Rd1+ 2.11/4 75.Kc4 h1Q 76.f8Q+ Kc7]
75.Nxh2 Ra1 6.81/5
[⌓75...Rf2 4.08/4 76.Nhf3 Rf1]

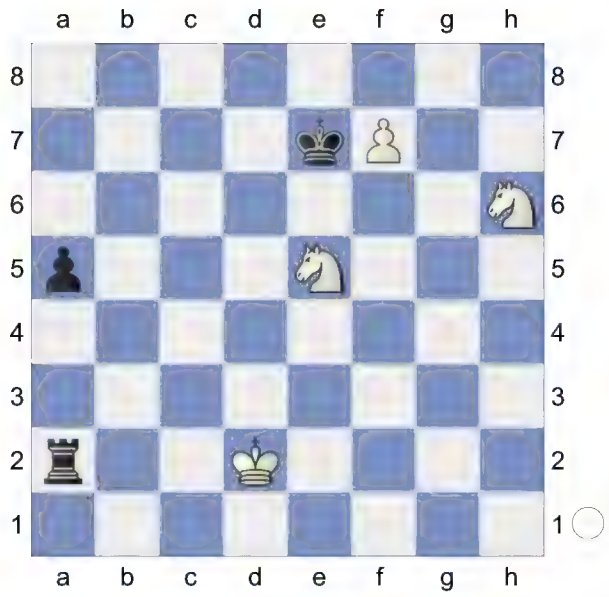


76.Nhg4 Ra3+

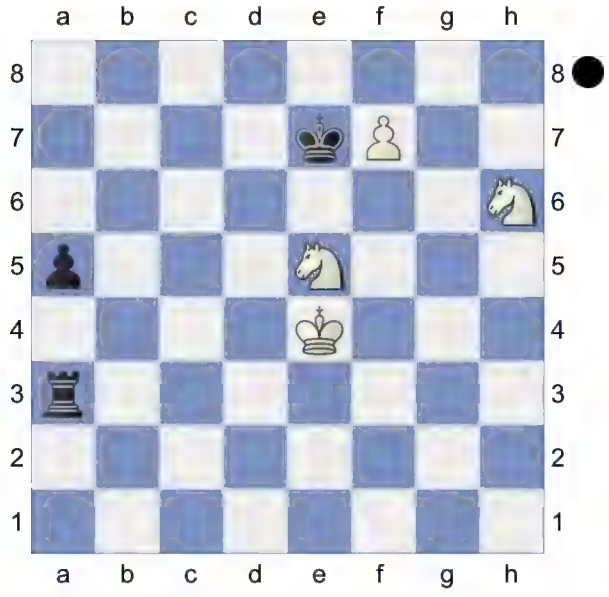


77.Kd2! Threatens to win with Nh6.
77...Rxa4 78.Nh6 White wants to mate with Ng6+. White is clearly winning.
78...Ra2+

(Diagram)



79.Ke3! Ra3+ 80.Ke4



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

1-0

30 **C67**

□ **Rapport,Richard** **2715**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**

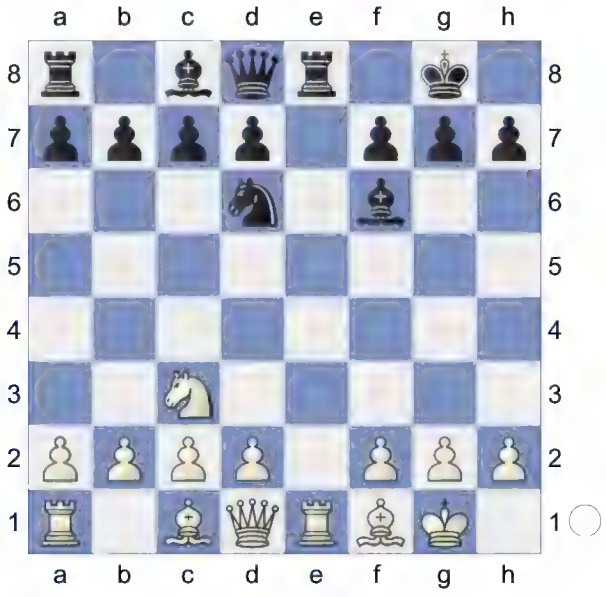
45th Olympiad 2024 (6.2) 16.09.2024

[Kitty Kat]

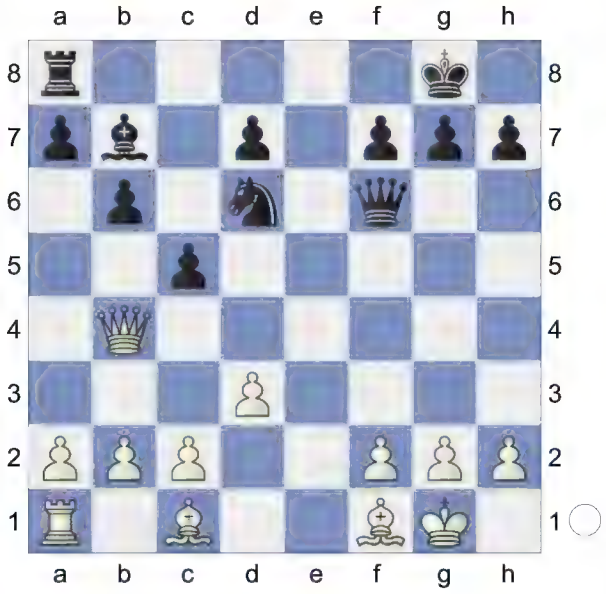
C67: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence: 4 0-0 Nxe4

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.Re1 Nd6

6.Nxe5 Be7 7.Bf1 Nxe5 8.Rxe5 0-0 9.Nc3 Bf6 10.Re1 Re8



11.Nd5 Rxe1 12.Nxf6+ Qxf6 13.Qxe1 b6 14.d3 Bb7 15.Qb4 c5

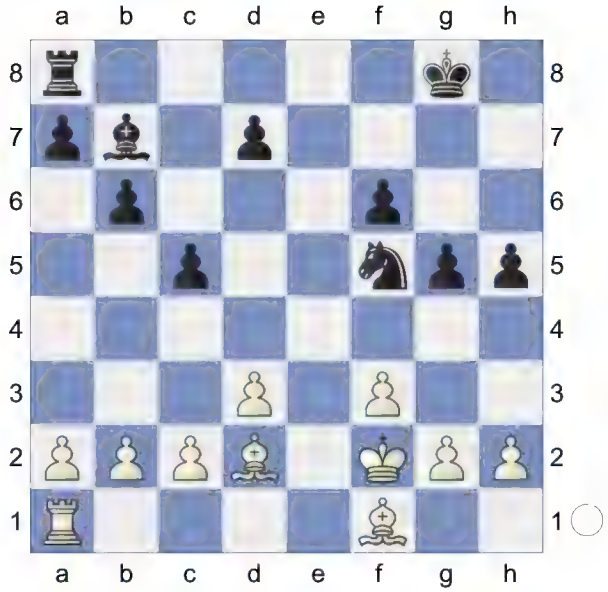


16.Qf4 Qxf4 17.Bxf4 Nf5 18.f3N

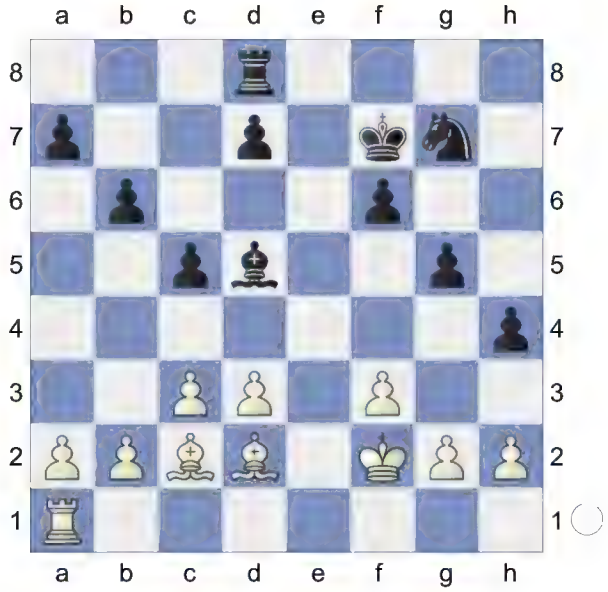
[18.a4 f6 19.a5 g5 20.Bd2 Nd4 21.axb6 axb6 22.Rxa8+ Bxa8 23.c3 Ne6 24.f3 Kf7 25.Kf2 Bc6 *(25...h6 26.g3 f5 27.f4 gxf4 28.gxf4 Bc6 29.Be3 Kf6 30.Be2 Kg6 31.b4 cxb4 32.cxb4 b5 33.Bd1 Nc7 34.Bd2 Nd5 35.Kg3 Kf6 36.Kh4 Kg6 37.h3 Kg7 38.Bb3 Kg6 39.Kg3 Kf6 40.Kf2* \-\ (71) 13. ♕c2 ♘e5 14. ♗e5_21361 (2586)-Chiong,L (2607) Budapest Vezerkepzo Christmas GM 2022 (1.1) *)* 26.g3 Bb5 27.Ke3 d5 28.c4 Bc6 29.cxd5 Bxd5 30.Bc3 Nd4 31.Bxd4 cxd4+ 32.Kxd4 Bxf3 ½-½ (41) Grube,J (2764)-Sudgen,J (2760) Cheliabinsk Lozovatsky Memorial-A 2023 (7.2)]

[18.Re1 f6 19.c3 Kf7 20.f3 g5 21.Bd2 h5 22.Kf2 h4 23.Be2 Bd5 24.a3 Rg8 25.Bd1 Be6 26.Bc2 Ne7 27.b4 Rc8 28.b5 a5 29.bxa6 Ra8 30.Rb1 Rxa6 31.a4 d6 32.f4 g4 0-1 (74) Paravyan,D (2586)-Lazavik,D (2541) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Early blitz 2023 (7)]

18...f6 19.Kf2 g5 20.Bd2 h5

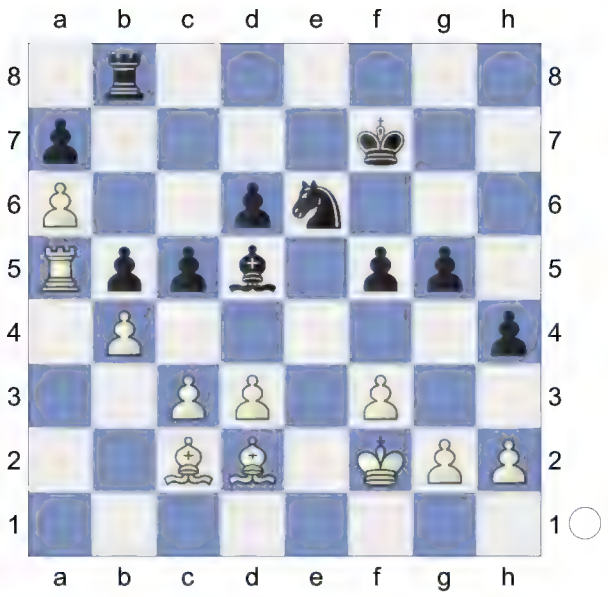


21.c3 Kf7 22.Be2 Bd5 23.Bd1 Ng7 24.Ba4 Rd8 25.Bc2 h4

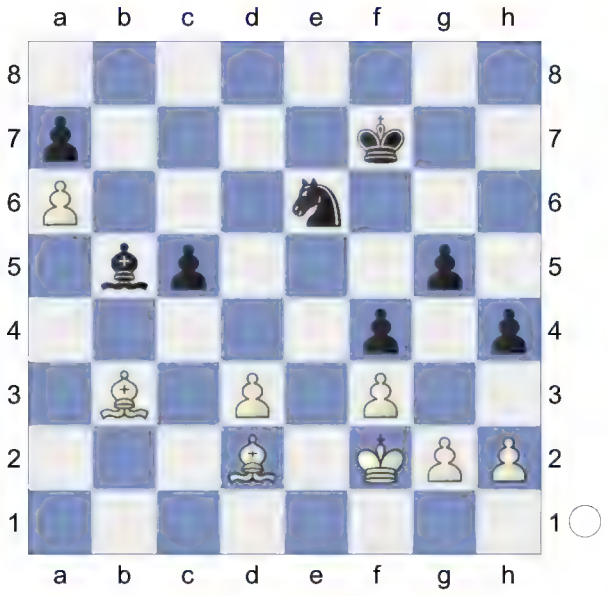


26.a4 Ne6 27.a5 b5 28.a6 Rb8 29.Ra5 d6 30.b4 f5

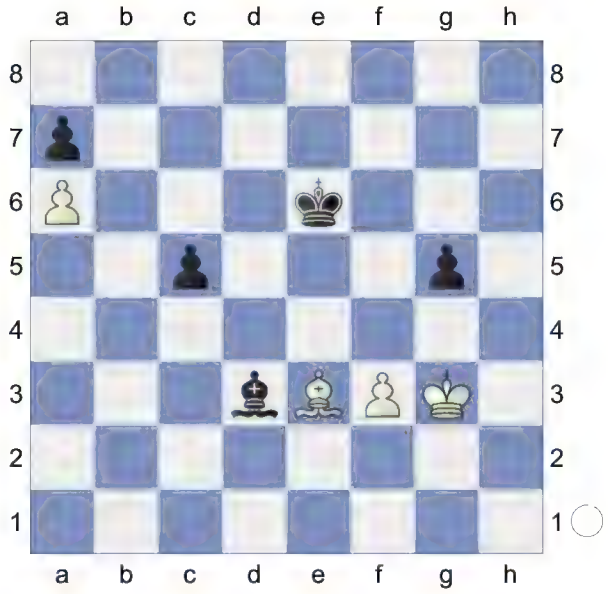
(Diagram)



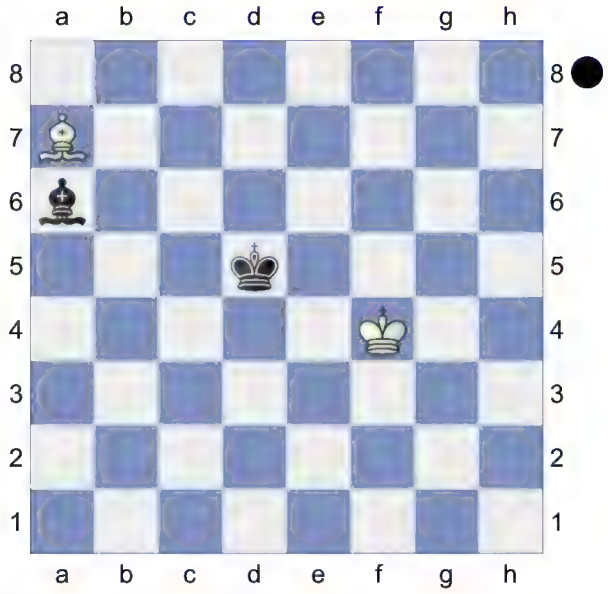
The position is equal. **31.bxc5! dxc5 32.c4 Bc6 33.cxb5 Rxb5 34.Rxb5 Bxb5=** Endgame KBB-KBN **35.Bb3 f4**



36.g3 fxg3+
[36...Bxd3 37.Bxe6+ Kxe6 38.gxf4]
37.hxg3 Bxd3 38.Be3 hxg3+
[38...Bxa6 39.Bxc5 hxg3+ 40.Kxg3±]
[38...c4 39.Ba4 h3 40.Bxa7 c3]
39.Kxg3
[39.Kg2 seems wilder. c4 40.Ba4 c3 41.Bxa7 Kg6 42.Kxg3 Bxa6 43.Bc2+]
39...Kf6
[But not 39...Bxa6 40.Bxc5 *(40.Bxe6+ Kxe6 41.Bxc5 Bd3±)* 40...Bb7 41.Bxa7±]
40.Bxe6 Kxe6



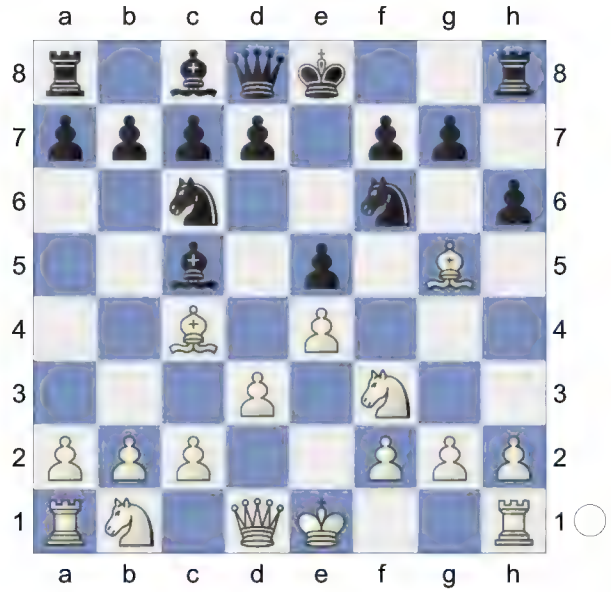
41.Bxc5 Bxa6 42.f4 gxf4+ 43.Kxf4
[Don't do 43.Kf2 Ke5±]
43...Kd5 A balanced but interesting game.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
44.Bxa7



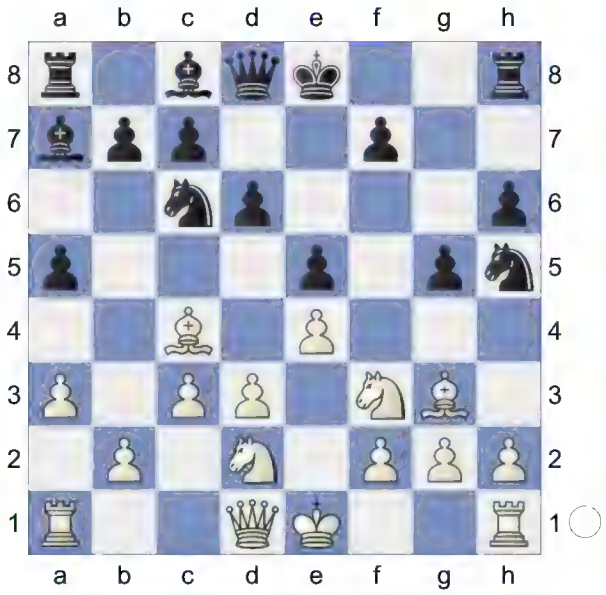
½-½

31 **C50**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
■ **Suleymanli,Aydin** **2632**
45th Olympiad 2024 (5.1) 15.09.2024
[TA]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bg5 h6



6.Bh4 g5
[6...Be7 7.a4 a5 8.Bg3 d6 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.c3 Nd7 11.Nf1 Nb6 12.Bb3 Bf6 13.Ne3 Re8 14.0-0 Be6 15.Bxe6 Rxe6 16.Nd5 Nd7 17.Nd2 Ne7 18.Ne3 Bg5 19.f4 exf4 20.Bxf4 Bxf4 21.Rxf4 So,W (2757)-Carlsen,M (2830) Chess.com INT 2024 Mega2024 Update 14 [Kitty Kat] ½-½ (57)]
7.Bg3 d6 8.c3N
[8.a4 Bg4 9.c3 a6 10.b4 Ba7 11.h3 Be6 12.Nbd2 Nh5 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Nxe5 Nxg3 15.Nxc6 Bxf2+ 16.Kxf2 Nxh1+ 17.Kg1 bxc6 18.Kxh1 Qf6 19.Qh5+ Qf7 20.Qxf7+ Kxf7 21.Rf1+ Ke7 22.Kg1 Raf8 Rahn,M (1246)-Carvalho,K (1420) Florianopolis 2023 0-1 (34)]
[8.Nbd2 a6 9.a4 Nh5 10.Nf1 Nf4 11.Rg1 Be6 12.Ne3 Qf6 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5 Ne7 15.Bxf4 exf4 16.d4 Ba7 17.c3 0-0 18.Nd2 Rfe8 19.Kf1 Qf5 20.Qf3 Kg7 21.h3 Qc2 22.Nb3 Qxb2 10.♖d1 d6 11.b3_13869 (1999)-13. ♕a3 ♖c8 14. ♗e2_21357 (1974) Warsaw 2023 CT-2292 [John Watson] 0-1 (46)]
[8.h3 g4 9.hxg4 Bxg4 10.Nc3 Nd4 11.Bh4 c6 12.a3 Qb6 13.Bxf6 Rh7 14.b4 Bxb4 15.axb4 Qxb4 16.0-0 Qxc3 17.Qe1 Qxe1 18.Nxe1 h5 19.f3 Bd7 20.f4 exf4 21.Bxd4 0-0-0 22.Rxa7 Kb8 Lu,S (1227)-Alnajjar,S Willingen 2023 1-0 (45)]
8...a5 9.Nbd2 Ba7 10.a3
[10.0-0!?]
10...Nh5 0.60/17
[10...Qe7= 0.07/16]

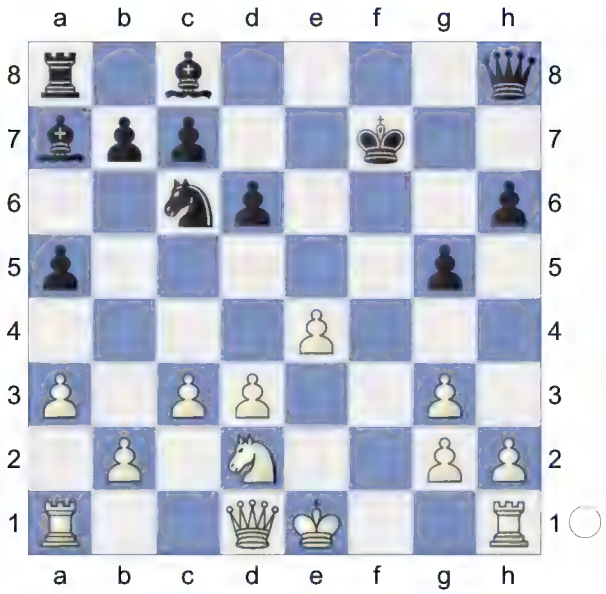


11.Nxe5!± Nxg3 12.Bxf7+ Kf8 13.Ng6+ Kg7 1.29/21
[13...Kxf7± 0.67/24 14.Nxh8+ Qxh8

15.fxg3 Bd7]

14.fxg3± Really sharp! **14...Kxf7**

15.Nxh8+ Qxh8



16.d4! Kg7 17.0-0 Bd7 18.Kh1 Rf8 1.54/19

[⌓18...Qg8 1.08/21]

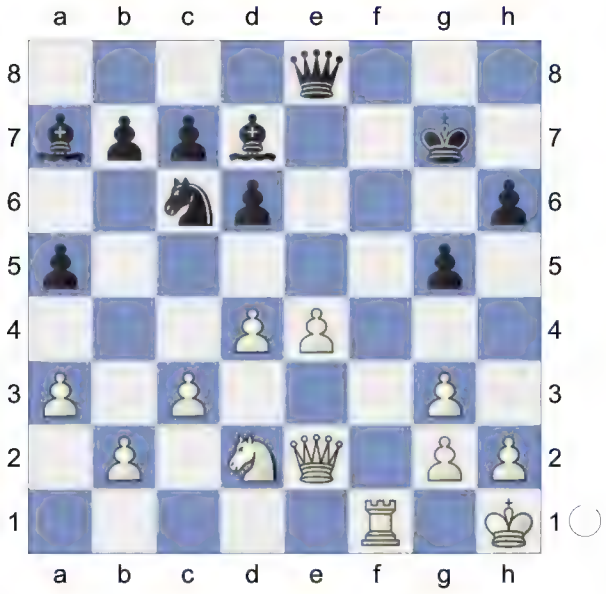
19.Qe2→ White has strong attack.

19...Rxf1+ 2.39/20

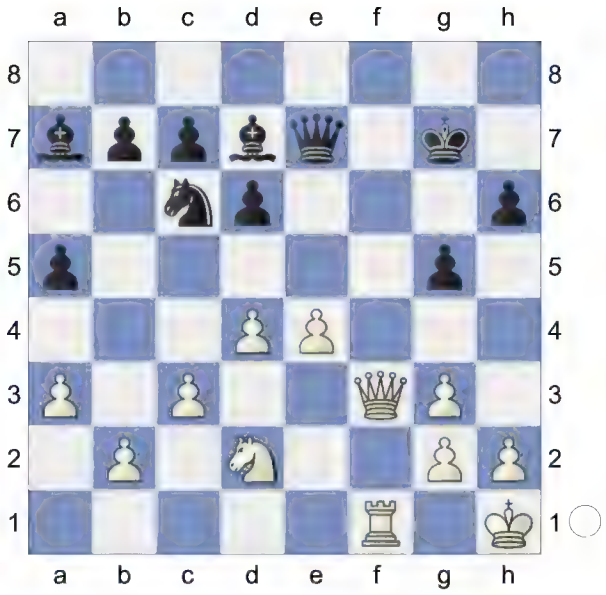
[19...Qg8± 1.42/20 keeps fighting. 20.Nc4 Re8]

20.Rxf1+- Black must now prevent Qf3.

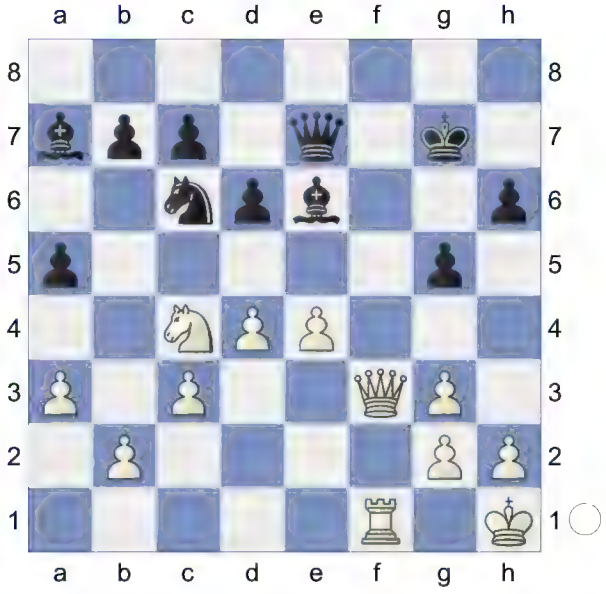
20...Qe8



21.Qf3 Hoping for Qf6+. **21...Qe7**



Inhibits Qf6+. **22.Nc4!** Threatens to win with Ne3. **22...Be6**

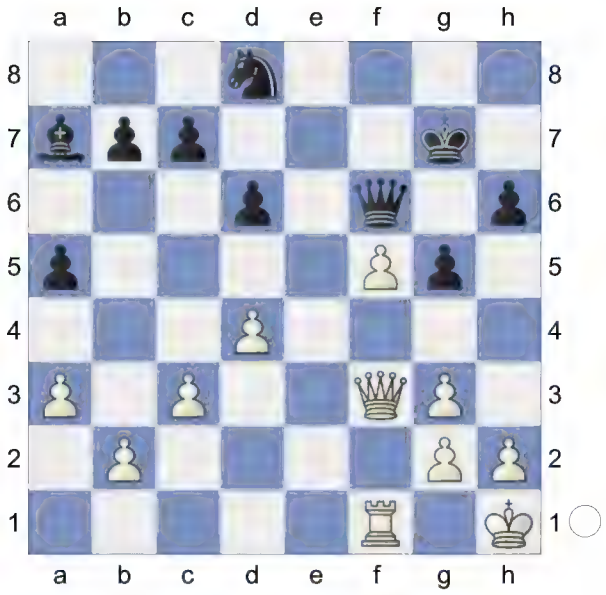


23.Ne3 Nd8 24.Nf5+ Bxf5 25.exf5 f6+ would kill now.

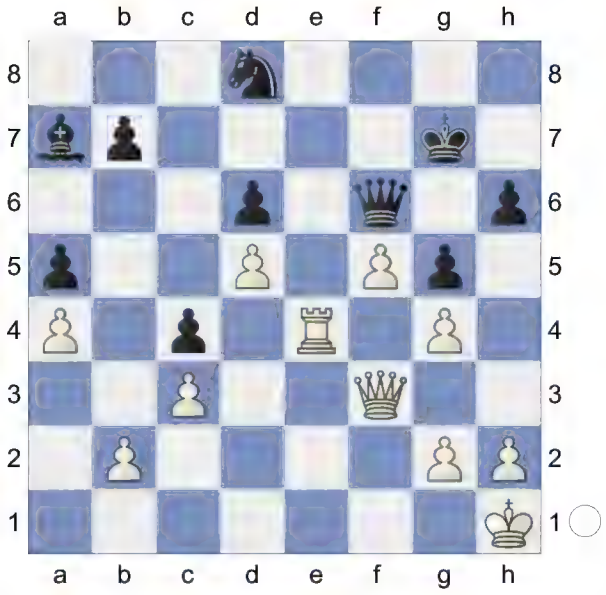
[25.Qxf5 c5±]

25...Qf6

(Diagram)

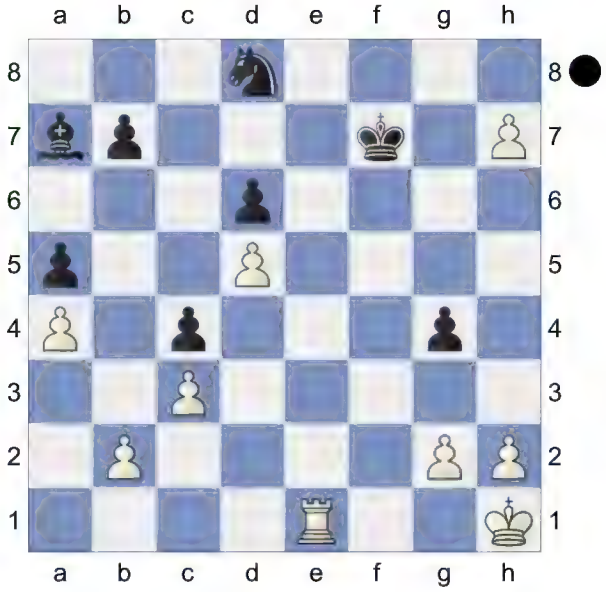


26.Re1 Bb6 27.g4 c5 4.09/22
[27...c6 2.59/21 is a better defense. 28.Qe2 Qf7]
28.d5 c4 29.Re4 Bc5 30.a4
[30.Rxc4 Nf7±]
30...Ba7



31.Qe2 h5 32.Re7+ White is clearly winning. **32...Kf8 33.Re8+ Kf7** 7.84/23
[⌓33...Kg7 4.74/23 34.Qxc4 *(34.gxh5 Qxf5 35.h3 Nf7±)* 34...Bc5]
34.gxh5 g4 35.h6 Intending h7 and mate. **35...Qxf5**

36.h7 White threatens Qe7+ and mate.
36...Qb1+ 37.Qe1 Qxe1+ 38.Rxe1

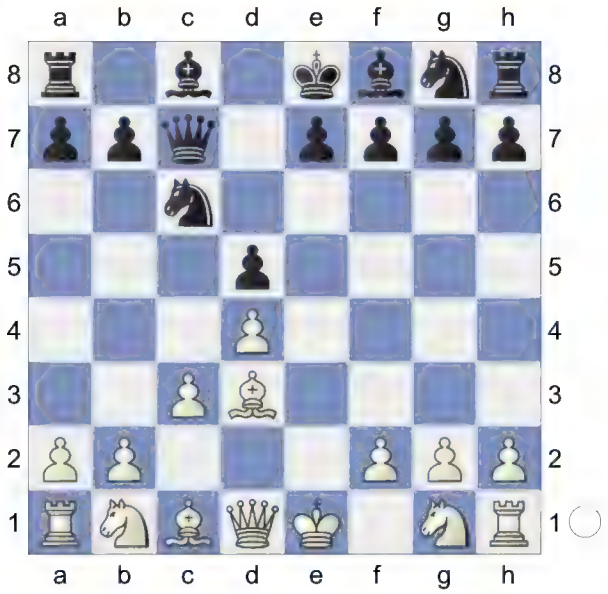


White took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.39
1-0

32 **B13**
□ **Predke,Alexandr** **2671**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
45th Olympiad 2024 (4.3) 14.09.2024
[Kitty Kat]

B13: Caro-Kann: Exchange Variation and Panov-Botvinnik Attack

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Qc7



6.h3 Nf6 6...e6 might become the main line. 6...e6 könnte zur Hauptfortsetzung werden. **7.Nf3 g6 8.Na3N**

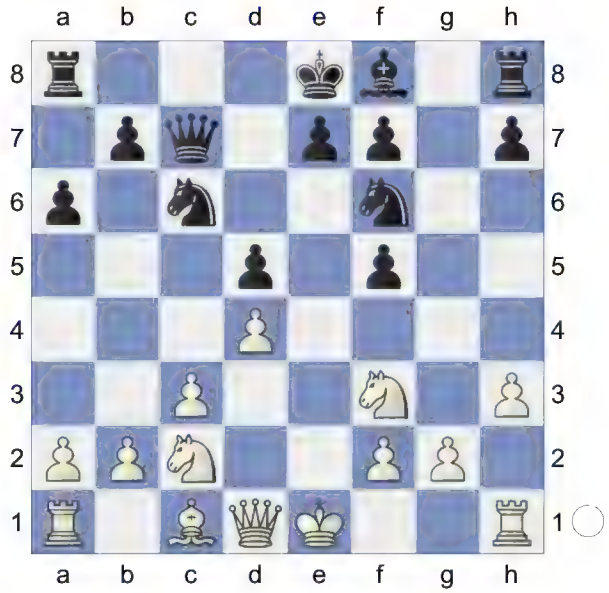
[8.Qc2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Re8 11.Be3 e5 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Rxe5 14.Nd2 Bd7 15.Re2 Ree8 16.Rae1 Nh5 17.Qb3 Be6 18.Qa4 a6 19.Nb3 b5 20.Qb4 Bf8 21.Qh4 Be7 22.Bg5 Bxg5 1-0 (42) Fitzsimons,D (2338)-Kunz,A (2140) Reykjavik op 2023 (5)]

[8.0-0 Bf5 *(8...Bg7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Nbd2 Bf5 11.Nb3 b6 12.Re1 Kh8 13.Qe2 Ne4 14.Bxe4 Bxe4 15.Nbd2 Bf5 16.Nh4 Rg8 17.Qf3 Qd7 18.Bf4 Bf6 19.Nxf5 gxf5 20.Qh5 e6 21.Nf3 Qe7 22.Ne5 Nxe5 23.Bxe5* 0-1 (63) Ferrer Naranjo,L (1862)-Vu,N (1754) Wch U14 Girls blitz 2024 (5)*)* 9.Re1 *(9.Be2 Bg7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qc1 Ne4 12.Bf4 Nd6 13.Nbd2 Qd8 14.Re1 f6 15.Bd1 Qd7 16.Bb3 Be6 17.Re2 Bf7 18.Qe1 Rfe8 19.Bc2 Rac8 20.Nb3 b6 21.Nbd2 Nb7 22.Nf1 Nbd8 23.a3 Ne6* 1-0 (60) Flachet,T (2170)-Amoyal,P (2053) FRA-ch op-A Agen 2016 (1)*)* 9...Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Bg7 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Nb3 e6 13.a4 Rfe8 14.g3 Ne4 15.Bf4 Qd8 16.h4 h6 17.Kg2 g5 18.hxg5 hxg5 19.Be3 f5 20.Ng1 Qf6 21.Ne2 Rad8 22.f3 Nd6 ½-½ (42) Warlick,J (2734)-Persse,D (2681) Chapter 1 Game 21 (10)]

8...a6 9.Nc2 Bf5! 10.Bxf5 -0.21/16

[10.0-0 0.28/18]

10...gxf5=

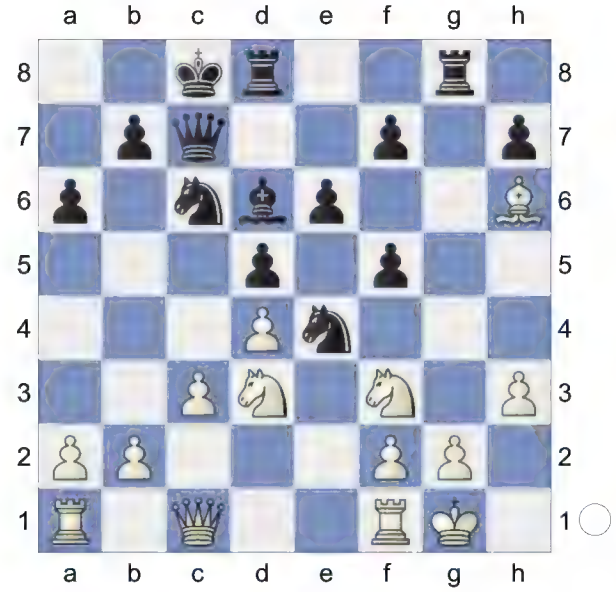


11.0-0 e6 12.Nce1 Bd6 13.Nd3 Ne4 14.Bh6N

[Vorgänger: 14.Re1 -0.93/18 14.Nfe5 -0.04 Rg8 15.Bd2 0-0-0 16.Kh1 Rg7 -0.64/21 *(16...Kb8∓* -1.27/19 *17.b4 Na7)* 17.Rg1 -1.06/20 *(17.Rc1!∓* -0.64/21 *)* 17...Rdg8

-0.66/20 *(17...f6∓* -1.06/20 *18.Rc1 Qf7)* 18.Rc1∓ Kb8 19.b3 -0.94/20 *(19.Qe2∓* -0.50/21 *)* 19...Qb6 -0.13/17 *(19...f6∓* -0.94/20 *20.c4 Qd7)* 20.Be1 -0.85/18 0-1 Heberla,B (2565)-Hillarp Persson,T (2537) Malmo op 2019 (7) *(20.c4=* -0.13/17 remains equal. *Bc7 21.cxd5)*]

14...Rg8 15.Qc1 0-0-0



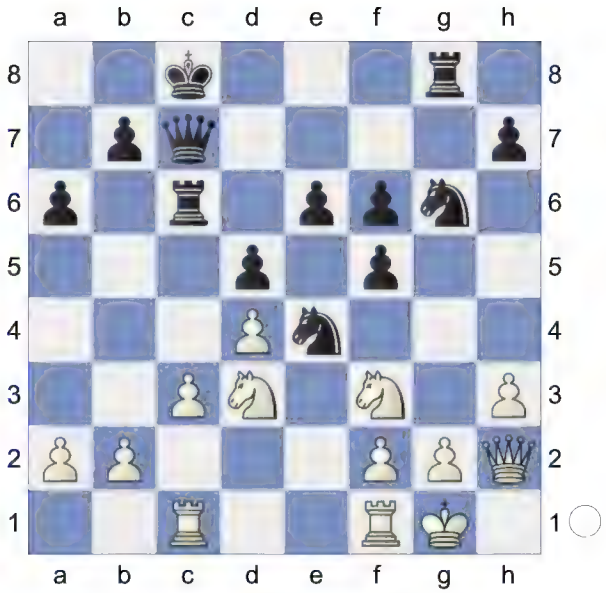
16.Bf4 f6 17.Bxd6 Rxd6 18.Qf4

[18.Nh4 Qg7 19.Qf4 Kb8 20.Nc5]

18...Ne7 19.Rac1 Ng6 20.Qh2 Rc6 -0.31/18

[20...Kb8∓ -0.75/19]

(Diagram)



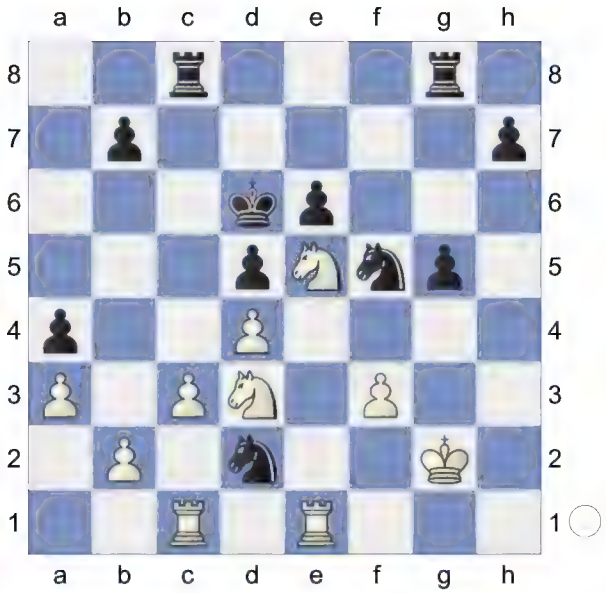
21.Qxc7+∓ Kxc7 22.Rfe1 Kd6 23.Kf1 a5 24.g4 fxg4 25.hxg4 a4

26.a3 Ne7 27.g5 -0.66/23 **fxg5**

[27...Nxg5 28.Nxg5 Rxg5 29.Nc5±]

28.Nfe5 Rcc8! 29.f3 Nd2+ 30.Kg2 Nf5

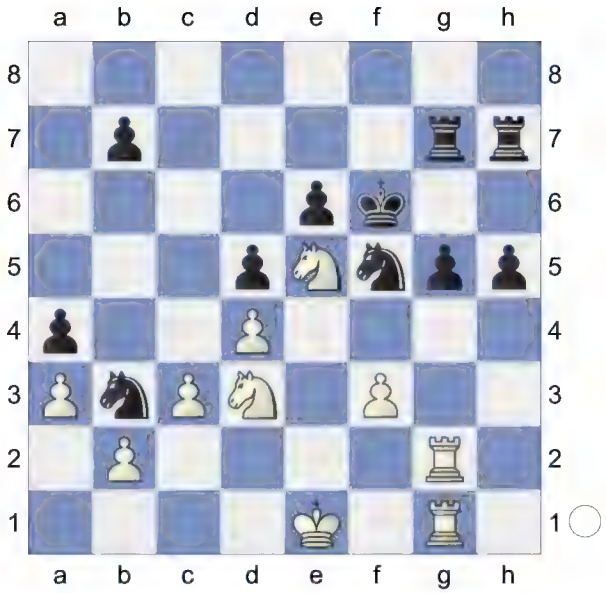
(Diagram)



31.Rc2 Nb3 32.Rce2 Rc7 Repels Nf7+. Active counter play! **33.Ng4 Re7 34.Rh1 Nh4+ 35.Kg3** -1.11/18
[⌓35.Kf2 -0.74/22]
35...h5∓

The board is on fire. **36.Nge5 Nf5+ 37.Kf2 Rh7 38.Rg1 Rgg7 39.Ke1 Ke7 40.Reg2 Kf6**

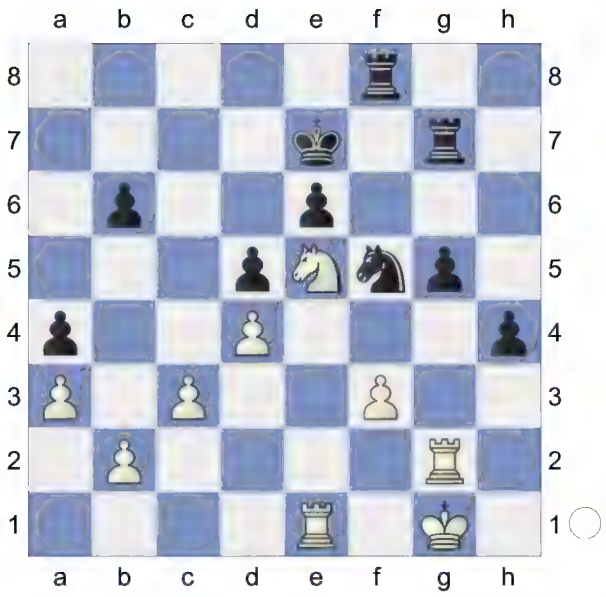
(Diagram)



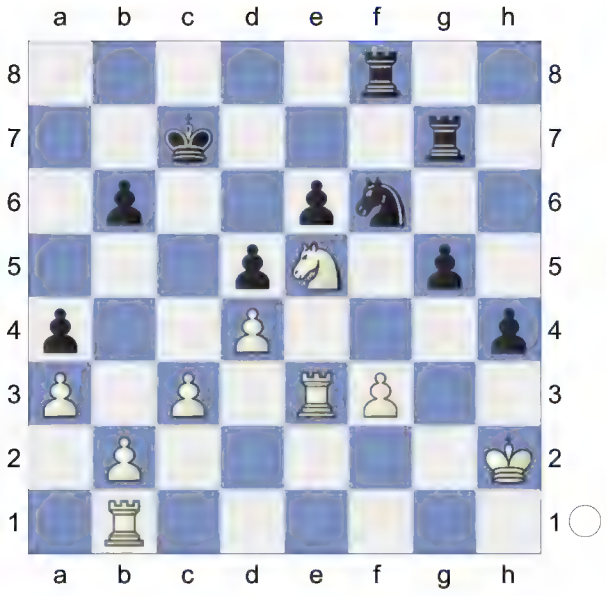
41.Ke2 b6 42.Nc6 Nd6 43.Nce5 Na5 44.Rh2 Nac4 45.Rgh1 h4

46.Kf2 Ke7
[46...Rh8 seems wilder. 47.Rg1 b5 48.Re1 Nf5]
47.Rg2 Nxe5 48.Nxe5 Nf5 49.Re1 Rh8 50.Kg1 Rf8

(Diagram)

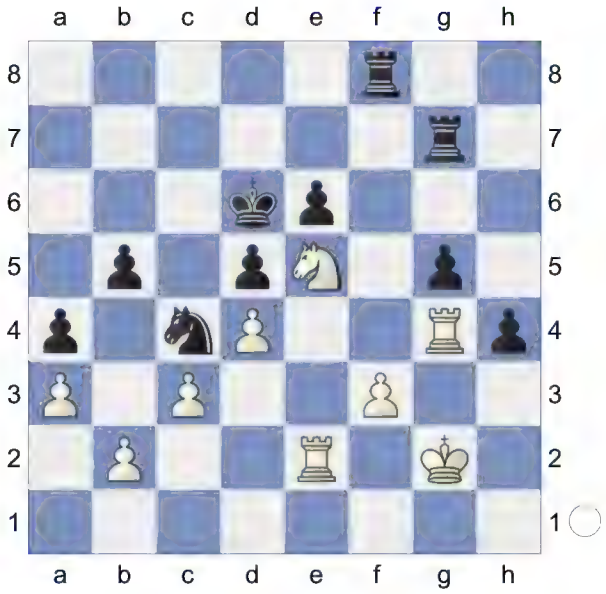


51.Rge2 Kd6 Wards off Nc6 **52.Kg2 Ng3 53.Re3 Nh5 54.Kh2 Kc7** -0.82/22
[⌓54...Nf4 -1.22/20 55.Rh1 h3]
55.Rb1 Nf6



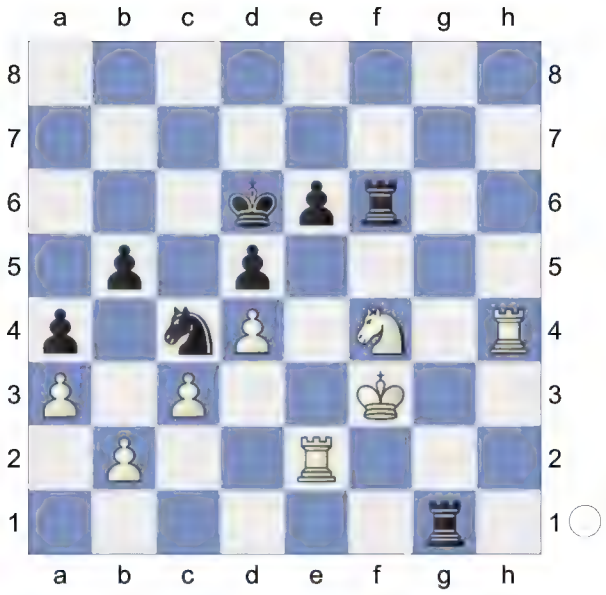
56.Kh3 Ne8 57.Rg1 -1.18/20
[57.b3∓ -0.69/18]
57...Nd6 58.Rg4 -1.83/21
[58.Kg2∓ -1.22/21]
58...b5 -1.34/19
[58...Nf7-+ -1.83/21 59.Nxf7 Rgxf7 *(59...Rfxf7? 60.Rxe6 Rxf3+ 61.Kh2∓)* 60.Rxg5 Rxf3+ 61.Rxf3 Rxf3+ 62.Kxh4 Rf2 63.Rg7+ Kd6]

59.Re2 -2.02/22
[59.Rg2∓ -1.34/19]
59...Nc4!-+ 60.Kg2 -2.33/21
[60.Nxc4 -1.76/19 might work better. bxc4 61.f4]
60...Kd6

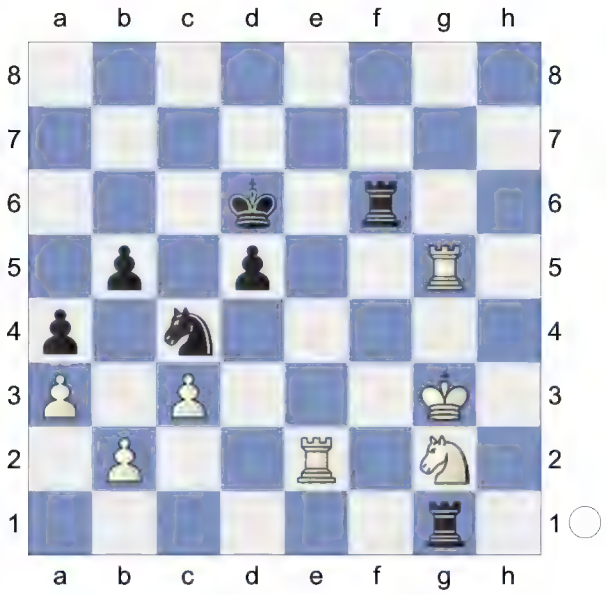


61.Nd3 Rgf7 -1.34/20
[61...Rf5-+ -2.43/19 62.Kf2 h3]
62.f4 -2.51/21
[62.Nc5∓ -1.34/20]
62...gxf4 63.Kf3 Rf6 -0.84/20
[63...Rh8-+ -2.09/21 64.Rxf4 Rg7]
64.Rxh4∓ Rg8 65.Nxf4? -2.35/23
[65.Rxf4∓ -0.34/19 Rfg6 66.Ne5]
65...Rg1 -1.23/23
[65...e5!-+ -2.35/23 66.dxe5+ Nxe5+ 67.Rxe5 Kxe5 68.Rh5+ Rf5 *(68...Kd6? 69.Rxd5+ Kc6 70.Re5∓)* 69.Rxf5+ Kxf5 70.Nxd5 Rh8 71.Ne3+ Ke5]

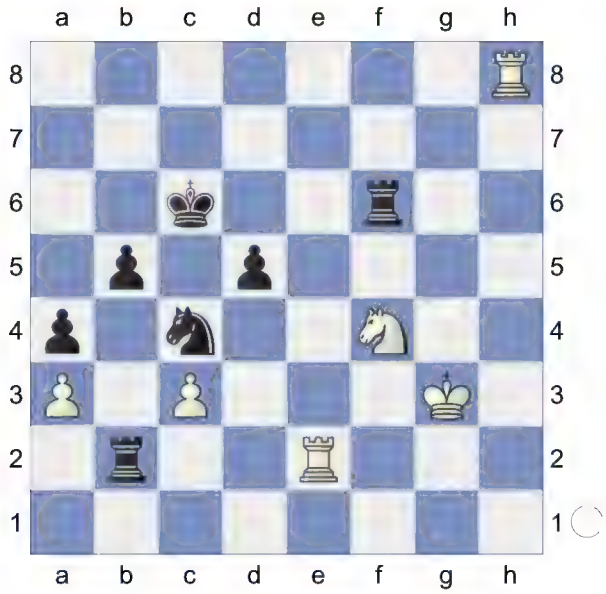
(Diagram)



66.Rg4 Rf1+ 67.Kg3 e5 68.dxe5+ Nxe5 69.Rg5 Rg1+ 70.Ng2 Nc4

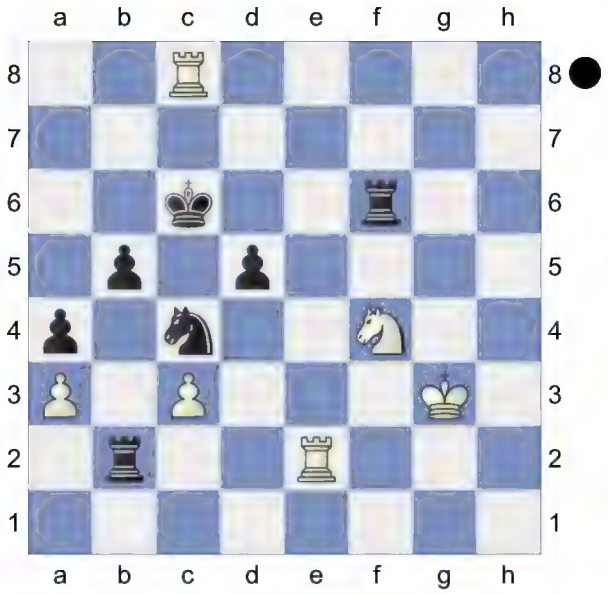


71.Rh5 -1.90/19
[71.Rg8∓ -0.89/18]
71...Kc6 -0.84/19
[71...Kc5!-+ -1.90/19 72.Rg5 Rff1]
72.Rh2? -3.73/20
[72.Rf2∓ -0.84/19 Rd6 73.Re2]
72...Kc5 -1.75/19
[⌓72...Nd6 -3.73/20 73.Rh8 Ne4+ 74.Kh2 Rgf1]
73.Rh5 -2.31/20
[⌓73.Rh4 -1.75/19]
73...Kc6 -1.04/20
[73...Rgf1-+ -2.31/20 has better winning chances. And now ...Nd6 would win. 74.Rg5 R6f3+ 75.Kg4 Rf6]
74.Rh8? -2.64/20
[74.Rf2∓ -1.04/20 Rxf2 75.Kxf2]
74...Rb1? -0.58/19
[Black should try 74...Nd6!-+ -2.64/20 75.Ra8 Rh6]
75.Nf4∓ Rxb2

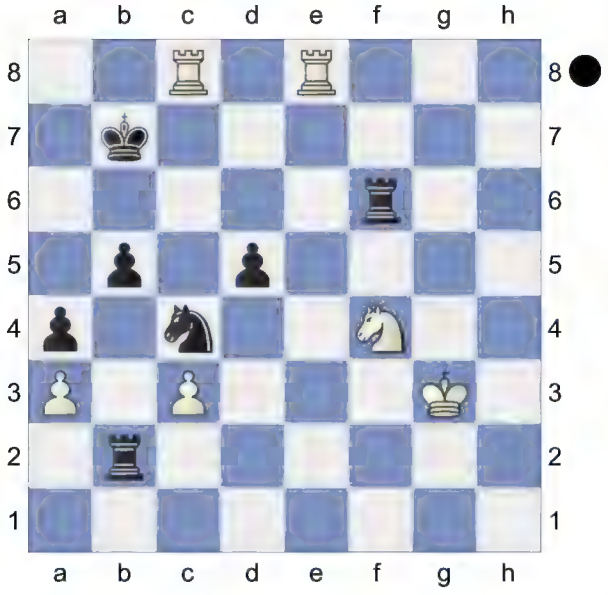


76.Rc8+ -1.57/26
[76.Rxb2∓ -0.63/19 Nxb2 77.Rc8+ Kb7 78.Rc5]

(Diagram)

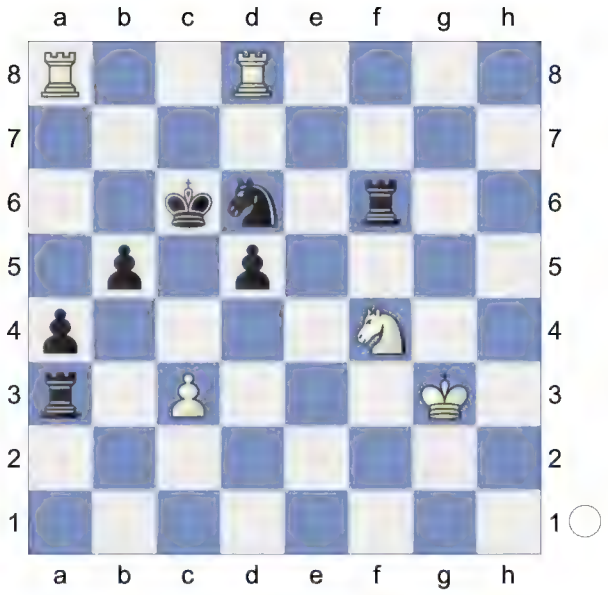


76...Kb7!∓ 77.Ree8? -2.48/21
[77.Rxb2∓ -0.72/19 is the only way for White. Nxb2 *(77...Kxc8 78.Rxb5 Kc7 79.Rb4=)* 78.Rc5]

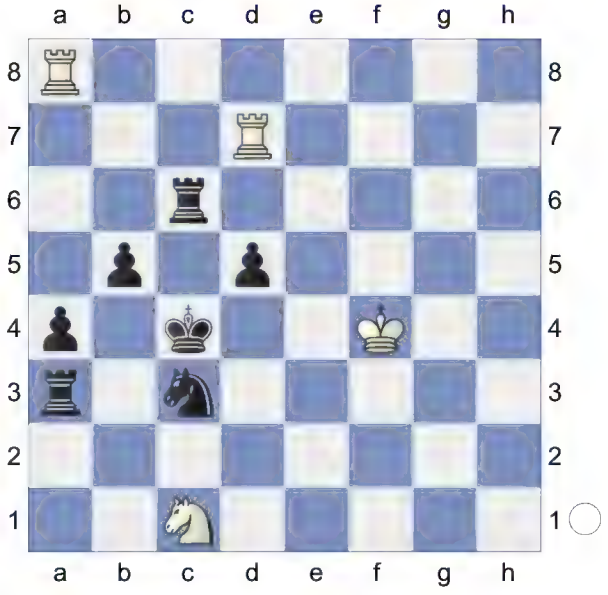


77...Nd6!-+
[77...Nxa3 78.Rb8+ Kc6 79.Rec8+ Kd6 80.Rg8+- *(80.Rd8+ Kc6±)*]
78.Rb8+ Kc6 79.Red8 Ra2 80.Ra8 Rxa3

(Diagram)



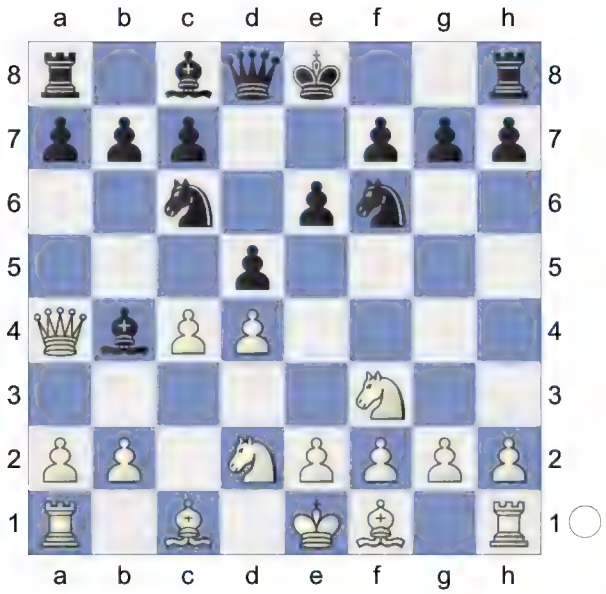
Black is clearly winning. **81.Ne2 Kc5 82.Rd7 Ne4+ 83.Kg4 Rc6 84.Kf4 Nxc3 85.Nc1**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
85...Kc4



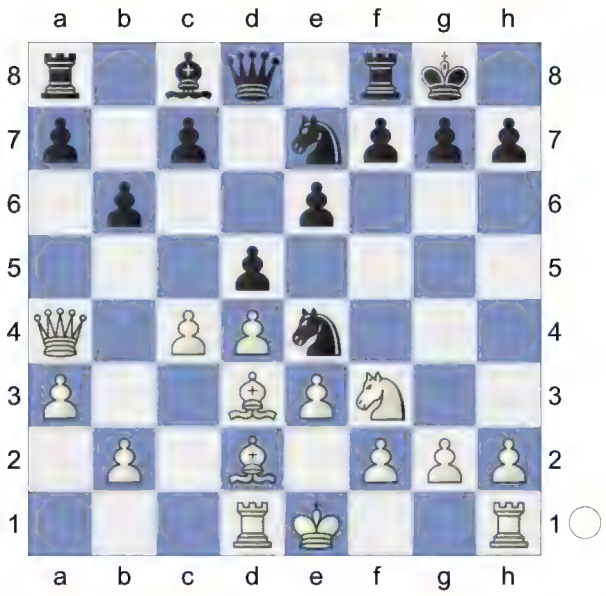
0-1

33 **E11**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
■ **Kozak,Adam** **2609**
45th Olympiad 2024 (3.3) 13.09.2024
[TA]

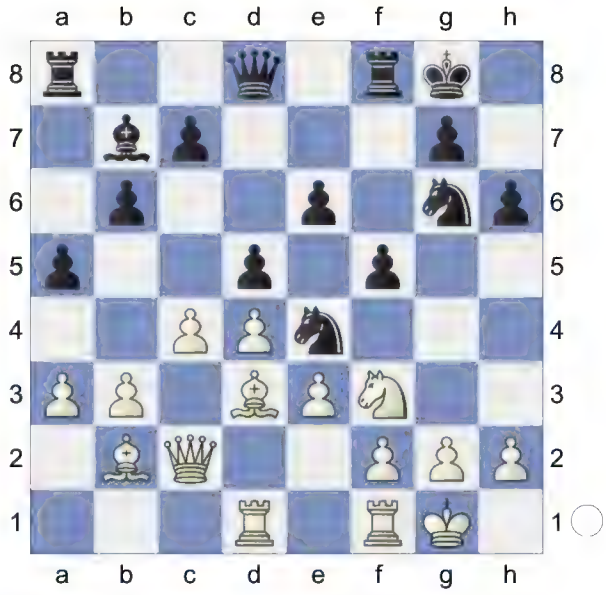
E11: Bogo-Indian
Inf 41/(586) **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 d5 5.Qa4+ Nc6**



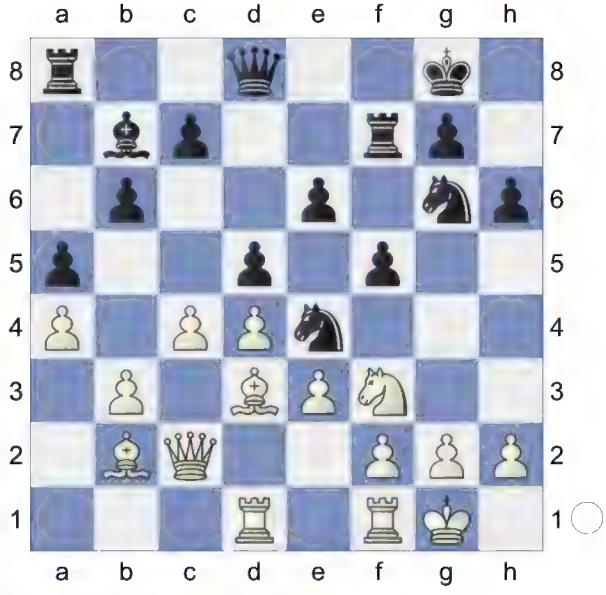
6.e3 0-0 7.a3 Bxd2+ 8.Bxd2 Ne4 9.Rd1 Ne7 10.Bd3 b6



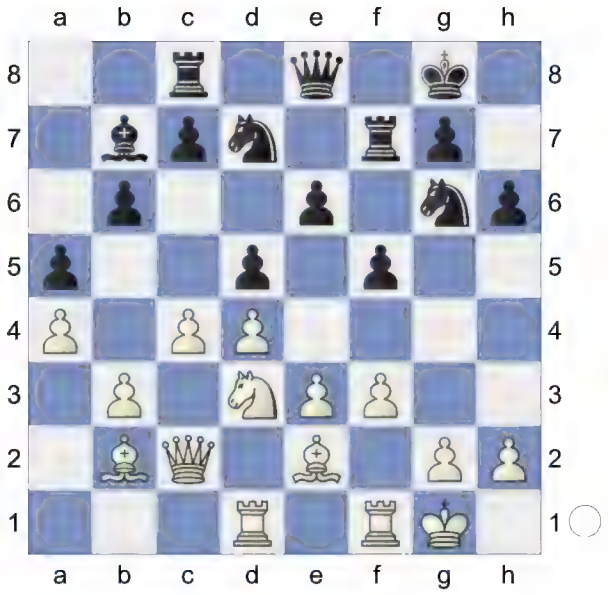
11.Qc2 White is better. **11...Bb7 12.0-0 h6N**
[12...Ng6 13.Be1 *(13.b4 f5 14.Ne5 dxc4 15.Bxc4 Qd6* ½-½ (15) Petrosian,A-Spassky,B Sarajevo 1986 Inf 41 [RR]*)* 13...a5 14.Ne5 Qe7 15.f3 Nd6 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Bg3 E 11/17 Survey 2008]
13.Bc1 a5 14.b3 Ng6 15.Bb2 f5



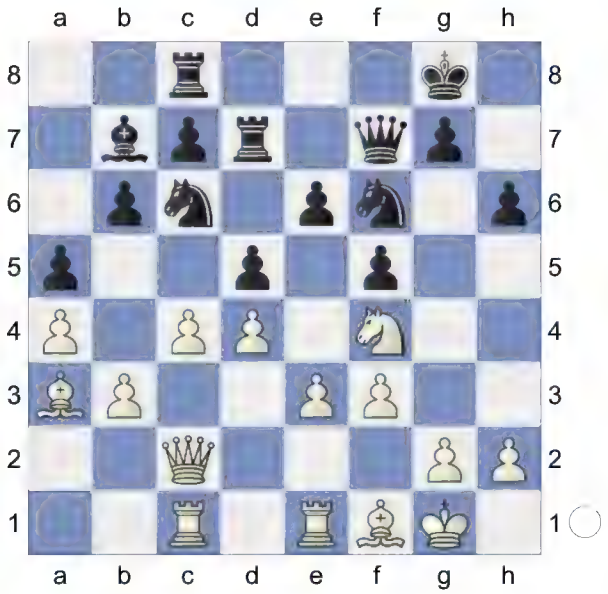
16.a4 Rf7



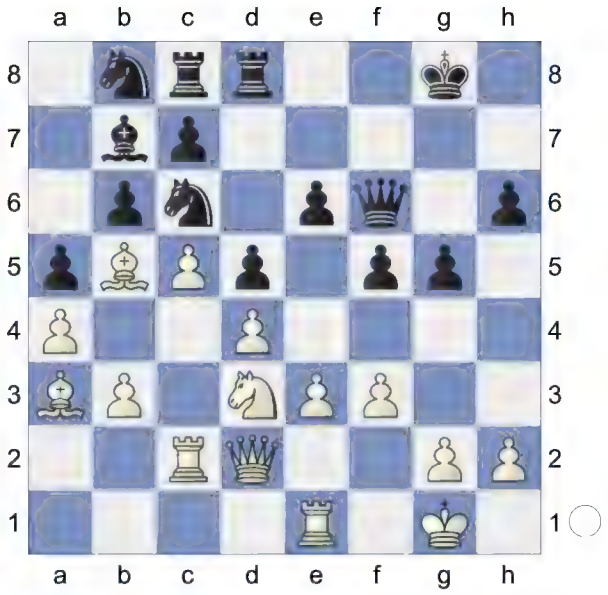
17.Ne1! Rc8 1.11/22
[⌓17...c5 0.79/20]
18.f3± Threatens to win with cxd5.
18...Nf6 19.Be2 Qe8 20.Nd3 Nd7



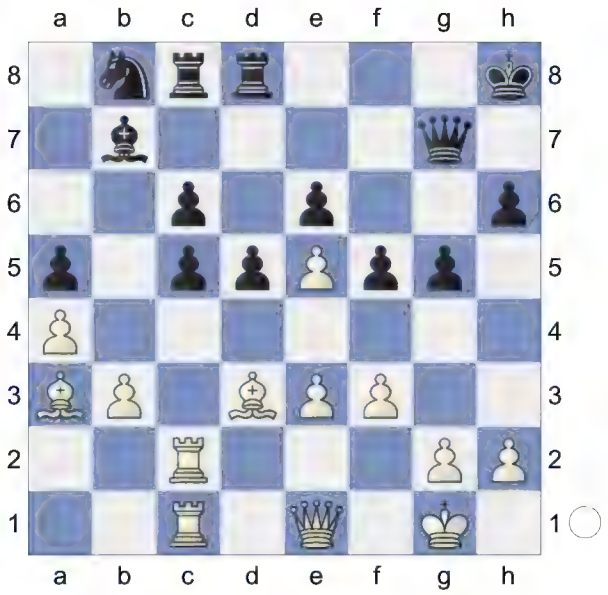
21.Rfe1 Ne7 1.51/21
[⌓21...c5 0.96/19]
22.Bf1 Nc6 1.80/19
[22...Ng6± 1.32/21]
23.Ba3+- Nf6 24.Rc1 Rd7 2.07/21
[⌓24...dxc4 1.72/19 25.bxc4 *(25.Qxc4 Rd8±)* 25...Ra8]
25.Nf4 Qf7



26.c5 Rdd8 27.Bb5 Nd7 28.Qd2
[But not 28.cxb6?! cxb6 29.Qd2 g5±]
28...Qf6 29.Rc2 g5 30.Nd3 Ndb8
(Diagram)

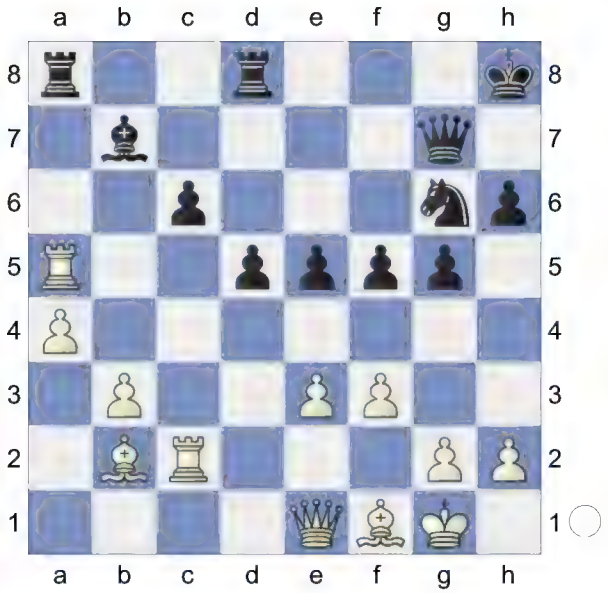


31.Rec1 Qg7 32.Qe1 Kh8 33.Ne5 Nxe5 34.dxe5 c6 35.Bd3 bxc5

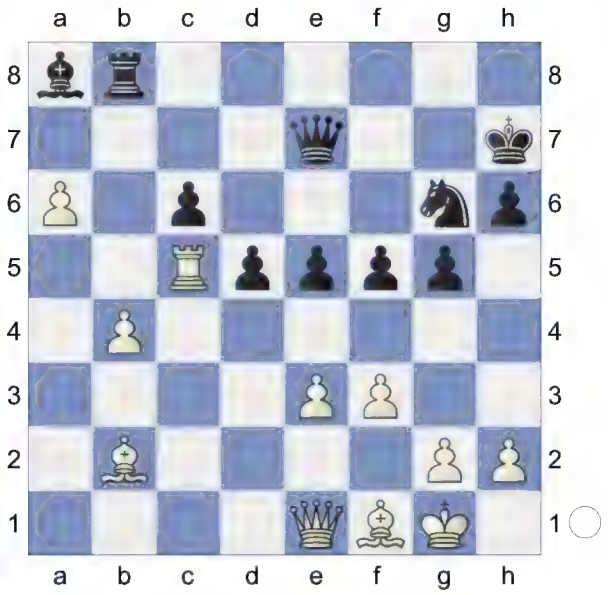


36.Rxc5
[Don't do 36.Bxc5?! Nd7±]
36...Nd7 37.Rxa5 Nxe5 38.Bf1 Ra8 39.Rc2 Ng6 40.Bb2 e5

(Diagram)

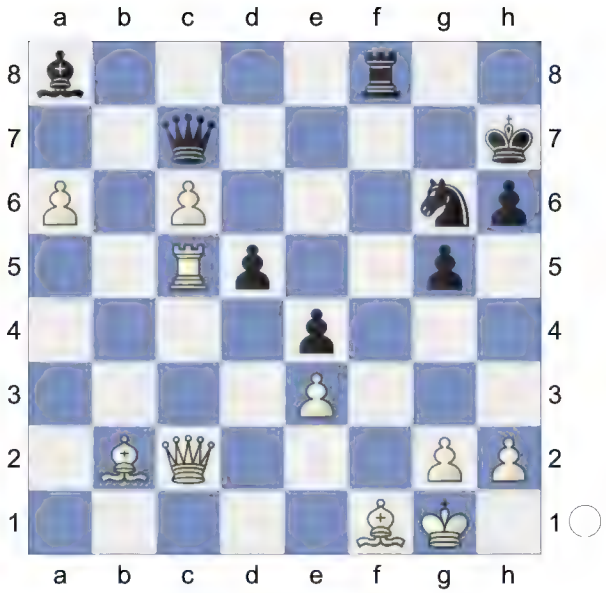


41.Rxa8 Bxa8 42.a5 Kh7 43.a6 Rb8 44.b4 Qa7 45.Rc5 Qe7

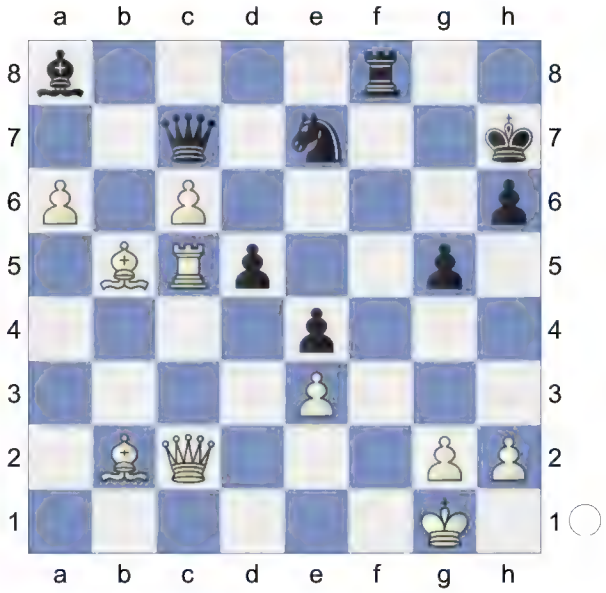


46.Qc3 Rd8 47.Qc2 e4 48.fxe4 fxe4 49.b5 Qc7 50.bxc6 Rf8

(Diagram)



51.Bb5 Ne7

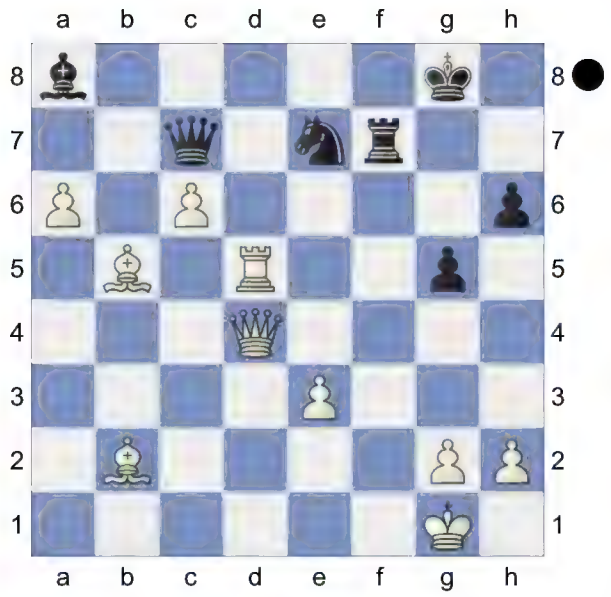


52.Rxd5!! Rf7

[52...Bxc6 53.Qxe4+]

53.Qxe4+ Kg8 54.Qd4

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.41

1-0

34 **E10**

□ **Stefansson,Vignir Vatnar** **2531**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**

45th Olympiad 2024 (2.3) 12.09.2024

[GM Sethuraman]

E10: Blumenfeld Gambit

Engqvist,Th: 'RR: 'Inf 63/(38)" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 h6N** Once again, we see Gukesh opting for the h6 system, a line he seems to favor for its ability to avoid deep theoretical battles while maintaining flexibility.

[3...c5 4.Nc3 *(4.g3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Bg2 Qc7 7.Qd3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 Rd8 10.b3 d6 11.Bb2 Bd7 12.Rac1 Be8 13.Rfd1 Nbd7 14.h3 Rac8 15.g4 Ne5 16.Qe3 Qb8 17.f4 Nc6 18.Nxc6 Bxc6* 0-1 (57) Ollitervo,T (2425)-Visakh,N (2405) Deutsche Schz-5 corr3435 1934*)* 4...cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Ndb5 d5 7.Bf4 e5 8.cxd5 exf4 9.dxc6 bxc6 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Rd1+ Bd7 12.Nd6 Bxd6 13.Rxd6 Rb8 14.Rd2 Re8 15.g3 Kc7 16.Bg2 Rb4 17.0-0 fxg3 18.hxg3 (19) Engqvist,T (2415)-De Firmian,N (2590) 63/(38) Gausdal 1995]

[3...a6 4.Nc3 c5 5.g3 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Qc7 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bf4 d6 10.Nb3 Nbd7 11.Rc1 Nh5 12.Be3 Ne5 13.Na4 Bd7 14.Nb6 Rad8 15.Qd2 Be8 16.Qa5 Kh8 17.f4 Ng4 18.Bd2 1-0 (30) Dautov,R (2615)-Lutz,C (2555) 66/458 Nussloch 1996]

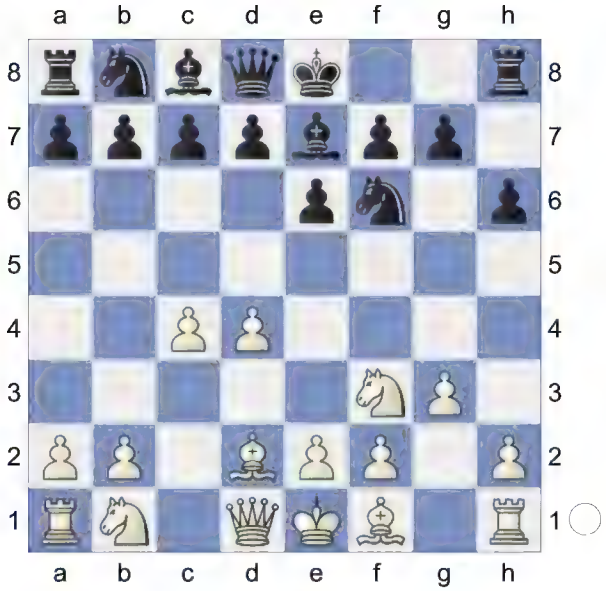
4.g3 Bb4+

[4...d5 5.Bg2 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 reduces Black's flexibility.]

5.Bd2

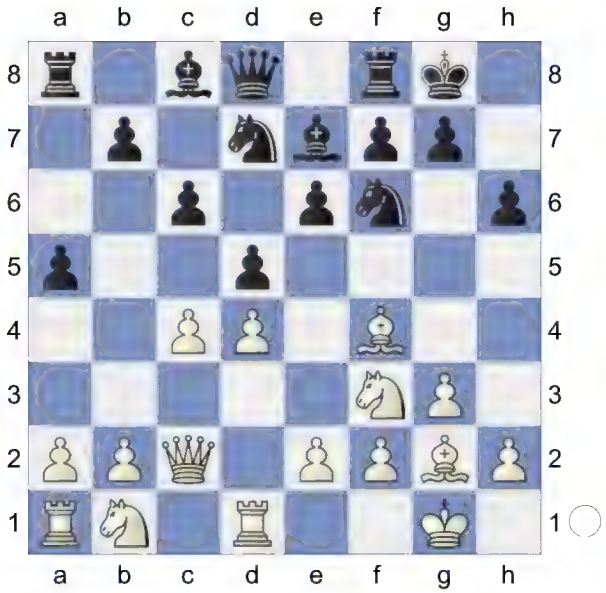
[5.Nc3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6]

5...Be7



6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.Qc2 White is slightly better. **8...c6 9.Rd1 Nbd7 10.Bf4 a5**

(Diagram)



This pawn push is quite common in such systems, it gains space for Black and also paves the way for ideas like ... b6 followed by ...Ba6. **11.Nc3** Critical stuff.

[11.b3 b6 12.Nc3 Ba6!]

11...dxc4 12.Nd2 12.e4 is not played anymore. 12.e4 wird inzwischen seltener gespielt.

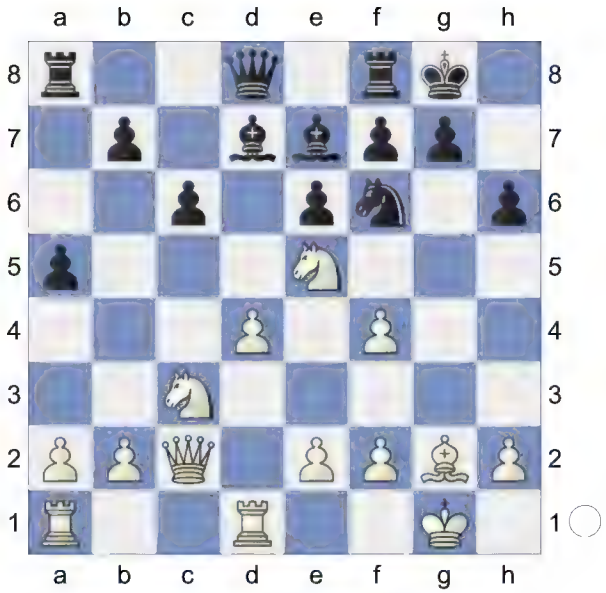
[12.e4 b6 *(12...b5! 13.d5! exd5 14.exd5 cxd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Rxd5)* 13.Qe2 Ba6⇄]

12...Nd5!? is another possible alternative going for the f4-bishop.

[12...Nb6 is my recommendation inside the course.]

13.Nxc4 Nxf4 14.gxf4 Nf6 Black's c8-bishop is the problem, so he plans for Bd7-Be8 and eventually brings it via h7, which happened in the game. **15.Ne5 Bd7**

(Diagram)



16.e3 Be8N

[Vorgänger: 16...Qc7 17.Rac1 Rad8 18.Qb3 Be8 19.f5 Nd7 20.Nxf7 Bxf7 21.fxe6 Bh5! 22.Nd5? -2.11/23 *(22.exd7+= -0.11/20 Kh8 23.Rd2)* 22...Nc5!-+ 23.Nxc7 Nxb3 24.axb3 Bxd1 25.Rxd1 0-1 Nguyen,T (2013)-Gorti,A (2261) Philadelphia op 11th 2017 (7)]

17.Kh1 Kh8 Both sides have played natural moves so far. **18.Rg1 Rc8**

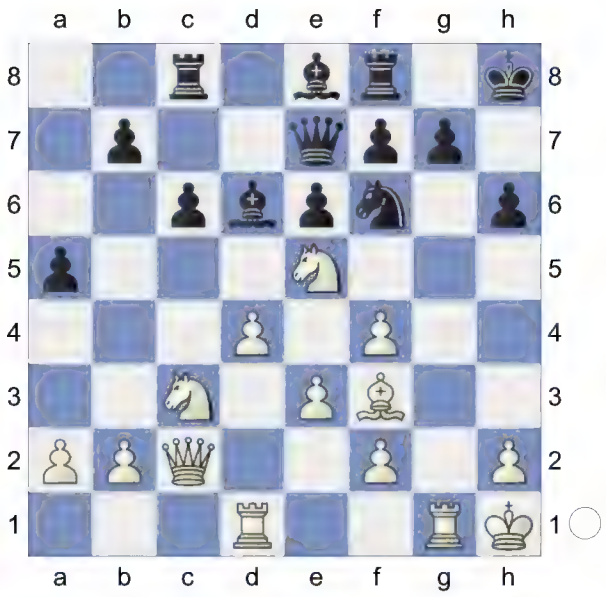
[18...Bd6 is a better alternative making f5 breakthroughs less effective for White. 19.f5 -0.34/22 *(19.Bf3=* 0.18/19 *)* 19...c5∓]

19.Rad1

[19.f5 Bd6 20.fxe6 0.20/19 *(20.Bh3±* 0.58/19 *)* 20...fxe6= 21.Ng6+ *(21.f4 c5⇄)* 21...Bxg6 22.Qxg6 Qe8=]

19...Bd6 20.Bf3 Qe7

(Diagram)



21.Na4 Rc7

[21...c5 22.Nb6 Rc7 Strongly threatening ...cxd4. 23.Na8 Rc8! 24.Nb6= is a repetition. Of course Gukesh is the last person to repeat like this.]

22.Nd3 Dodges c5 **22...Qd8** 0.45/21 A hard position to understand as both sides have no clear plans.

[22...Nd5? 0.79/17 22...Nd7 0.28 23.e4!

A) 23...Nb4 1.38/21 23...b5 0.75 24.Nxb4 axb4 2.87/18 *(24...Bxb4 1.92/18 25.a3 b5)* 25.e5+- And the bishop has no room. Now I can understand why Gukesh wanted to place his queen on d8 on move 22.;

B) 23...b5± 0.79/23;

C) 23...Nxf4 2.07/17 24.e5+-]

[22...Rg8 23.a3 Nd7∞]

[22...Nd5= -0.01/20]

23.Rc1?! 0.01/17

[23.a3 is a clever waiting move improving the position.

A) 23...Nd5?? 1.31/18 23...Rc8 0.42 the a3-pawn takes away the b4-square from the d5-knight which is the key point behind 23.a3. 24.e4! Nxf4 2.00/19 *(24...Bxf4± 1.31/22 25.exd5 cxd5)* 25.e5+-;

B) 23...Rg8 and the game continues.]

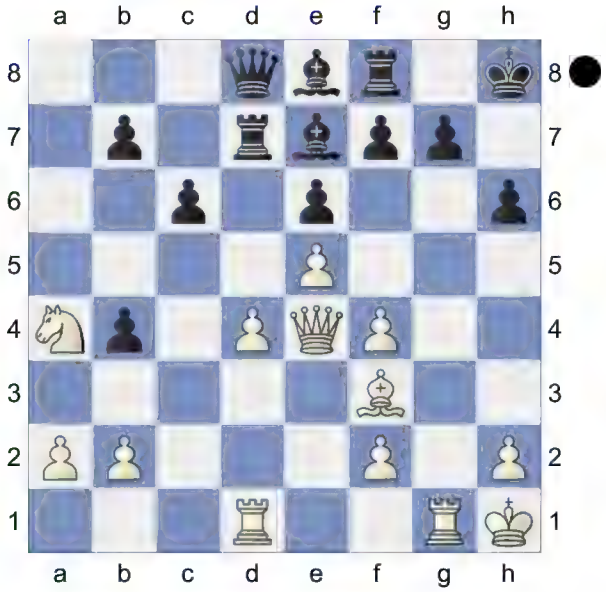
[23.Rg3± 0.45/21 feels stronger.]

23...Nd5= Gukesh seized the opportunity to bring his knight into action. **24.a3** Too late

[24.e4 -0.62/21 24.Nac5 -0.07

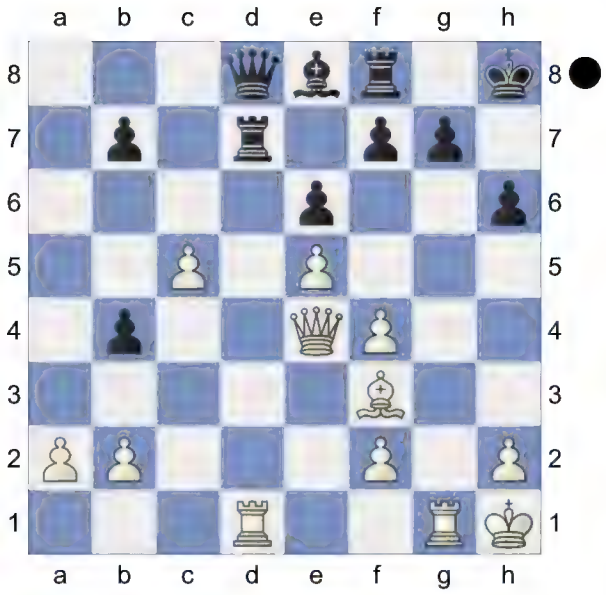
A) 24...Nxf4?? 1.34/16 24...Nb4 -0.62 25.e5 Nxd3 26.exd6 Nxc1 3.06/18 *(26...Nxf2+ 1.68/19* was necessary. *27.Qxf2 Qxd6)* 27.dxc7+-;

B) 24...Nb4! 25.Nxb4 axb4 26.e5 Be7 and now one can see the drawback of the rook on c1. 27.Rcd1 -1.10/21 *(27.Qe4∓ -0.55/22)* 27...Rd7 -0.68/19 *(27...c5∓ -1.10/21 28.d5 exd5 29.Rxd5 Qa8)* 28.Qe4 -1.43/18 *(28.Nc5∓ -0.68/19 Rxd4 29.Nxb7)*



28...c5!∓ 29.Nxc5? -3.79/19 *(29.b3∓ -1.30/18)* 29...Bxc5-+ 30.dxc5

(Diagram)

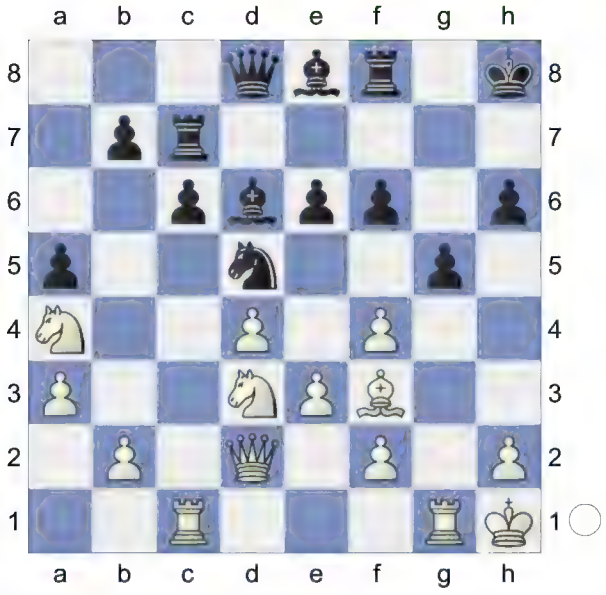


Black must now prevent Qxb7. Rxd1! 31.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 32.Bxd1 Bc6-+ is a cute little trick.]

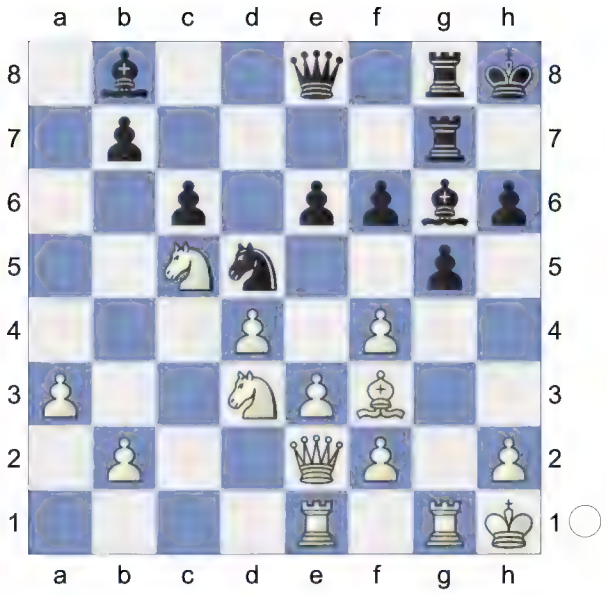
24...f6!?

[24...f5 is even better stopping e4 totally. Next on the cards is ...g5 and Black will cruise through the kingside.]

25.Qd2 g5!



Black has taken over the game. **26.Qxa5 Bg6 27.Qd2 Qe8 28.Nac5 Rg7 29.Qe2 Rfg8** Black is well armed. **30.Rce1 Bb8**



31.Qd2 -0.13/18

[31.Bg4± 0.33/22]

31...Bh7 Black has compensation.

32.Qd1 b6 33.Nb3 -0.52/19

[33.Ne4! g4 34.Bg2 h5∓]

[33.Ne4!= 0.00/18]

33...g4∓ 34.Bg2 Qh5 0.29/21

[⌓34...h5∓]

[34...h5∓ -0.51/20]

White does not recover from this.

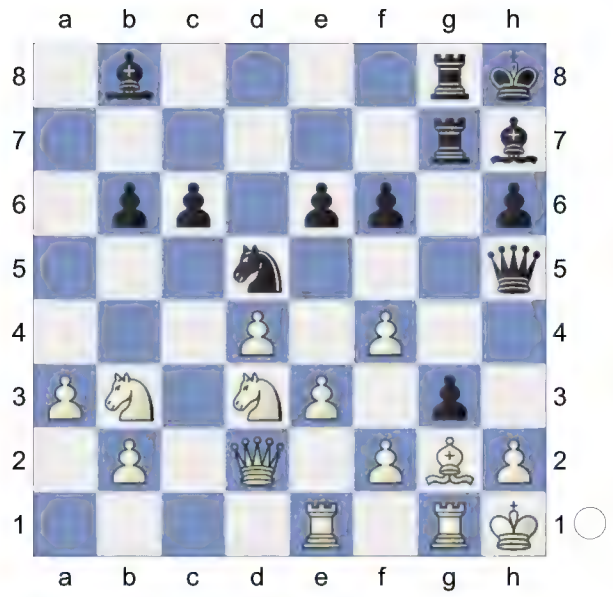
35.Qd2?? -3.43/19 A big blunder under pressure and now White is losing.

[⌓35.Nbc1]

[35.Nbc1= 0.29/21 and White stays safe.]

35...g3-+

(Diagram)



36.fxg3 Rxg3 37.e4 -4.59/20
[⌓37.Qe2 -3.25/19 Qxe2 Remove Defender 38.Rxe2 Bxd3 39.hxg3 Bxe2 40.Re1]
37...R8g4 Black is clearly winning.
38.Qe2 -7.86/20
[⌓38.Nf2 -4.54/19 Rh4 *(38...Rxf4? 39.Nh3-+; 38...Bxf4 39.Nxg4 Rxg4 40.Bf3-+)* 39.Nh3 Bxf4 *(39...Rxb3? 40.exd5 Bf5 41.Qe2-+; 39...Rgxh3? 40.Bxh3 Nxf4 41.Qf2-+)* 40.Qe2 Rhxh3 *(40...Rxb3 41.Qxh5 Rxh5 42.exd5∓; 40...Rgxh3? 41.Bxh3 Rxh3 42.Qxh5-+)* 41.Qxh5 Rxh5 42.exd5 Rxb3 43.h3 Rxb2 *(43...cxd5? 44.Rxe6 Rg5 45.Re8+ Rg8 46.Rxg8+ Bxg8 47.Rf1-+)* 44.Rgf1]
38...Nxf4 39.Nxf4 Bxf4 40.Bf3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.09 (flawless)
40...Rxf3

(Diagram)

Game over, a convincing win by Gukesh! He was on fire during the Olympiad, and this game was no exception. 0-. Deflection
0-1

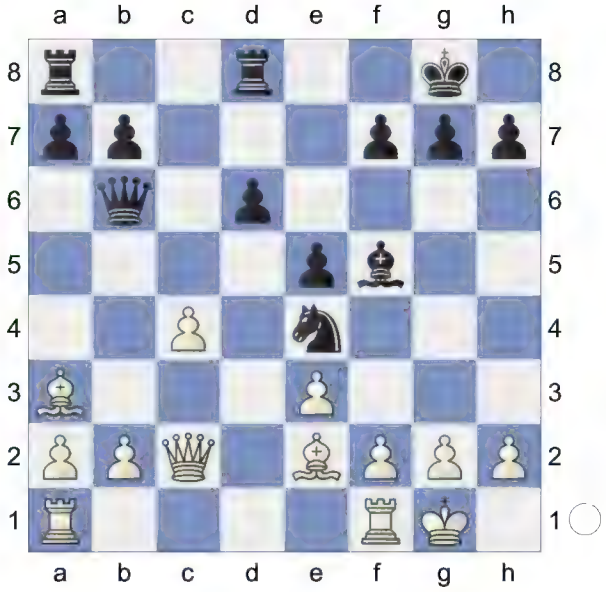
35 **E21**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2766**
■ **So,Wesley** **2751**
11th Sinquefield Cup (9.1) 28.08.2024
[TA]

E21: Nimzo-Indian: 4 Nf3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 c5 5.dxc5
[5.g3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qa5 7.Bd2 b6 8.Bg2 Bb7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Be4 11.Bg5 Qxc3 12.Rc1 Qb2 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.d5 Na6 15.Nh4 Bxg2 16.Nxg2 Qe5 17.e4 Nc7 18.Nh4 Ne8 19.Kg2 Rb8 Stockfish Nn (3551)-Ethereal (3470) tcec-chess.com INT 2020 [John Emms] 1-0 (64)]
5...Na6N
[5...Ne4!? 6.Qd4 Qf6 7.e3 Na6 8.Qxe4 Bxc3+ 9.Kd1 Bxb2 10.Bxb2

Qxb2 11.Qd4 Qxd4+ 12.exd4 b6 13.cxb6 axb6 14.Kd2 Bb7 15.Be2 Be4 Chapter-Dxc5]
[5...0-0 6.Bg5 Na6 7.e4 e5 8.c6 bxc6 9.Bd3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 d6 11.Rb1 h6 12.Be3 Ng4 13.Bc1 Qa5 14.Qc2 f5 15.0-0 Nc5 16.Nd2 fxe4 17.Bxe4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Bf5 19.Qe2 Nf6 20.Nxf6+ Marchisotti,M (1264)-Cordovil,J Lechenicher SchachServer 2000 ZUS C73 [Doric,Nenand] 0-1 (44)]
[5...Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qa5 7.Qb3 Na6 8.Be3 0-0 9.Bd4 Ne4 10.Qb5 Qc7 11.Be5 Qxc5 12.Bd4 Qc7 13.e3 d6 14.Bd3 f5 15.Rd1 e5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Bxe5 Qf7 18.0-0 Be6 19.f3 Nec5 20.Be2 Marchisotti,M-Hernandez,J Lechenicher SchachServer 2000 ZUS C73 [Kier H.Nienhuis] 1-0]

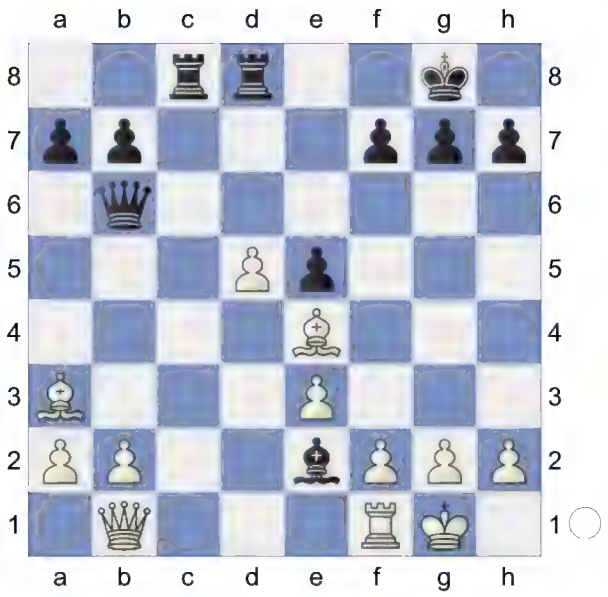
6.Bd2 Nxc5 7.e3 Bxc3 8.Bxc3 White is slightly better. **8...Nce4 9.Bb4 d6** 0.82/22
[9...Qb6!± 0.42/24 10.Qa4 Nc5]
10.Be2 0.43/22
[White should play 10.Nd4± 0.82/22]
10...Qb6±

11.Ba3 0-0 12.0-0 e5 13.Nd2 Rd8 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.Qc2 Bf5



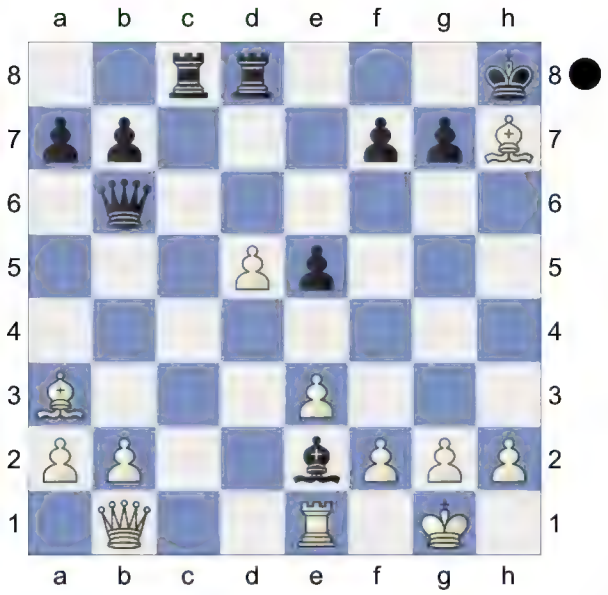
White must now prevent ...Ng3! **16.Bd3 d5 17.Rad1** Threatens to win with c5. **17...Rac8** Prevents c5. **18.Qb1 Bg4! 19.cxd5 Bxd1 20.Bxe4 Be2**

(Diagram)



21.Re1

[Of course not 21.Bxh7+ Kh8 22.Re1



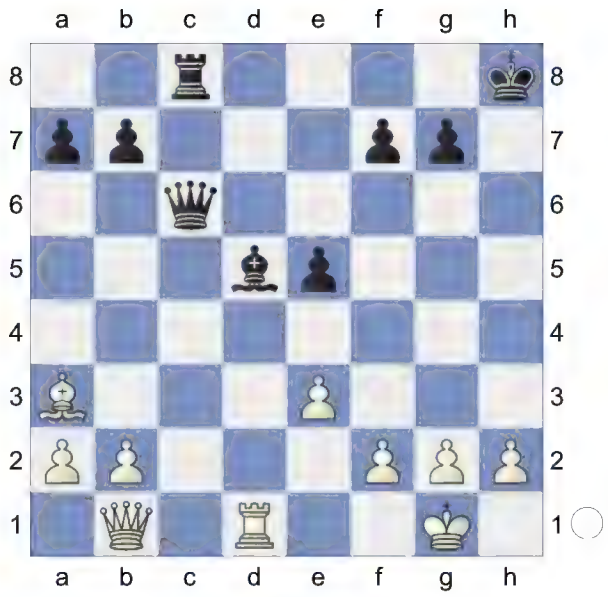
g6! 23.Rxe2 Rxd5 24.Bxg6 *(24.e4? Rd3-+)* 24...Qxg6∓]

21...Bc4 **22.Bxh7+** A strong pair of Bishops. **22...Kh8** ...g6 is the strong threat. **23.Bf5** **Bxd5** Strongly threatening ...Be6. **24.Bxc8**

[24.Be7 seems wilder. Re8 25.Bxc8 Rxc8 26.e4]

24...Rxc8 25.Rd1 Qc6

(Diagram)



Hoping for ...Be4. The position is equal.

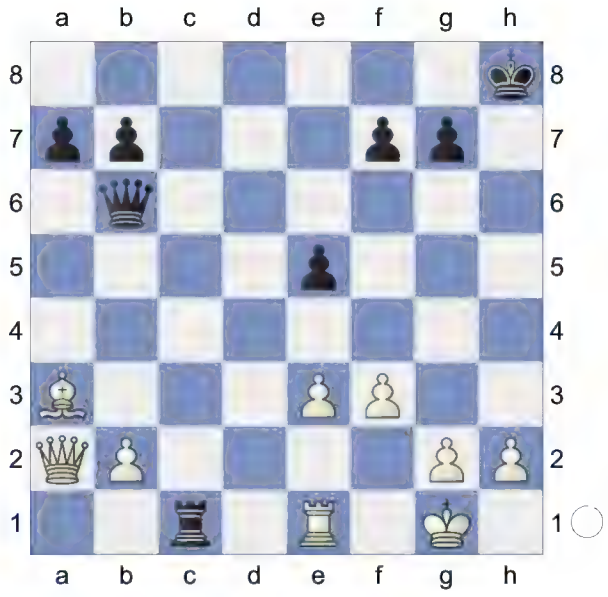
26.f3 Prevents Be4.

[26.Qf5 with more complications. Qc2 27.Qxc2 Rxc2 28.h4]

26...Qb6 27.Re1

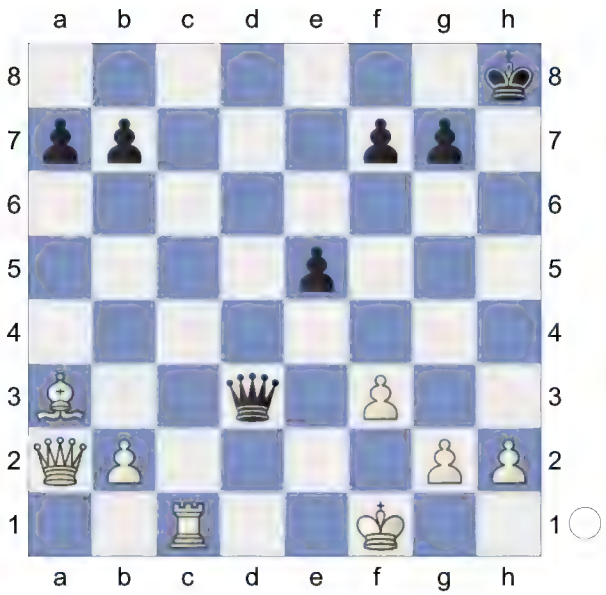
[Don't blunder 27.Rxd5? Qxe3+ 28.Kf1 Rc1+ 29.Qxc1 Qxc1+ 30.Kf2 e4 31.fxe4 Qf4+ 32.Kg1 Qe3+ 33.Kf1 Qxe4-+]

27...Bxa2 28.Qxa2 Rc1!

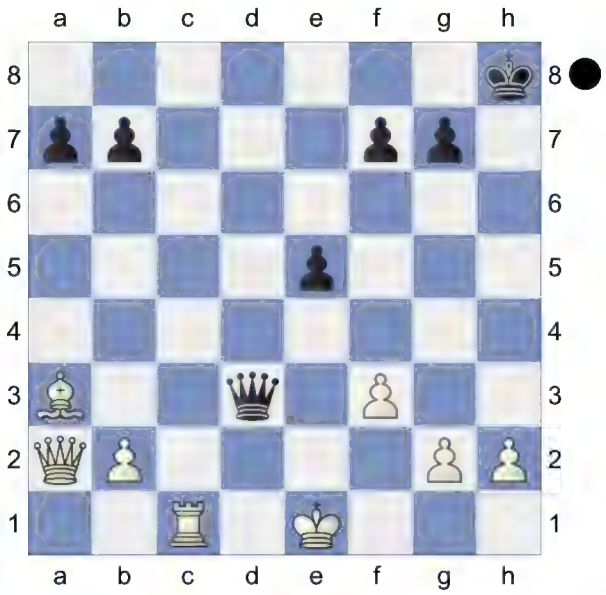


Decoy **29.Rxc1 Qxe3+ 30.Kf1 Qd3+**

(Diagram)



31.Ke1 Qe3+ 32.Kd1 Qd3+ 33.Ke1 Qe3+ 34.Kd1 Qd3+ 35.Ke1



Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

36 **C55**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2793**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2766**
11th Sinquefield Cup (7.5) 26.08.2024
[TA]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 a6N

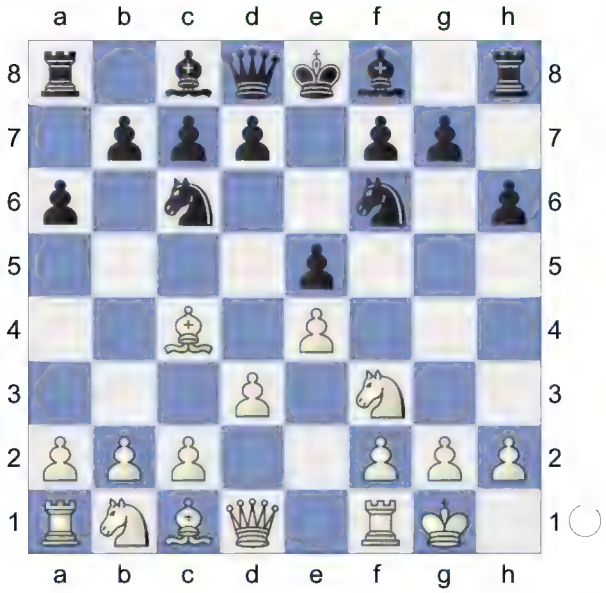
[4...Be7 5.c3 0-0 6.Nbd2 d6 7.Bb3 Na5 8.Bc2 c5 9.Nf1 Nc6 10.Ne3 h6 11.Nd5 Be6 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.0-0 d5 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Re1 Rfe8 16.Bf4 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Qd7 18.Bxh6 gxh6 19.Qxf6 Steinle,T (2087)-Grill,M (2148) Aix les Bains 2003 EXT 2004 [ChessBase II] 1-0]

[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 *(6...Nb6 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.Nxe5 Bxe5 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Re1 Qe7 11.Kh1 0-0 12.d4 Rd8 13.Qd3 Qd6 14.Rxe5 Ba6* 10) Italian 4...d5 - 6.O-O wi-Italian 7.Bb5 - 8.Nxe5 Lifetime Repertoires: Plichta's 1.e4 e5*)* 7.Re1 f6 8.Bb3 *(8.d4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.a4 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Qxd4 exd4 13.Bf4 Kd7 14.Nd2 Bd6 15.Bxd6 cxd6 16.Nc4 Nxc4 17.Bxc4 Kd8 18.Re4 Bd7 19.b3 Bc6 20.Rg4 g6 21.Rxd4 Kc7 22.f3 Rhe8* Nguyen,T (2642)-Tari,A (2641) Baku AZE 2023 [Harry Grieve] 0-1 (63)*)* 8...a5 9.c3 Nb6 10.Nh4 g6 11.a4 Bd6 12.d4 Qe7 13.Be3 Bd7 14.dxe5 fxe5 15.Nf3 h6 16.Nbd2 0-0-0 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.Nfd2 Nd7 19.Bd5 Abdusattorov,N (2727)-Van Foreest,J (2682) chess24.com 2024 [Harry Grieve] 1-0]

[4...Bc5 5.a4 d6 6.a5 h6 7.0-0 a6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Ne7 10.d4 Ba7

11.Bd3 Ng6 12.Re1 Re8 13.Nbd2 Nf4 14.Bf1 Nh7 15.Nc4 Qf6 16.Be3 exd4 17.Bxf4 Qxf4 18.g3 Qf6 19.cxd4 Leiva Rodriguez,J (2389)-Pichot,A (2628) Linares 2024 0-1 (43)]

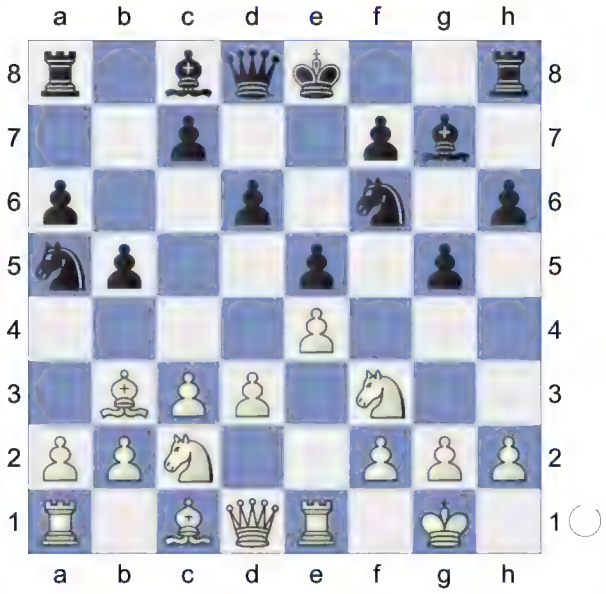
5.0-0 h6



6.c3 d6 7.Re1 g5 8.Na3 White is slightly better. **8...Bg7 9.Nc2 b5** 0.55/24

[9...Na5!= 0.15/21]

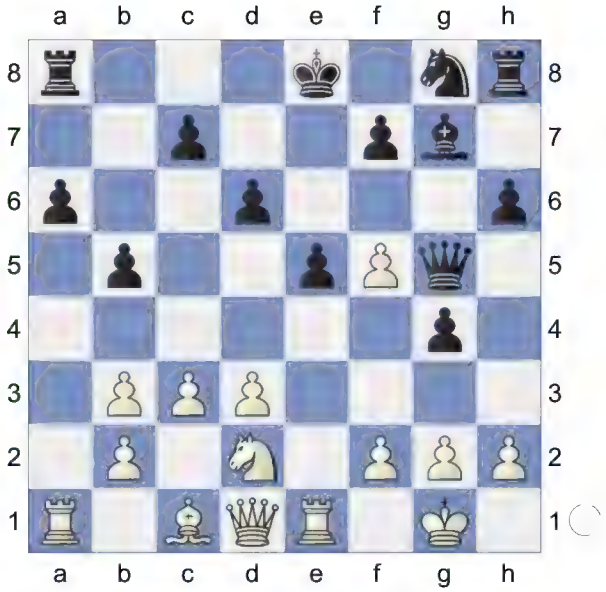
10.Bb3!± Na5



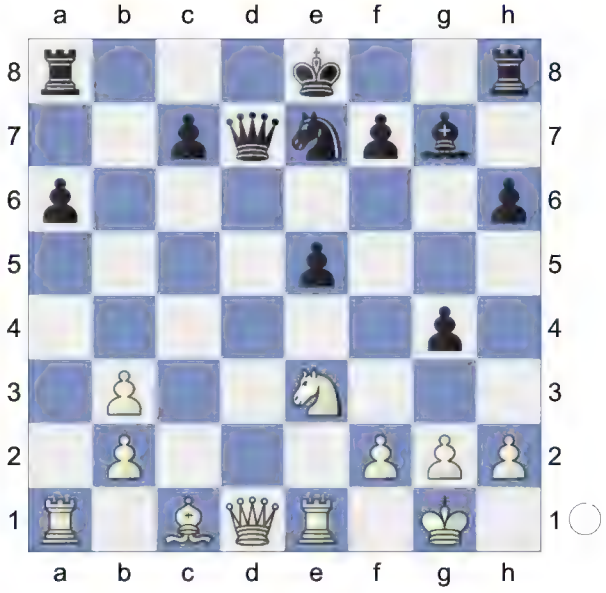
11.Ne3 Nxb3 12.axb3 Ng8 13.Nf5 0.39/22

[Better is 13.c4± 0.82/22]

13...Bxf5 14.exf5 g4! 15.Nd2 Qg5



16.c4 bxc4! 17.Nxc4 Qxf5 18.d4 Ra5 is the strong threat. **18...Ne7 19.dxe5 dxe5 20.Ne3 Qd7**

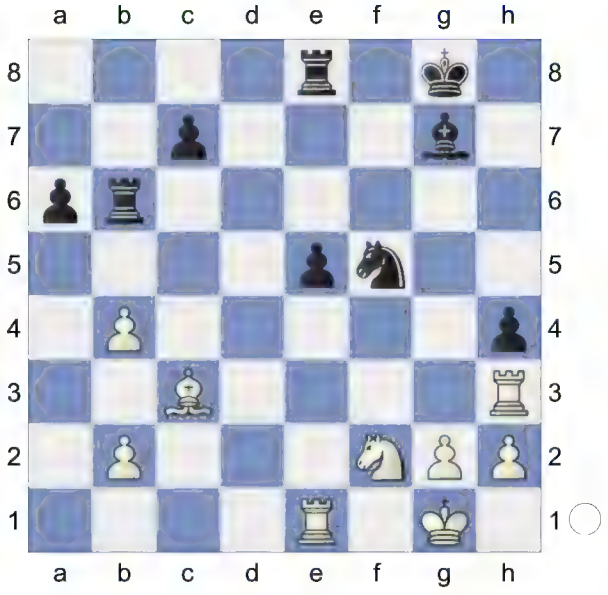


21.Qxg4 Qxg4 22.Nxg4 f6 23.f4 h5 24.Nf2 0-0 25.Bd2 Rab8

(Diagram)

26.Ra3 Nf5 27.fxe5 fxe5 28.b4 Rb6 29.Rh3 h4 30.Bc3 Re8 0.79/23

[30...Rc6= 0.24/24 keeps the balance.]



31.Re4± Rg6 32.Nd3 0.59/21

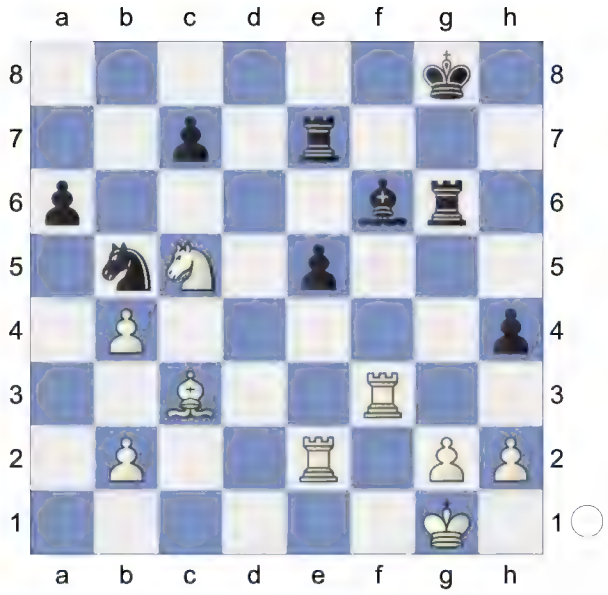
[32.Rf3± 1.00/24 Rg5 33.Bd2]

32...Re7± 33.Nc5

[Much worse is 33.Bxe5 Rge6 34.Rf4 Rxe5 35.Nxe5 Rxe5=]

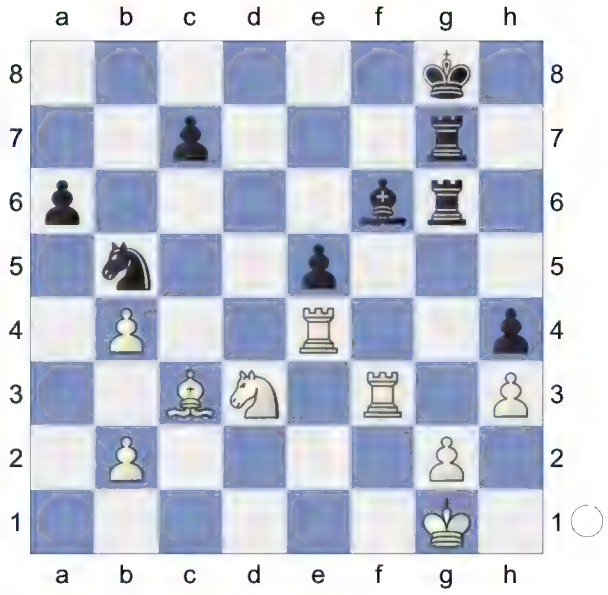
33...Bf6 34.Rf3 Nd6 35.Re2 Nb5

(Diagram)



36.h3 Bg7 37.Re4 Bf6 38.Nd3 &Bianco is more active. **38...Reg7** 1.57/26

[Black should play 38...Nxc3± 0.49/22 39.bxc3 Reg7]



39.Rf2 0.25/21

[39.Rxf6!± 1.57/26 Nxc3 40.Rxg6 Nxe4 41.Nxe5 *(41.Rxa6 Rd7=)*]

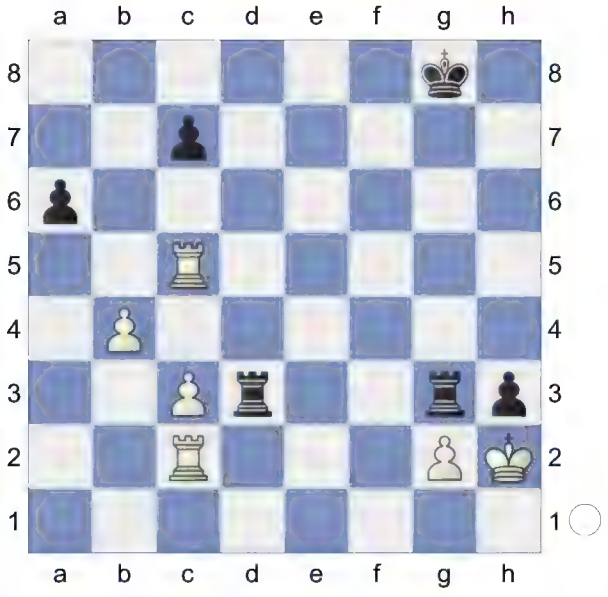
39...Nxc3= 40.bxc3 Rg3

(Diagram)

41.Nxe5 0.02/18

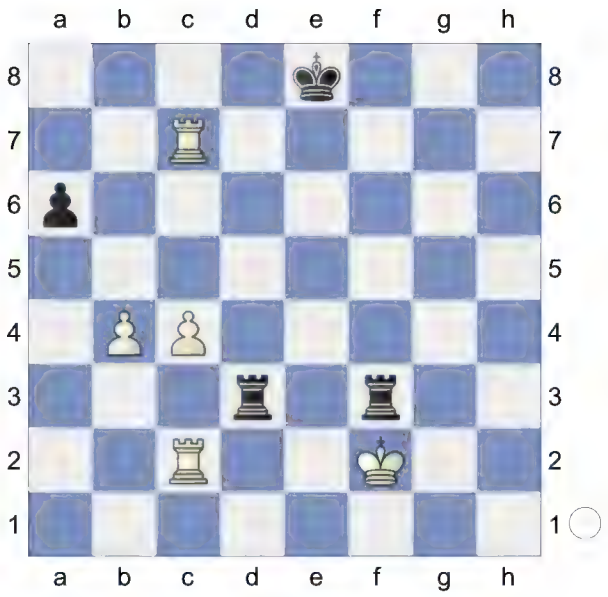
[41.Rxf6± 0.35/23 Rxd3 42.Rxh4 *(42.Rxe5 Rxh3 43.Re8+ Kh7=; 42.Rxa6 Rxc3 43.Rxh4 Rc1+ 44.Kh2 Rc2±)*]

41...Bxe5 The position is equal. **42.Rxe5** Hoping for Kh2. **42...Rxh3±** Endgame KRR-KRR **43.Rc5 Rd3 44.Kh2 Rgg3 45.Rc2 h3**



46.Rxc7 Kf8 47.gxh3 Rxh3+ 48.Kg2 Ke8 49.c4 Rhg3+ 50.Kf2 Rgf3+

(Diagram)

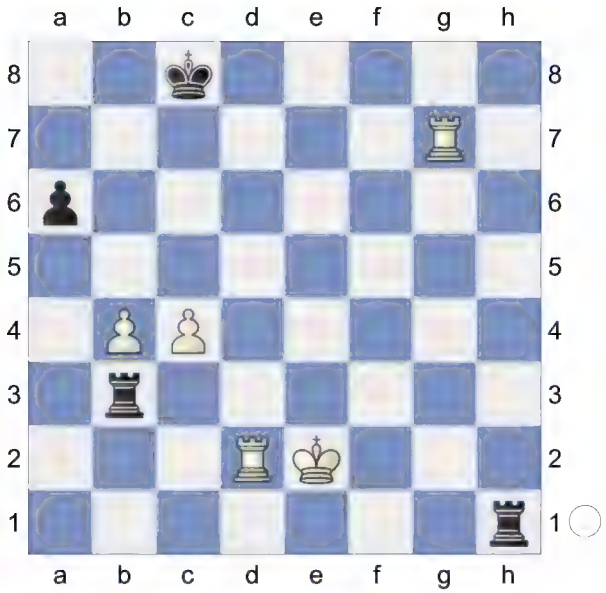


51.Ke1 Kd8 52.Rg7 Rde3+ 53.Kd1 Rf1+ 54.Kd2 Rb3 55.Ke2 Rh1

White must now prevent ...Rh2+.

56.Rd2+ Kc8 57.Rg8+ Kc7 58.Rg7+ Kc8 59.Rg8+ Kc7 60.Rg7+ Kc8

(Diagram)

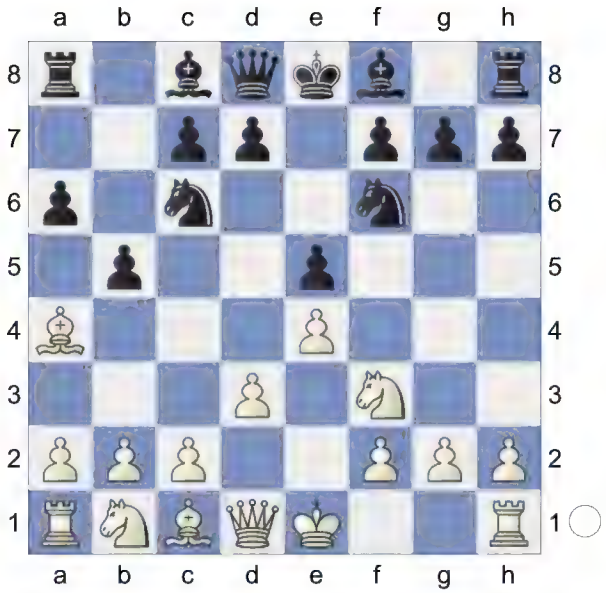


Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

37 **C77**
□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2762**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2766**
11th Sinquefield Cup (5.3) 23.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

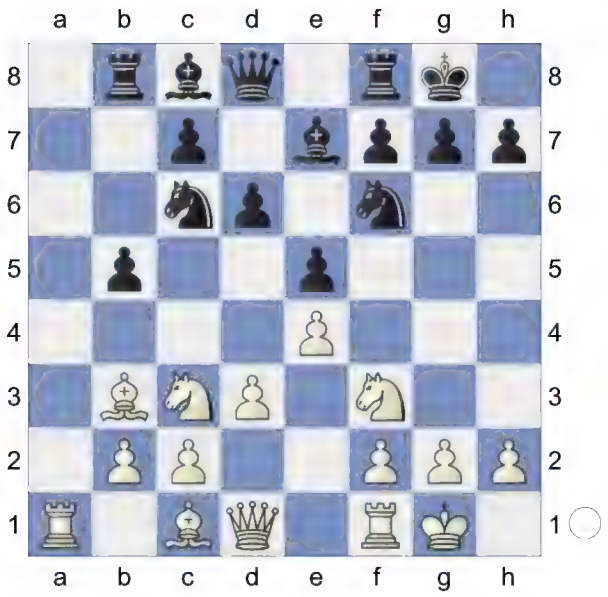
C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 b5

(Diagram)



6.Bb3 Be7 7.a4 Rb8 8.axb5 axb5 9.Nc3 0-0 10.0-0
[10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Nd4 12.Nxd4 exd4 13.0-0 d6 14.Bd2 Bd7 15.Ra5 Rb7 16.Re1 Bg5 17.Re4 Bf6 18.Qa1 Bf5 19.Re1 Be5 20.h3 Qh4 21.Qd1 Bd7 22.Qf3 Re8 23.Re4 Qd8 24.Qd1 h6 (27) Naiditsch,A (2639)-Carlsen,M (2714) (m/4-rapid) 101/(239) 2007]
10...d6N
[10...h6 11.Nd5 Bc5 12.c3 d6 13.h3 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Ne7 15.Bb3 Bb6 16.d4 exd4 17.cxd4 d5 18.e5 Be6 19.Be3 Nf5 20.Bc2 b4 21.Qd3 Re8 22.Bd2 c5 23.dxc5 Bxc5 24.g4 Nh4 25.Qh7+ 0-1 (40) Haussernot,C (2108)-Kashlinskaya,A (2493) Swiss Queens Wed #46 blitz 2024 (8)]

(Diagram)



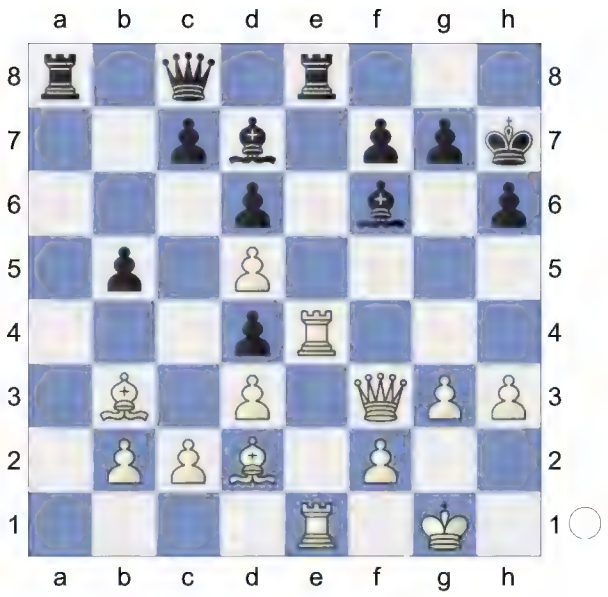
11.h3 h6 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 -0.16/22

[White should play 13.Bxd5± 0.40/24 Nb4 14.Bb3]

13...Nd4= 14.Nxd4 exd4 15.Re1 Bf6

16.Qf3 Kh7 17.Bd2 Bd7 18.Re4 Ra8 19.Rae1 Re8 20.g3 Qc8

(Diagram)



21.h4 -0.47/21

[21.Qh5= 0.00/20]

21...Re5 0.40/20

[Black should play 21...Be5!∓ -0.47/21]

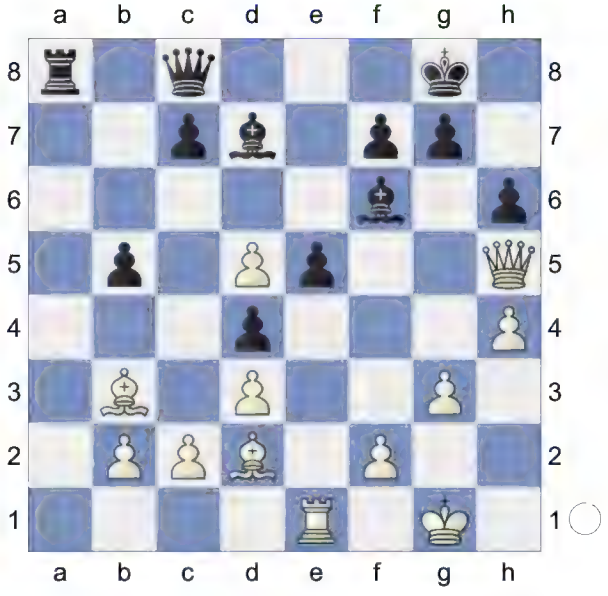
22.Rxe5±

[22.Rxd4? loses. Rxe1+ 23.Bxe1 Bxd4-+]

22...dxe5 23.Qh5 0.09/22

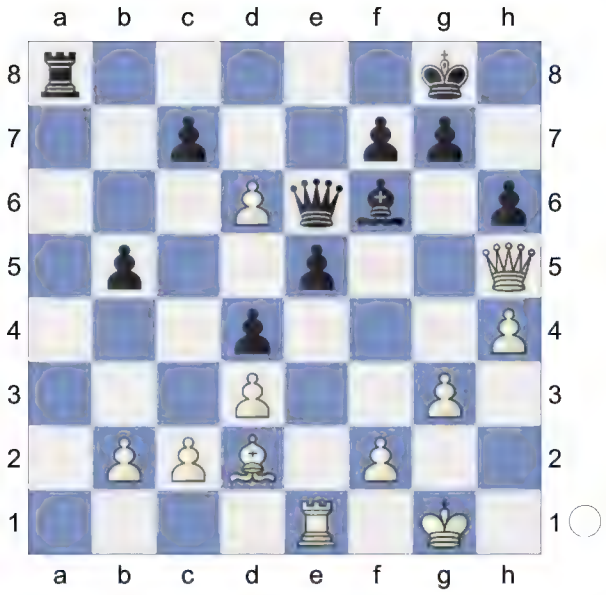
[23.d6± 0.46/19 is more appropriate.]

23...Kg8

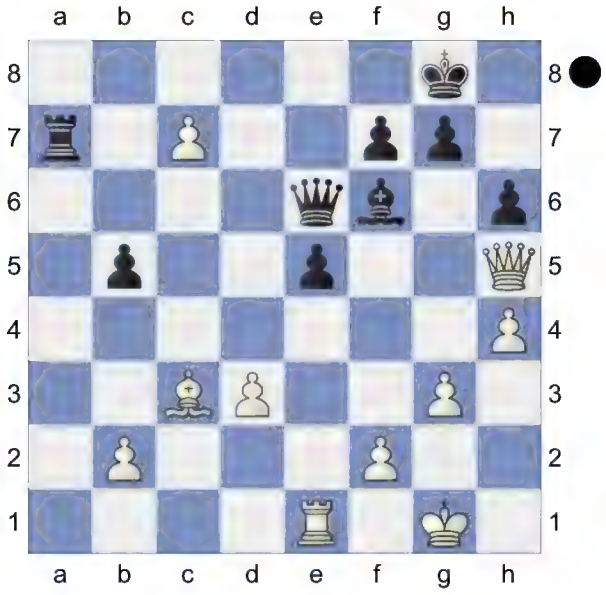


Threatens to win with ...Bg4. **24.d6 Be6 25.Bxe6 Qxe6**

(Diagram)

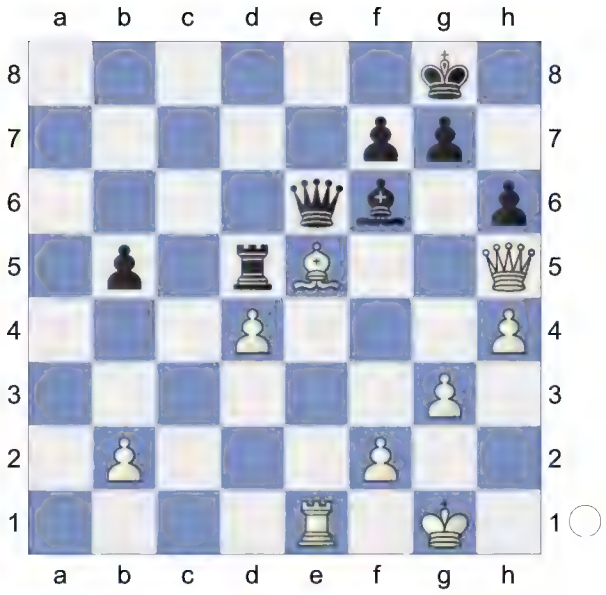


26.dxc7 Ra7 27.c3 dxc3 28.Bxc3

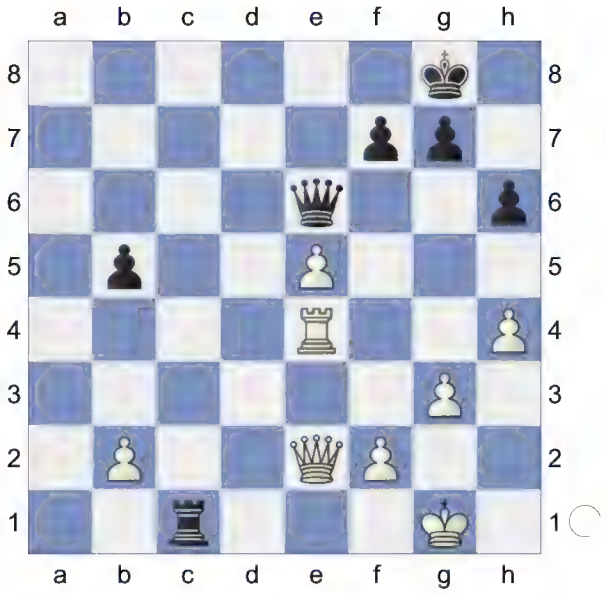


and Rxe5 would now be decisive
28...Rxc7 29.Bxe5 Rc5 30.d4 Rd5

(Diagram)

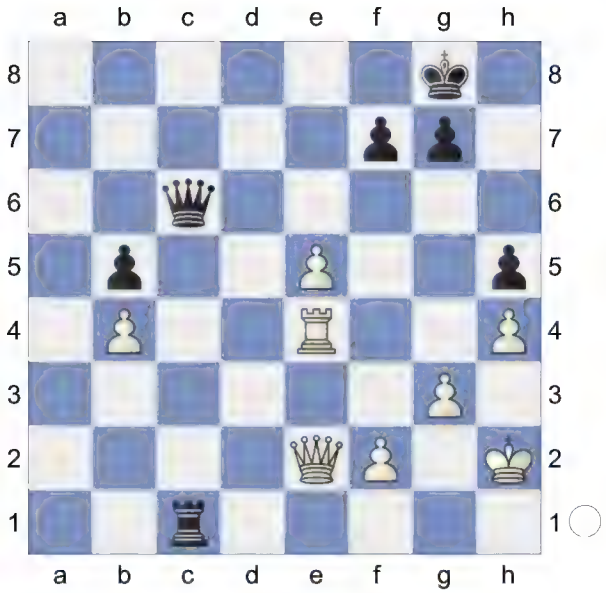


31.Re3 Qd7 32.Qf3 Bxe5 33.dxe5=
Endgame KQR-KQR. White is a pawn up. **33...Qe6 34.Qe2 Rc5 35.Re4 Rc1+**

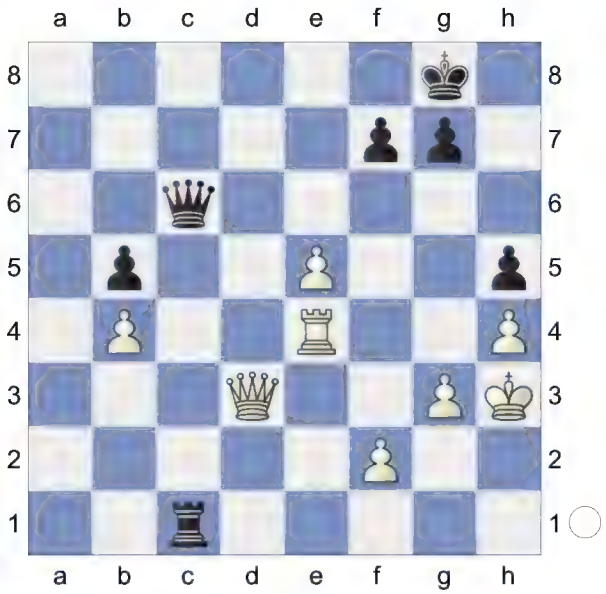


The position is equal. **36.Kh2 Qc6 37.Qd3 h5 38.b4 Ra1 39.Qe3 Rb1 40.Qe2 Rc1**

(Diagram)



41.Qd3 Ra1 42.Qe3 Rb1 43.Qe2 Rc1 44.Qd3 Ra1 45.Kh3 Rc1

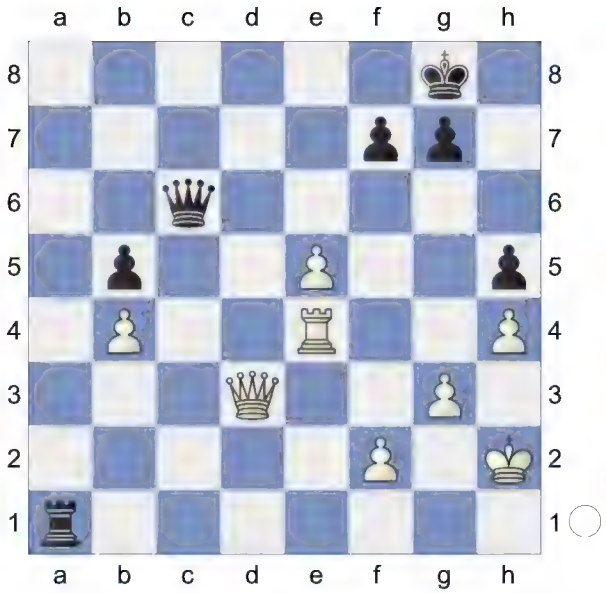


46.Kh2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

46...Ra1

(Diagram)



½-½

38 **C67**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2766**

■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2751**

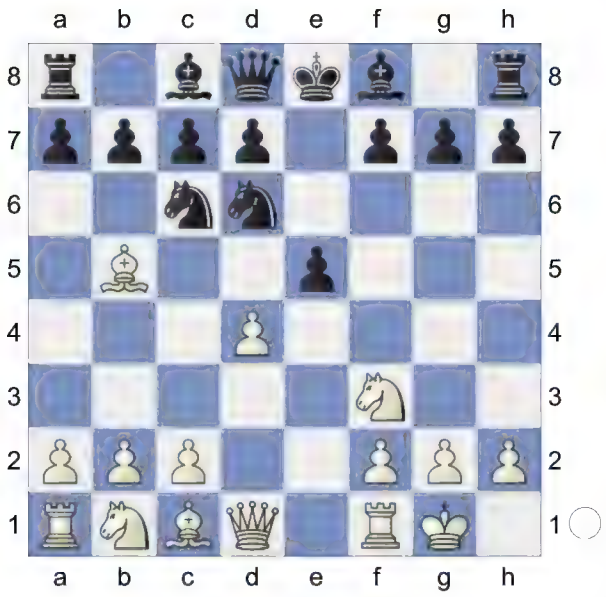
11th Sinquefield Cup (4.5) 22.08.2024

[TA]

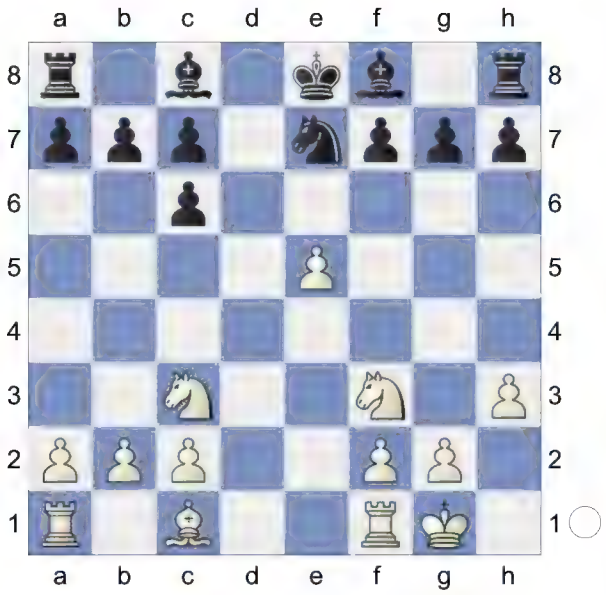
C67: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence: 4 0-0 Nxe4

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6

(Diagram)



6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 Ke8 10.h3 Ne7



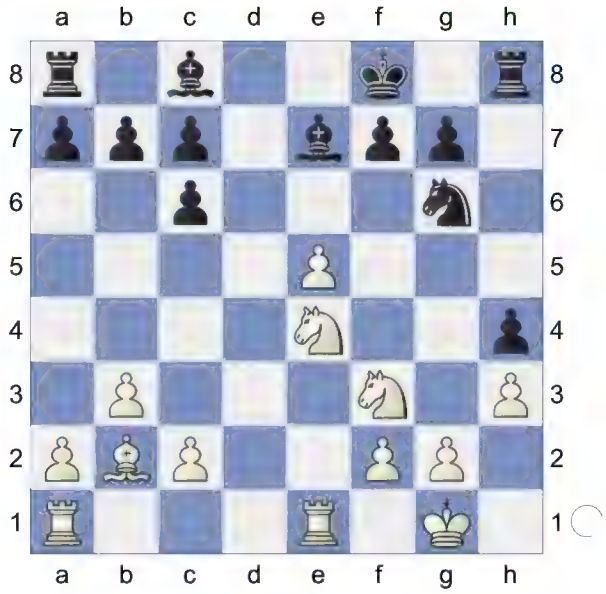
11.Rd1 Ng6 12.b3

[12.Be3 Be7 *(12...Bb4 13.Ne2 h6 14.Ng3 h5 15.Bg5 Be7 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.Nd4 h4 18.Ndf5+ Bxf5 19.Nxf5+ Kf8 20.Rd7 Rh5 21.g4 hxg3 22.Nxg3 Rxe5 23.Rxc7 Rae8 24.Rd1 Re1+ 25.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 26.Kh2 Nh4 27.Rxb7* Winkler,T (2684)-Fischer,F (2606) Hastings 2023 CBM 047 ext [John Watson] ½-½) 13.Rd2 h5 14.Re1 h4 15.Ne4 Bf5 16.Bg5 Bxg5 17.Nexg5 Rh5 18.g4 hxg3 19.fxg3 Bxh3 20.Nxh3 Rxh3 21.e6 Rxg3+ 22.Kf2 Rg4 23.Rd7 Rc8 24.Rxf7 Nf8 25.Rh1 1-0 (25) Caruana,F (2835)-So,W (2770) Lichess.org INT 2020 CBM 196 Extra [Krasenkow,Michal]]

12...Be7 13.Bb2 h5N

[13...Bf5 14.Nd4 Bd7 15.Re1 Rd8 16.e6 Bc8 17.Nf5 Bf6 18.Na4 Bxb2 19.Nxb2 Rd5 20.exf7+ Kxf7 21.Ne3 Re5 22.Nd3 Re7 23.f3 h5 24.g4 b6 25.Ng2 c5 26.Rxe7+ Nxe7 27.Ngf4 g6 28.Re1 5.♗e2 0-0-0 6.♗e3_54305 (2646)-16. ♘a4 ♕b5 17.a3 ♘b8_23 (2579) Copenhagen 2015 Catastrophe Open File [CCYB 11\19] 1-0 (38)]

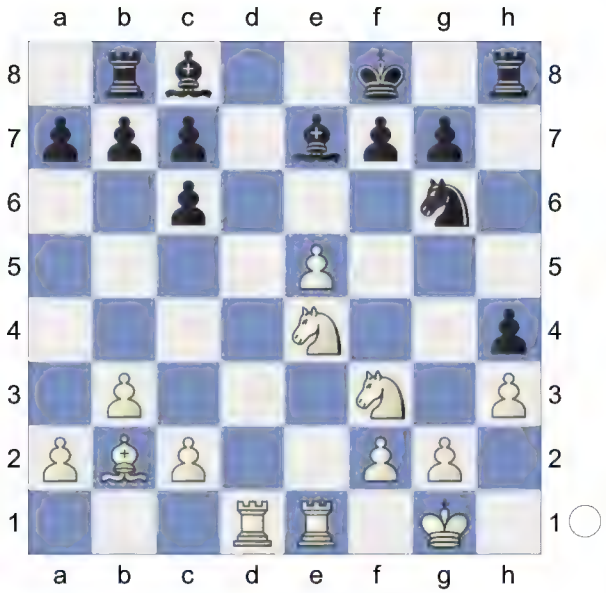
14.Re1 h4 15.Ne4 Kf8



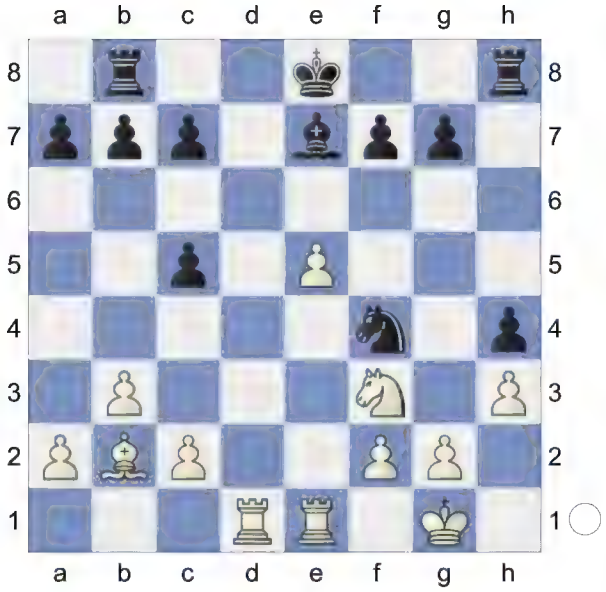
16.Rad1 Rb8 0.37/23

[16...Bf5= 0.06/24]

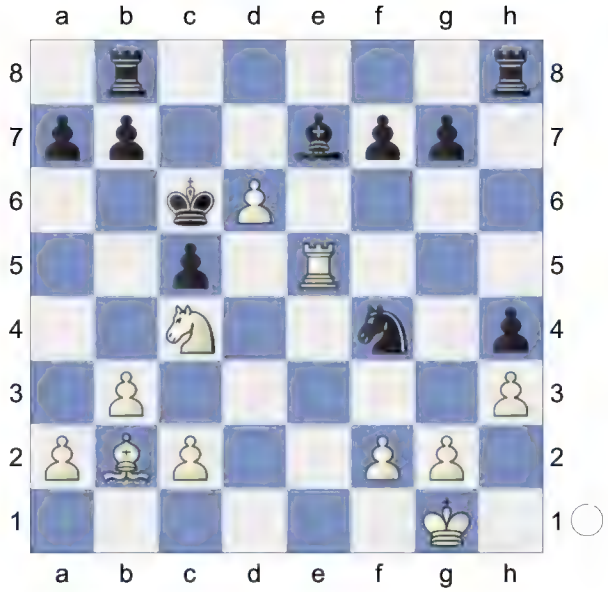
(Diagram)



17.Nf6!± Nf4
[17...gxf6 18.exf6 Bd6 19.Ba3!±]
18.Nd7+ Bxd7 19.Rxd7 Ke8 20.Rdd1
[20.Rxc7? Bd8 21.Rxf7 Kxf7-+]
20...c5

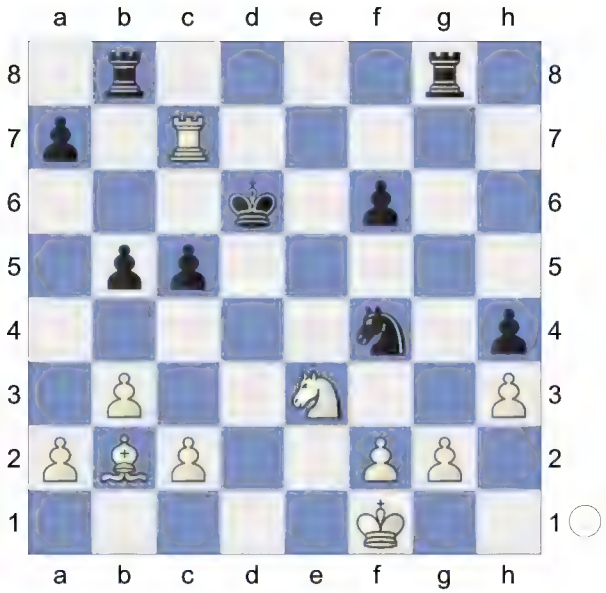


21.Nd2 Kd7 0.39/28
[21...Rd8= 0.08/27]
22.Nc4+ 0.00/25
[22.Re4± 0.39/28 Ne6 23.f4]
22...Ke6!= 23.Rd6+ cxd6
[23...Bxd6 24.exd6+ Kd7 25.Re7+ Kc6 26.Bxg7± *(26.Rxc7+ Kd5±)*]
24.exd6+ Kd5 ...Bf6 is the strong threat.
25.Re5+ Kc6

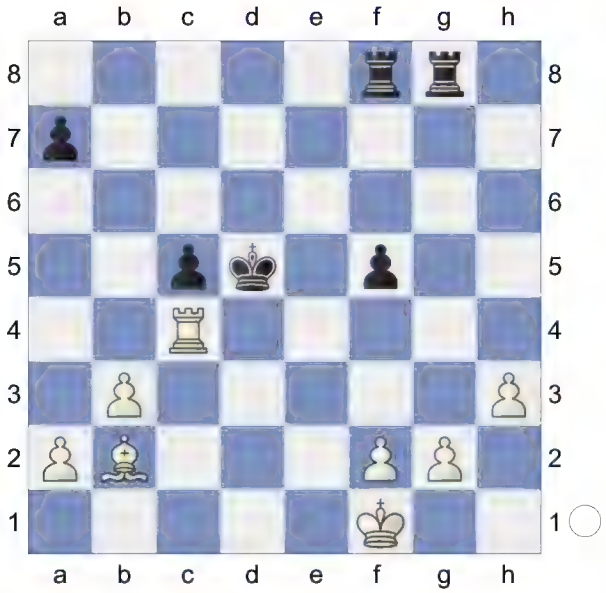


26.Rxe7 f6 0.06/30
[26...b5∓ -0.34/27 is more appropriate. 27.Rc7+ Kd5 28.Ne3+ Kxd6 29.Rxf7 Rhf8 30.Rxg7 Rbe8]
27.Rxg7 Rhg8 0.77/25
[27...Nd5= 0.00/23]
28.Rc7+±
[28.Bxf6 Rxg7 29.Bxg7 Nxh3+! 30.Kf1 *(30.gxh3 Rg8∓)* 30...Nf4∓]
28...Kd5 29.Kf1 0.06/23 &Bianco is more active.
[29.Bxf6± 0.72/24 Hoping for d7. b5 30.Ne3+ Kxd6 31.Rh7 *(31.Rxa7 Ra8±)*]
29...b5= 30.Ne3+ Kxd6

(Diagram)

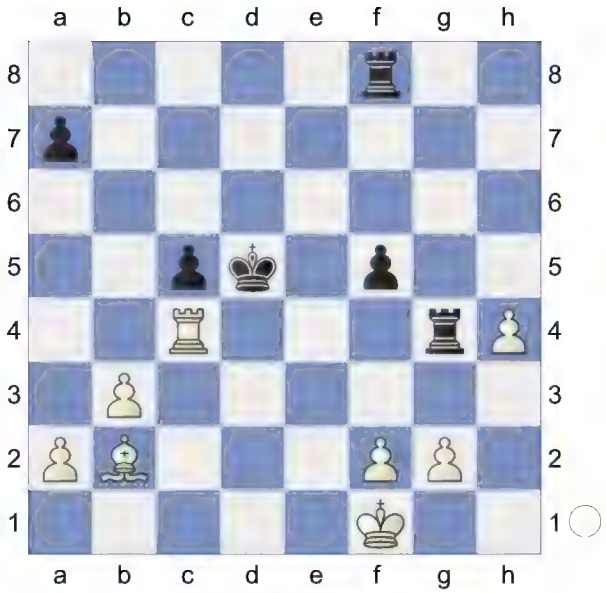


31.Rh7 Rbf8 0.58/23
[31...Rh8!= 0.06/28 32.Rxh8 *(32.Rxa7 Ra8=)* 32...Rxh8]
32.Rxh4± Nd5 33.Nxd5 Kxd5
Endgame KRR-KRB **34.c4+ bxc4**
35.Rxc4 f5



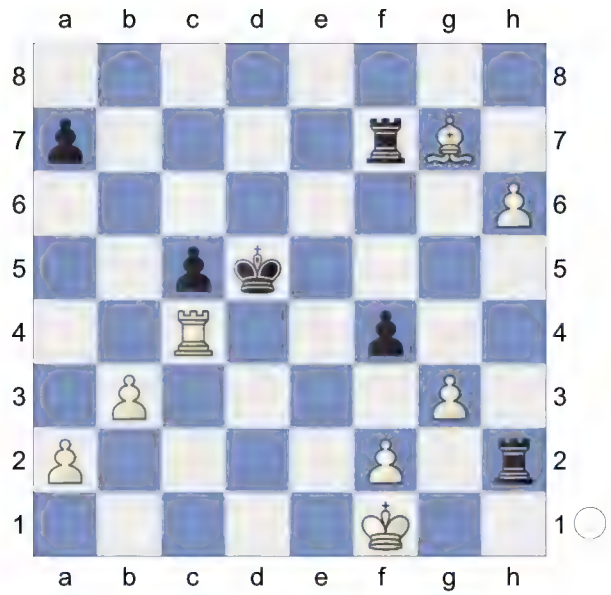
36.h4 Rg4 0.95/29
[36...Rf7± 0.57/25]

(Diagram)

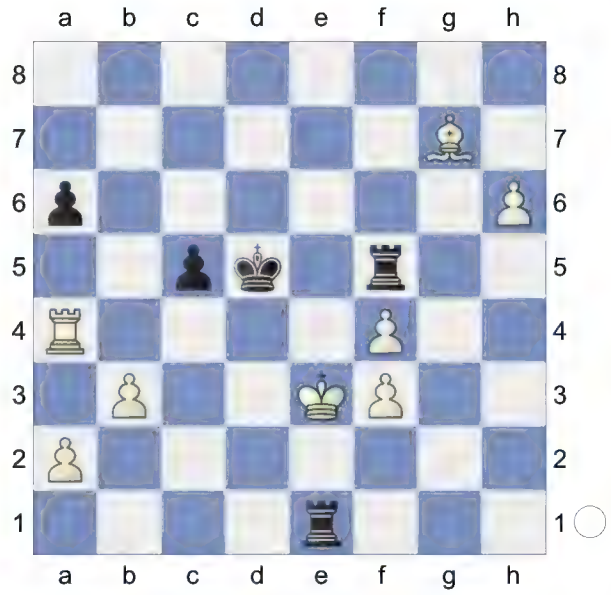


37.h5!± f4
[37...Rxc4 38.bxc4+ Ke6 39.h6+-]
38.h6 Rh4 39.g3 0.29/24
[39.Bg7± 1.21/24 Rh1+ 40.Ke2 f3+ 41.gxf3 Re8+ 42.Kd2]
39...Rh2 1.61/22
[39...Rxh6? 40.Bg7 Rh1+ 41.Kg2+-]
[39...Rh1+!= 0.29/24 40.Kg2 fxg3 41.fxg3 *(41.Kxh1 gxf2 42.Rc1 f1Q+ 43.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 44.Kg2 Rf7=)* 41...Rff1]
40.Bg7+- Rf7 2.35/28
[40...Rf5 1.76/21 was worth a try.]

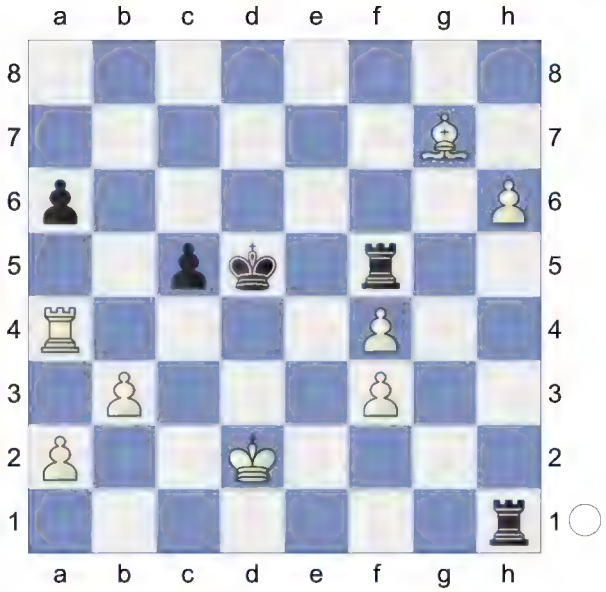
(Diagram)



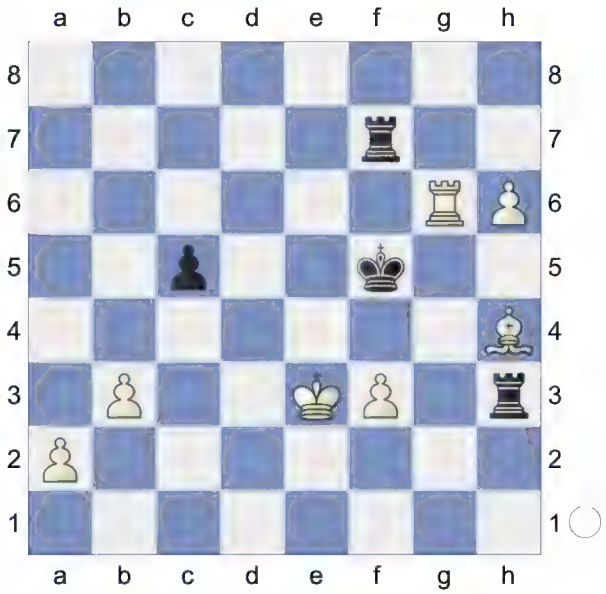
41.gxf4
[41.Rxf4 Rxf4 42.gxf4 Ke4=]
41...Rf5 42.Ke2 a6 3.00/23
[42...Rfh5 2.05/21 might work better. 43.Ra4 R5h4]
43.Ra4 Rh3 44.f3
[44.Rxa6 Rxf4 45.Ra4 Rf5=]
44...Rh1 45.Ke3
[Not 45.Rxa6 Rxf4 46.Ke3 Rf7±]
45...Re1+



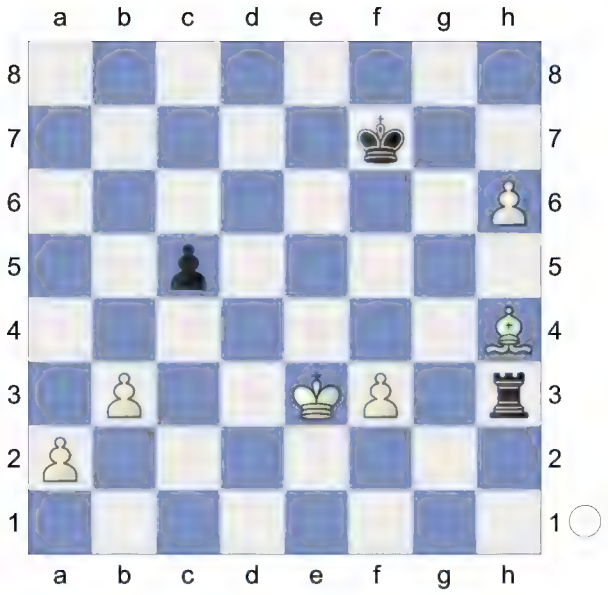
46.Kf2 Rh1 47.Re4
[But not 47.Rxa6?! Rxf4 48.Rg6 Rfh4 49.Rg5+ Kd6±]
47...Kd6 48.Ke3 aiming for Ra4.
48...Re1+ 49.Kd2 Rh1 50.Ra4 Kd5



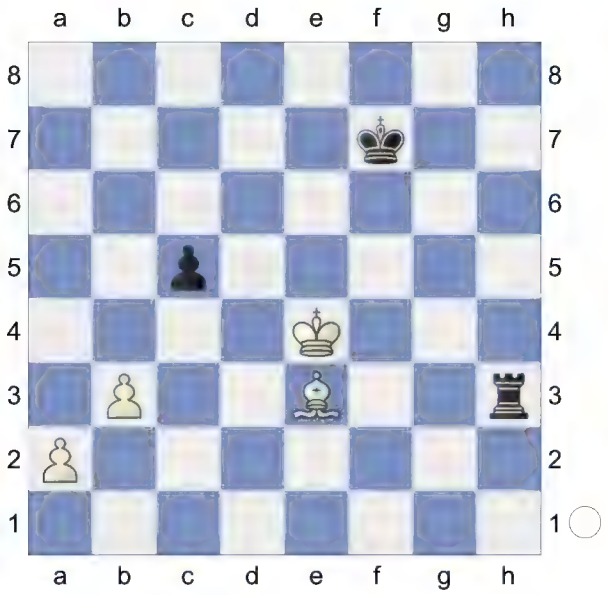
51.Rxa6 0.51/20
[51.Re4+- 1.93/21]
51...Rxf4± 52.Ke3 Rf7 53.Rg6 0.03/18
[53.Ra4!± 0.48/24]
53...Rh3!= 54.Bf6 Strongly threatening Kf4. **54...Ke6 55.Bh4+ Kf5⇄**



Black is fighting back **56.Rg5+ Kf6 57.Rg4+ Ke6 58.Rg6+** 0.01/25
[58.Ke4± 0.40/22]
58...Kf5 59.Rg7 Ke6 60.Rxf7 Kxf7
(Diagram)

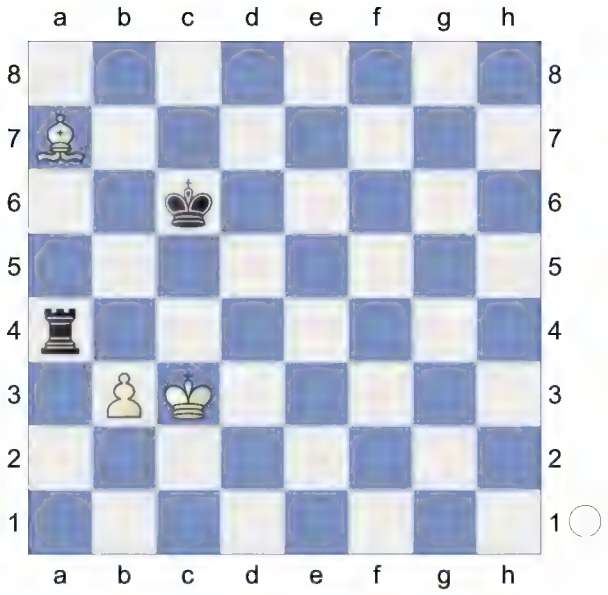


KR-KB **61.Bg5 Rh2 62.h7 Rxh7 63.Kd3 Rh3 64.Be3 Rxf3 65.Ke4 Rh3**

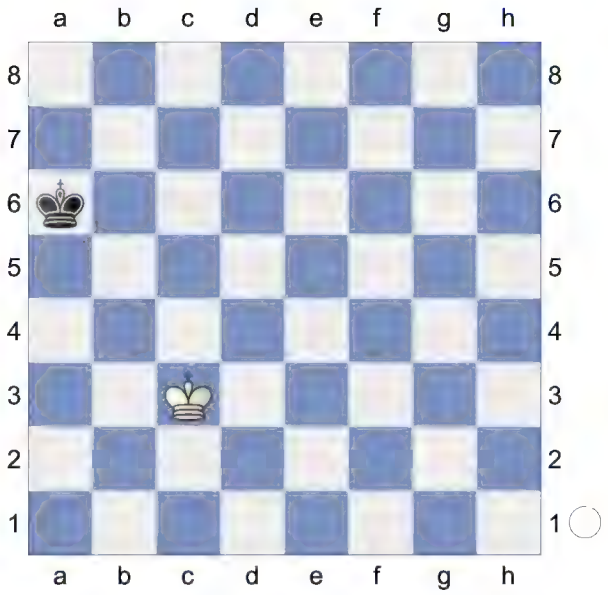


66.Bxc5 Ke6 67.Kd4 Rh4+ 68.Kc3 Kd5 69.Ba7 Kc6 70.a4 Rxa4? 2.03/24

(Diagram)



71.bxa4+- Kb7 72.a5? 0.00/84 **Kxa7= 73.a6 Kxa6**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)
½-½

39 **D02**
□ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2749**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2766**
11th Sinquefield Cup (3.1) 21.08.2024
[TA]

E11: Bogo-Indian

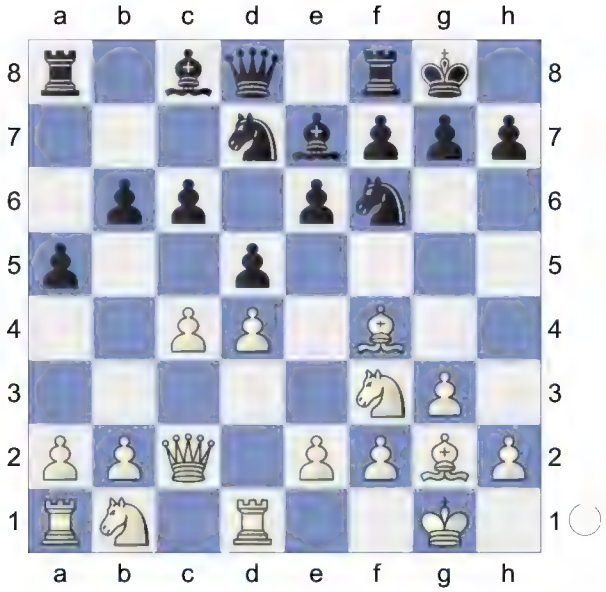
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7

[5...Bd6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Qc2 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Rd1 Ne4 10.Nc3 f5 11.e3 Qe7 12.Ne2 Nxd2 13.Rxd2 Nf6 14.Rdd1 Bd7 15.Nf4 Be8 16.a3 Ne4 17.Ne5 g5 18.Nfd3 h5 19.b4 Kh8 20.f3 1-0 (51) 11...♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2813)-Warlick,J (2727) (m/2) 94/(448) 2005 (6)]

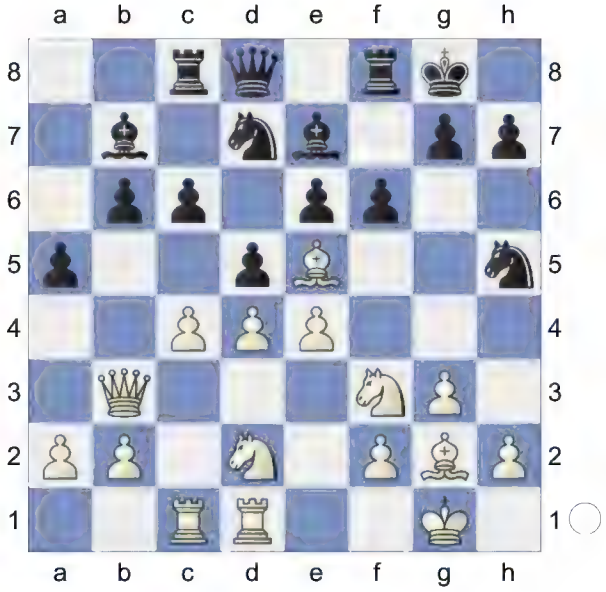
6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0N

[7.Qc2 Ne4 8.0-0 c6 9.Nc3 f5 10.Bf4 Nd7 11.Ne5 Qe8 12.f3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd7 15.Rab1 b5 16.c5 Qg6 17.e4 fxe4 18.fxe4 Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Rf8 20.Rxf8+ Bxf8 21.Qe2 Be8 ½-½ (68) Grigorjev,I (2426)-Filgueira,H (2283) Titled Tuesday intern op 11th Apr Late blitz 2023 (3) 22.h4 Qh5 23.Bf3 Qh6 24.Bf4 Qg6 25.Kh2 h5 26.Bg5 Bf7 27.Qe3 Qh7 28.Qf4 Bg6 29.exd5 exd5 30.Qc7 Be4 31.Be2 Qf5 32.Qf4 Qg6 33.Kg1 Bd3 34.Bf3 Bc4 35.a3 Qb1+ 36.Kf2 Qc2+ ½-½ (68) Hampton,S (2426)-Kolb,W (2283) 103/229 London 2008 (3)]

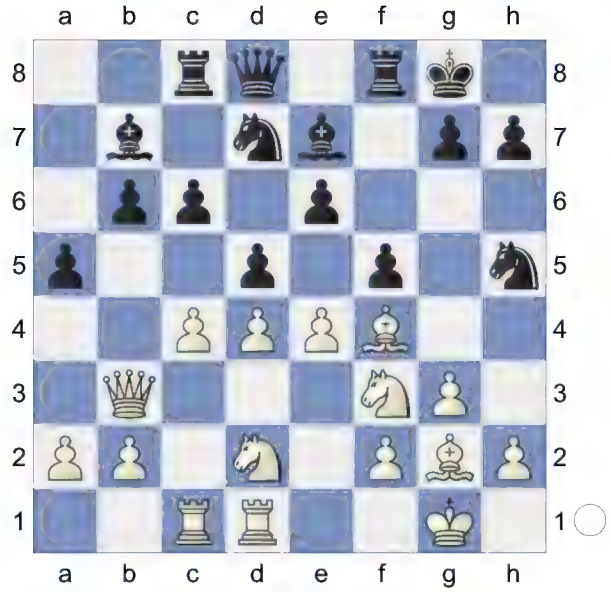
7...c6 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.Rd1 a5 10.Bf4 b6



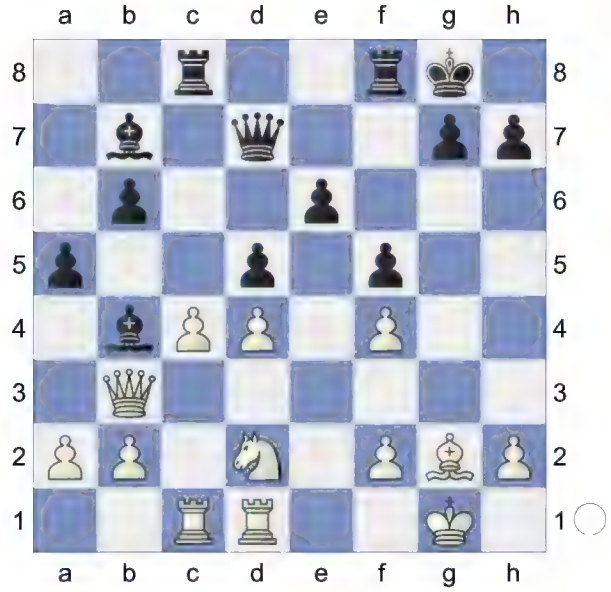
11.Nbd2 Nh5 White is slightly better.
12.Be5 Ba6 13.e4 Rc8 14.Rac1 Bb7 15.Qb3 f6



16.Bf4 f5



17.exd5 Nxf4 18.gxf4 cxd5 19.Ne5 Bb4 20.Nxd7 Qxd7

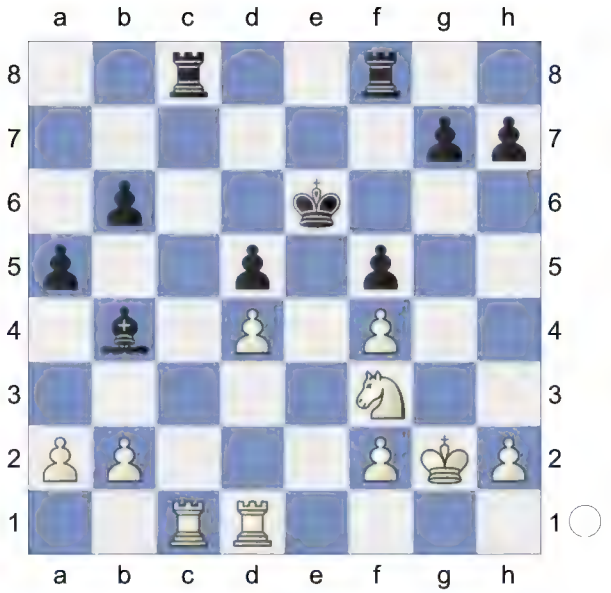


21.cxd5 Bxd5

[21...Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Bxd2 23.dxe6±]

22.Bxd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 exd5 24.Nf3 Kf7 25.Kg2 Ke6

(Diagram)



26.a4

[26.Ng5+ Kd7=]

26...Bd6 27.Re1+

[27.Ng5+ Kd7 28.Nxh7 Rfe8 29.Rxc8 Rxc8∓]

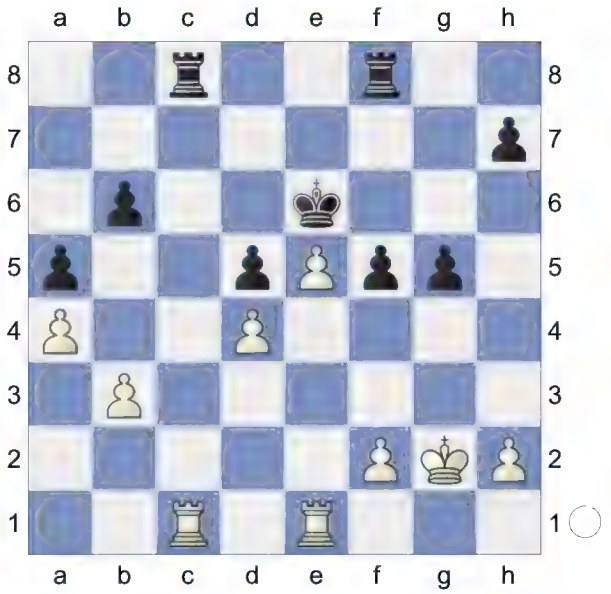
27...Kd7 28.Ne5+ Bxe5 29.fxe5±

Endgame KRR-KRR **29...Ke6 30.b3**

0.22/25 Dodges Rc4

[White should play 30.Kg3± 0.76/21]

30...g5



31.f4! gxf4

[31...h6 32.Rf1]

32.Kf3 aiming for h3. **32...Rg8!**

[32...Rxc1? 33.Rxc1 Kd7 34.Rg1+- *(34.Kxf4 Rg8+-)*]

33.Rg1

[33.Kxf4 Rg4+ 34.Ke3 Re4+ 35.Kd3 f4=]

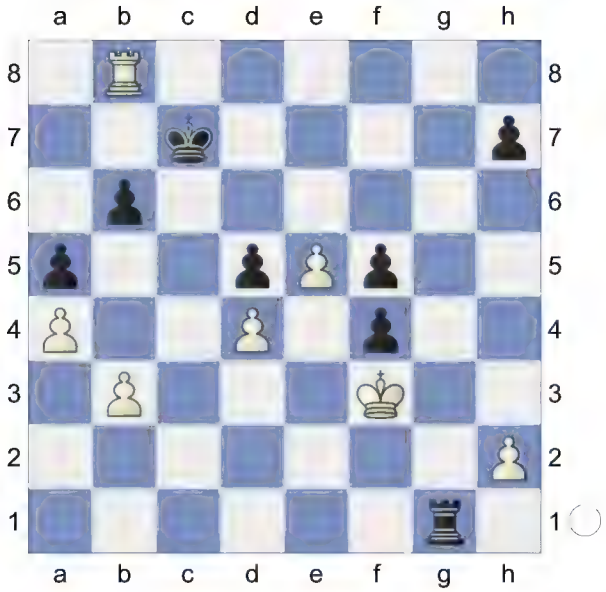
[Reject 33.Rxc8 Rxc8 34.Kxf4 Rc2∓]

33...Rxg1 34.Rxc8 KR-KR. Black is a pawn up. **34...Kd7** 2.77/23 Repels Rc6

[34...Rf1+± 0.45/23 35.Ke2 Rh1]

35.Rb8 Kc7? 3.76/26

[35...Rf1+ 1.85/19 36.Ke2 Rc1 37.Rb7+ *(37.Rxb6 Rc3±)* 37...Kc6 38.Rxh7 Rb1]



36.Rh8+- Rf1+ 37.Ke2 Rb1 38.Rxh7+ Kc6 39.Rh6+ 2.50/23

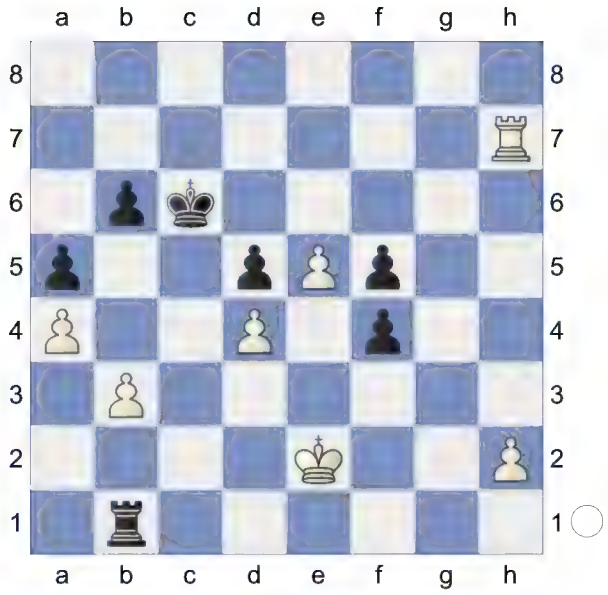
[⌓39.h4 4.35/24 Rxb3 40.h5]

39...Kc7 3.68/24

[⌓39...Kb7 2.50/23 40.Rh7+ Kc6]

40.Rh7+ Kc6

(Diagram)

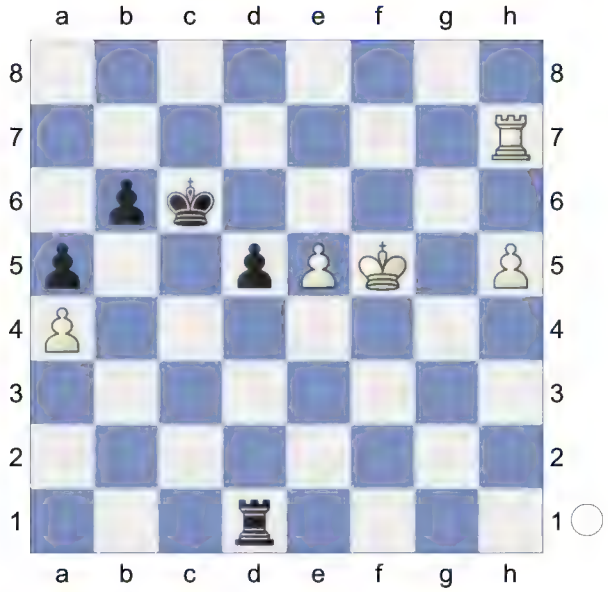


41.h4 Rb2+? 5.47/22

[41...Rxb3± 1.53/18 42.Rf7 b5 43.axb5+ *(43.Rxf5 bxa4 44.Rxf4 a3∓)* 43...Kb6 *(43...Kxb5? loses. 44.Rb7+ Kc4 45.Rxb3+-)*]

42.Kf3 Rxb3+ 43.Kxf4 Rb4 44.h5 Rxd4+ 45.Kxf5 Rd1? 6.81/22

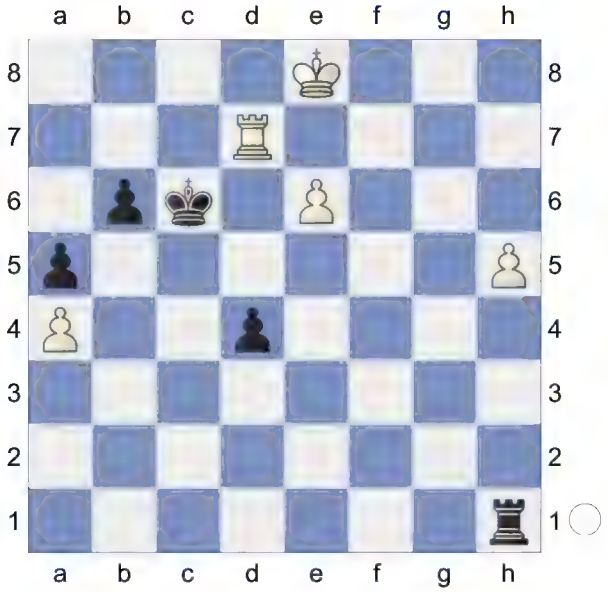
[45...Rxa4 3.99/18 46.h6 Ra1]



46.e6? 2.54/20

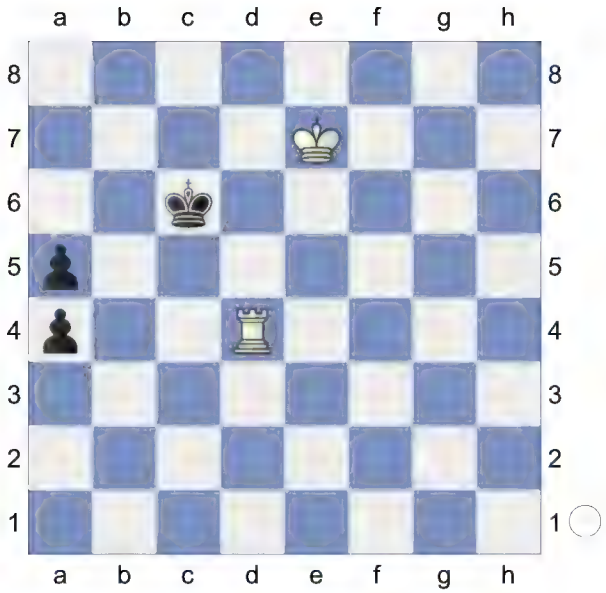
[46.Rh8 6.81/22 Rf1+ 47.Kg4 *(47.Ke6 d4±)* 47...Rg1+ 48.Kf4 *(48.Kf5 Rf1+ 49.Kg4 d4+-)*

48...Rf1+ 49.Kg3 Rg1+ 50.Kf2]
46...d4? 6.06/23
[46...Rf1+ 2.54/20 47.Kg6 d4]
47.Rd7? 1.98/25
[47.Rh8 6.06/23 Rf1+ 48.Kg4]
47...Rf1+? 5.47/26
[47...d3 1.98/25]
48.Kg6 Rg1+ 49.Kf7 Rf1+ 50.Ke8? 0.03/21
[50.Kg6+- 5.62/26 Rg1+ 51.Kf7 Rf1+ 52.Ke8]
50...Rh1=

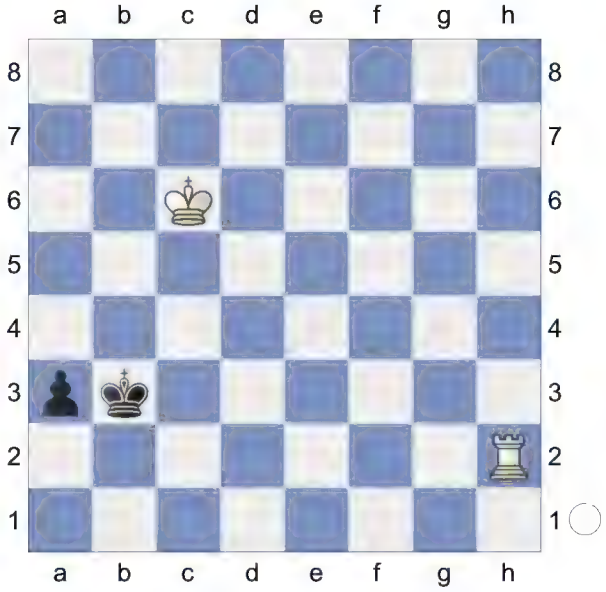


The position is equal. **51.e7 Rxh5** Threatens to win with ...Rh8+. **52.Rxd4 b5** Wards off Rc4+ **53.Kf7**
[53.axb5+ Kxb5 54.Rd7 a4]
53...Rh7+ 54.Ke6 Rxe7+ 55.Kxe7 bxa4

(Diagram)

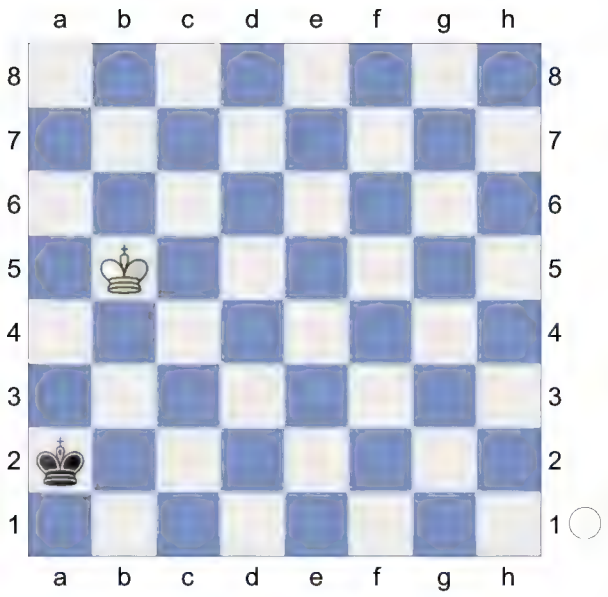


56.Rxa4 KR-KP **56...Kb5 57.Rh4 a4! 58.Kd6 a3 59.Rh2 Kc4 60.Kc6 Kb3**



61.Kb5 Intending Rh3+ and mate.
61...a2 62.Rxa2 Blacks defense is rewarded with a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.49
62...Kxa2

(Diagram)



½-½

40 **E04**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2766**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2767**
11th Sinquefield Cup (2.2) 20.08.2024
[TA]

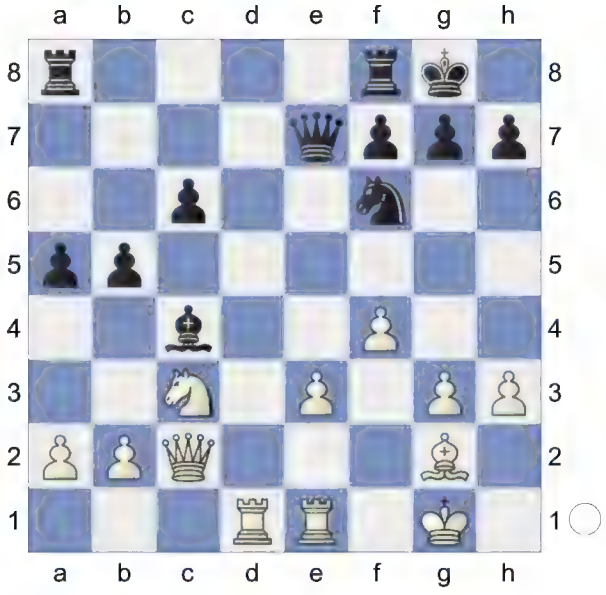
E04: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Nf3 Nc6

6.Qa4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Nd5 8.0-0
[8.Bxb4 Ndxb4 9.0-0 Rb8 10.Na3 *(10.Nc3 a6 11.Ne5 0-0 12.Nxc6 Nxc6 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qxc4 Rxb2* Opening 3 100 moves to 2700 2025 [Dreev A. / Basso P.L.]*)* 10...0-0 11.Qb5 b6 12.Qxc4 Ba6 13.Nb5 Qd5 14.Qxd5 Nxd5 15.a4 Na5 16.Ne5 Rbd8 17.Nxa7 Nb4 18.Rac1 Rxd4 19.Rxc7 Bxe2 20.Rfc1 f6 21.Nec6 Naxc6 22.Nxc6 Nxc6 Anand,V (2800)-Kramnik,V (2780) Bilbao 2010 CBM 157 [Arnaudov, Petar] ½-½ (34)]
8...Bxd2 9.Nfxd2N
[9.Nbxd2 Nb6 10.Qa3 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Rfd1 Qd6 13.Qc3 0-0 14.Nxc4 Qc5 15.Rac1 Qxc4 16.Qxc4 Nxc4 17.Rxc4 c6 18.f4 e5 19.fxe5 Be6 E 04/54 Survey 2008]
9...0-0! 10.e3! e5

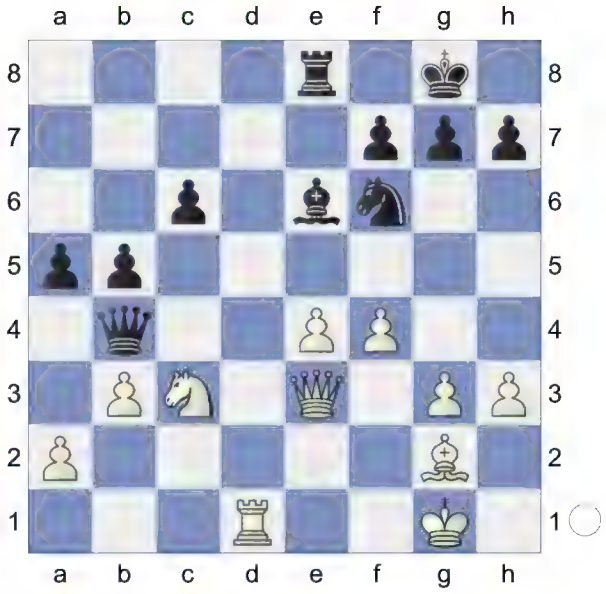
Threatens to win with ...Nb6. **11.Qb5 Nf6 12.dxe5 a6 13.Qxc4 Nxe5 14.Qc2 c6 15.Nc3 a5**

(Diagram)

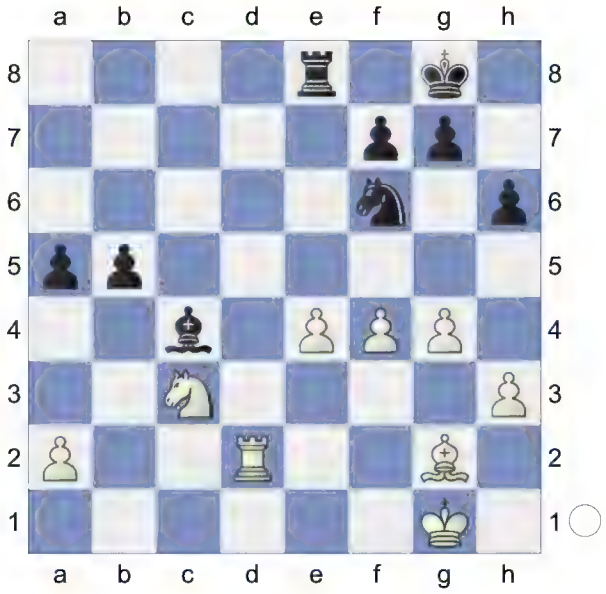
16.Rad1 Qe7 0.42/24
[16...Bg4= 0.04/25 deserves consideration.]
17.h3 Be6! 18.f4 Nc4 19.Nxc4 Bxc4 20.Rfe1 b5



21.e4 Rad8 0.63/22
[21...Qc5+!= 0.28/25 might be stronger. 22.Qf2 Qxf2+ 23.Kxf2 Rad8]
22.b3± Be6 23.Qf2 Against Qc5
23...Qb4 24.Qe3 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Re8 0.92/20
[25...h5± 0.55/24 should be considered.]



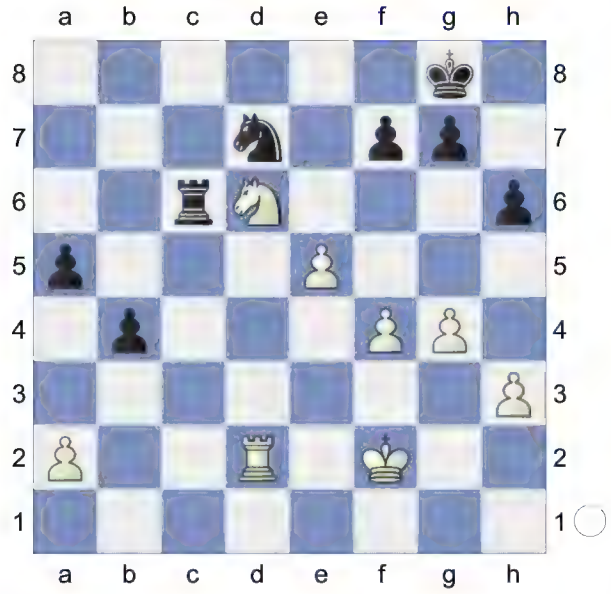
26.g4 0.42/22
[26.e5± 0.92/20 Nd5 27.Bxd5 cxd5 28.Nxd5]
26...h6 27.Qd4 Qxd4+ 1.03/18
[Black should try 27...Qe7!± 0.40/22]
28.Rxd4± Black must now prevent e5.
28...c5 29.Rd2 c4 30.bxc4!
[Resist 30.Nxb5 cxb3 31.axb3 Bxb3±]
30...Bxc4



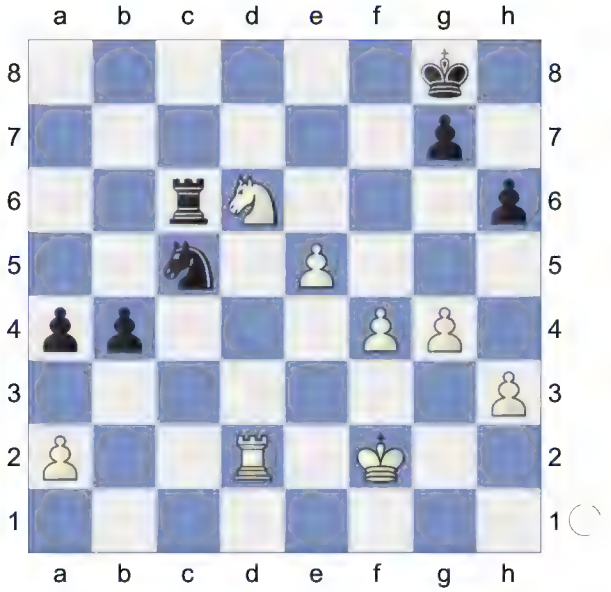
31.e5 b4 32.Na4 Bb5! 33.Nc5 Rc8

34.Nb7 0.46/5 &Bianco is more active.
[Much worse is 34.exf6?! Rxc5 35.Rd8+ Kh7=]
[Better is 34.Nb3± 0.86/6 Nd7 35.Rd5 *(35.Nxa5 g5±)*]
34...Nd7± 35.Kf2 0.09/2
[35.Nd6!± 0.70/3 Rc1+ 36.Kf2]
35...Rc3=

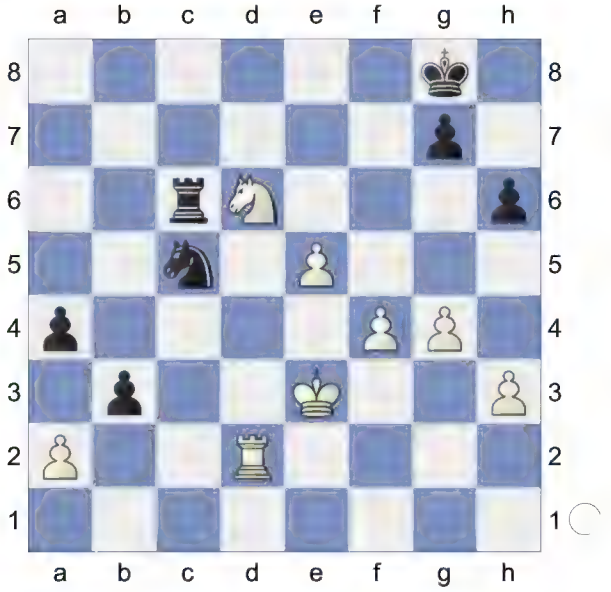
36.Nd6 Bc6 0.90/4
[36...Bd3= 0.00/5 keeps the balance.]
37.Bxc6 Rxc6



38.Nxf7!± Endgame KRN-KRN **38...Nc5** 1.24/2
[⌓38...Nb6 0.75/4]
39.Nd6 a4

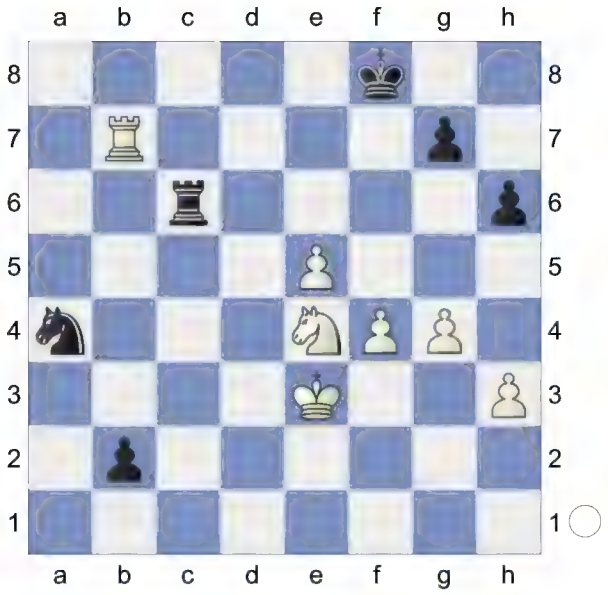


40.Ke3! b3

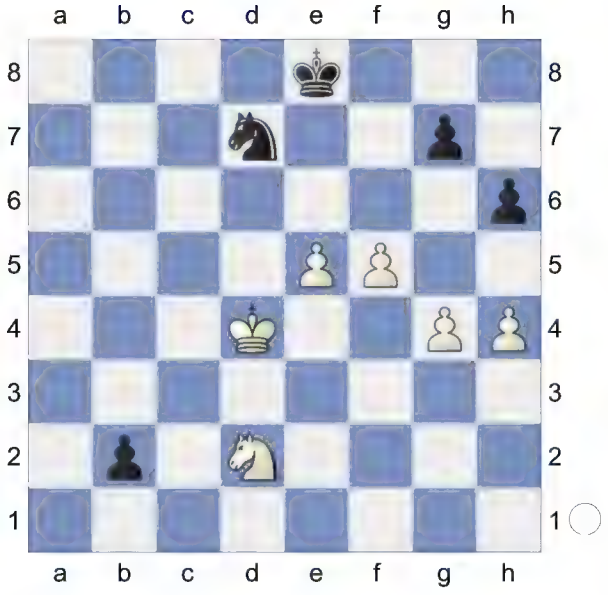


41.axb3 0.02/5
[41.Nc4± 0.87/4]
41...axb3= 42.Ne4 Na4 43.Rd8+ Kf7 44.Rb8 b2 45.Rb7+ Kf8

(Diagram)

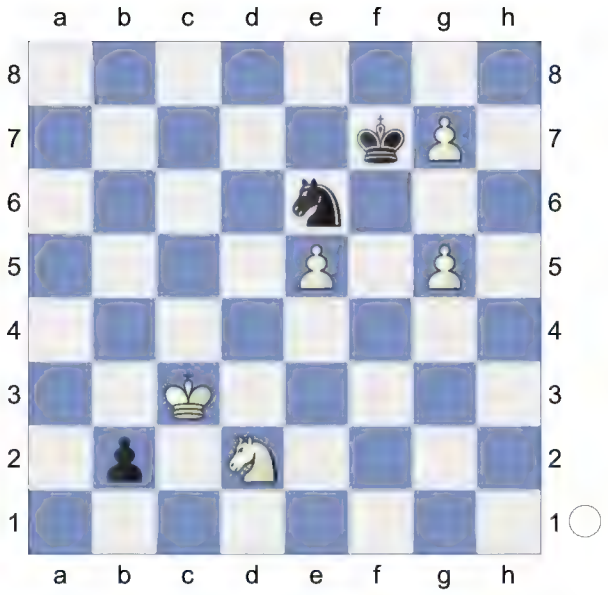


aiming for ...Rb6. **46.Nd2** Strongly threatening Rb4. **46...Rb6** Against Rb4 **47.Rxb6 Nxb6** KN-KN **48.Kd4** Against Nc4 **48...Ke7 49.f5 Nd7 50.h4 Ke8**

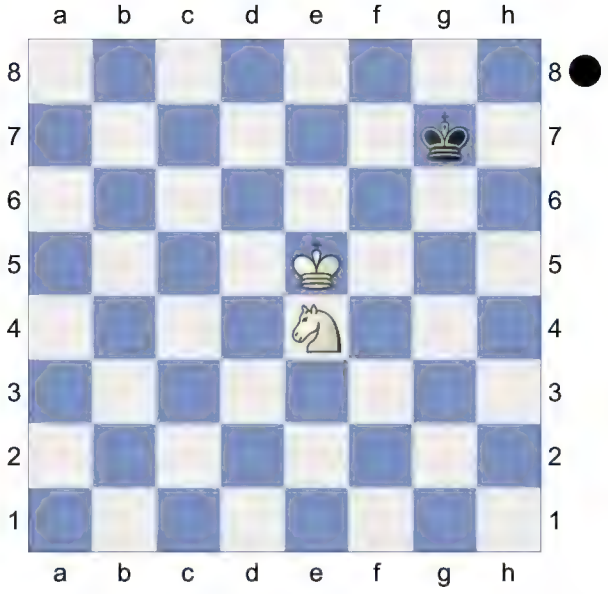


51.g5
[51.e6!? Nf6 52.g5 hxg5 53.hxg5=]
51...hxg5 The position is equal. **52.hxg5 g6 53.fxg6** g7 is the strong threat. **53...Nf8! 54.g7 Ne6+ 55.Kc3 Kf7**

(Diagram)



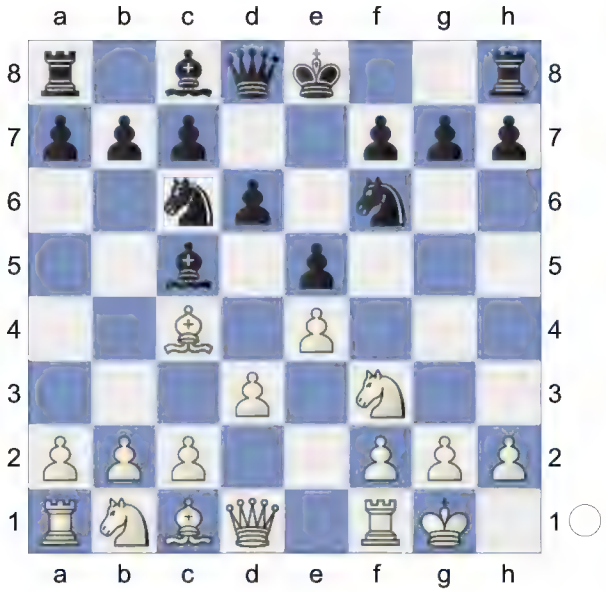
56.Kxb2 Nxg5 57.Kc3 Kxg7 58.Kd4 Nf7 59.Ne4 Nxe5 60.Kxe5



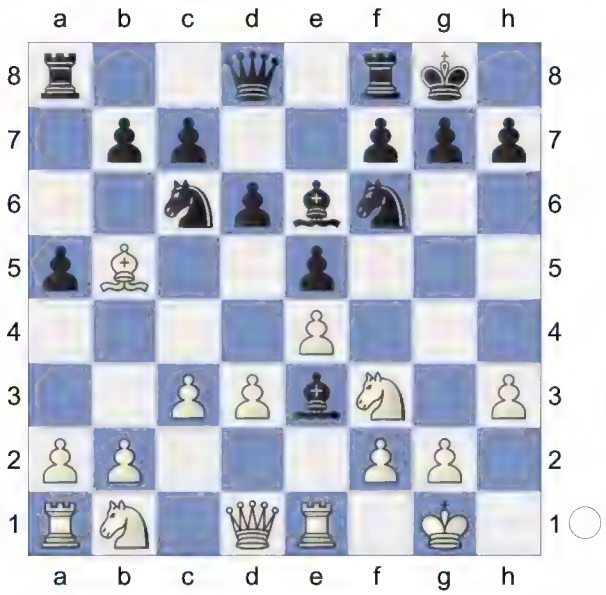
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)
½-½

41 **C50**
□ **Ding,Liren** **2745**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2766**
11th Sinquefield Cup (1.4) 19.08.2024
[TA]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 d6

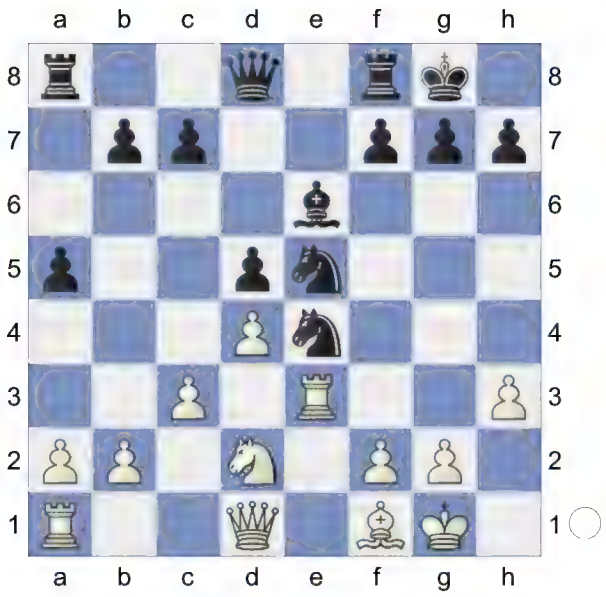


6.c3
[6.Be3 Bb6 7.a4 0-0 8.h3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Bxb6 axb6 11.Re1 Nf4 12.Nc3 Qd6 13.Ne2 Ng6 14.Ng3 h6 15.Qd2 Kh8 16.h4 Bg4 17.Nh2 Be6 18.Bxe6 Qxe6 19.Nf3 Qd5 20.Nf5 Rad8 Pichot,A (2647)-Vidit,S (2720) Chess.com INT 2024 Mega2024 Update 38 [Kitty Kat] ½-½ (87)]
6...a5 7.Re1 0-0 8.h3 Be6N
White is slightly better.
[8...h6 9.Nbd2 Be6 10.Bb5 Bb6 11.Nc4 Bc5 12.Ncd2 Bb6 13.Nf1 Ne7 14.d4 exd4 15.cxd4 d5 16.e5 Ne4 17.Ng3 Nxg3 18.fxg3 c6 19.Bd3 Nf5 20.Bxf5 Bxf5 21.Be3 Be4 22.Nd2 Bg6 23.Bf2 Niemann,H (2675)-Tari,A (2635) Chess.com INT 2024 Mega2024 Update 16 [Kitty Kat] ½-½ (79)]
9.Bb5 Ba7 10.Be3 Bxe3

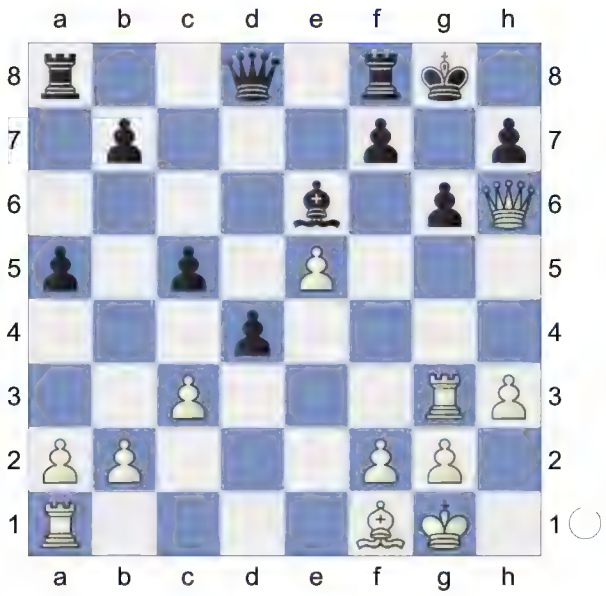


11.Rxe3 Ne7 12.d4! Ng6 13.Bf1 d5 14.Nbd2
[14.Nxe5 looks sharper. Nxe4 15.Nd2 Nd6 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.Qc2]
14...Nxe4 15.Nxe5
[15.dxe5 with more complications. Ng5 16.Nxg5 Qxg5 17.Nf3]
15...Nxe5

(Diagram)

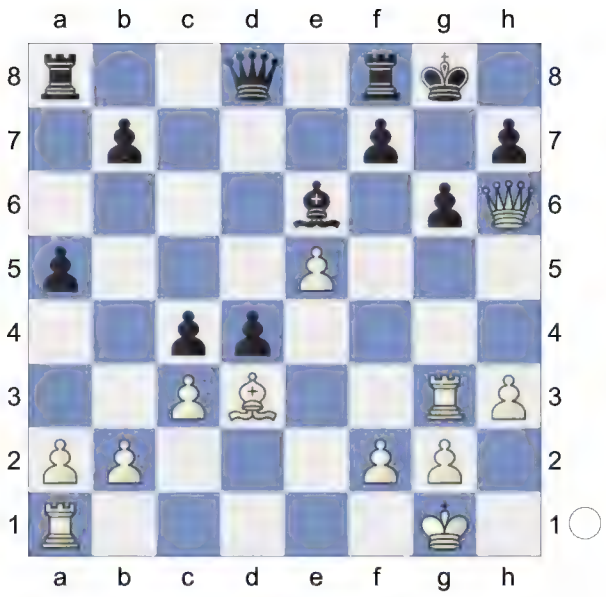


16.dxe5 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 c5 18.Rg3 d4 1.11/20
[18...Qh4± 0.40/21]
19.Qh6± g6

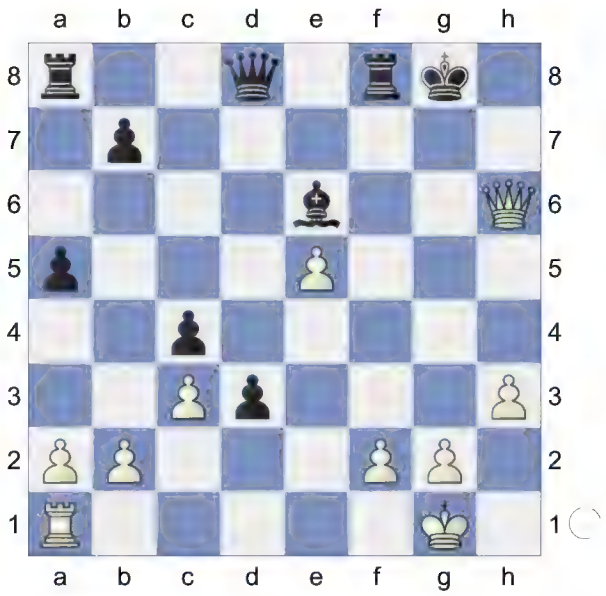


20.Bd3 0.00/21 &Bianco is more active.
[20.Re1!± 1.19/19 Black must now prevent Re4. dxc3 21.Rxc3]
20...c4=

(Diagram)

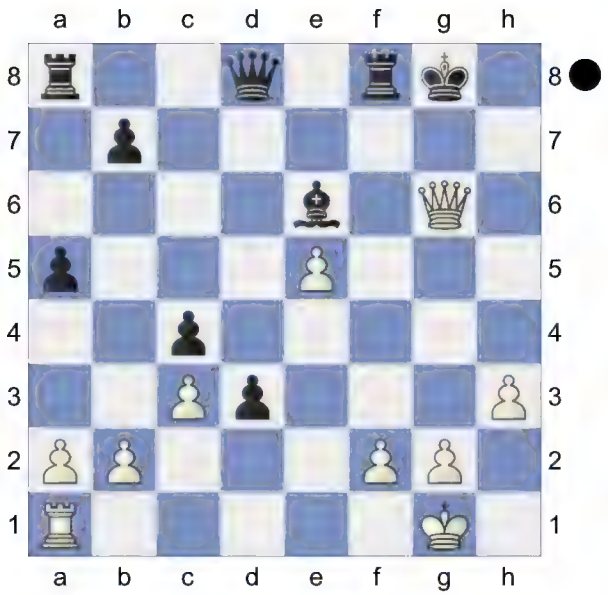


The position is equal. **21.Be4** Threatens to win with Rg5. **21...d3 22.Bxg6 fxg6 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qxg6+ Kh8 25.Qh6+ Kg8**



26.Qg6+ Kh8 27.Qh6+ Kg8 28.Qg6+

(Diagram)

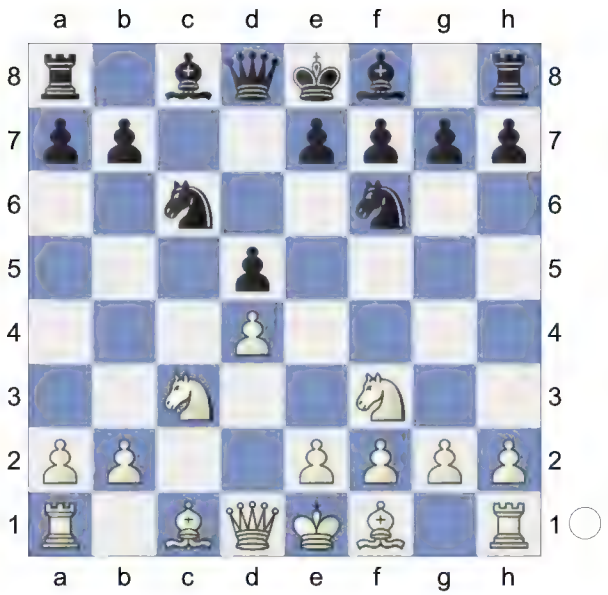


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

42 **D13**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2745**
SuperUnited CRO Blitz 2024 (18.5)
[Kitty Kat]

D13: Slav Defence: Exchange variation without ...Bf5
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6

(Diagram)



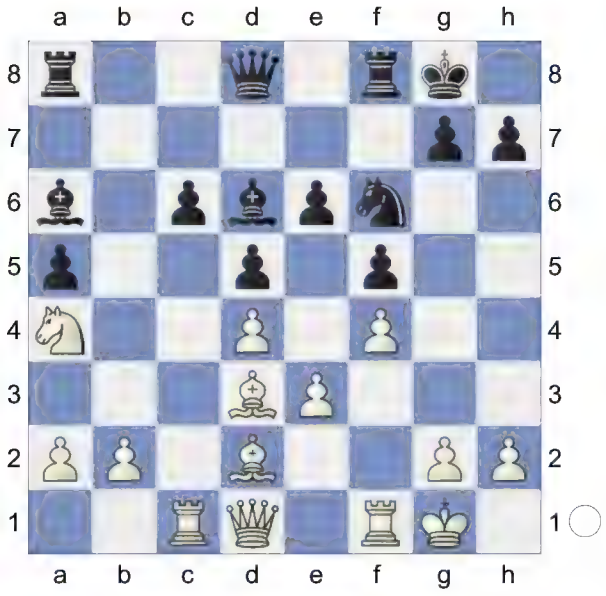
6.Bf4 Nh5 7.Bd2 e6 8.e3
[8.Rc1 Nf6 9.e3 Bd6 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 Bd7 12.Re1 h6 13.h3 Rc8 14.a3 Re8 15.e4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Bxe4 Ne7 18.Bxb7 Rb8 19.Be4 Rxb2 20.Bc3 Rb5 21.Ne5 Bxe5 22.dxe5 Bc6 ½-½ (25) Chapter Open Ch02 (2315)-Urquhart,J (2397) Los Angeles 2006]
8...Be7N
[8...Bd6 9.Ne5 g6 *(9...Nf6 10.f4 0-0 11.Bd3 Ne7 12.0-0 b6 13.Be1 Bb7 14.Bh4 Ne4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qb3 Qe8* Kavakul,M (2729)-Sethuraman,S (2721) GER-chT U15 Girls 1996*)* 10.Nd3 f5 11.g3 Nf6 12.f4 h6 13.Be2 g5 14.Rf1 Bd7 15.a3 Qe7 16.Ne5 Rg8 17.Nb5 g4 18.Bd3 Bb8 19.Qb3 a6 20.Nxc6 Bxc6 21.Bb4 Qd8 22.Nc3 a5 23.Bc5 (24) Exchange Variation-A3 Bd2 2008 a4 24.Qd1 h5 Cantero,R-Purdy,J chT 9697 Holland]
9.Bd3 White is slightly better. **9...0-0 10.0-0 f5**

(Diagram)

11.Ne5 Nf6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Rc1 Bd6 14.f4 0.06/19

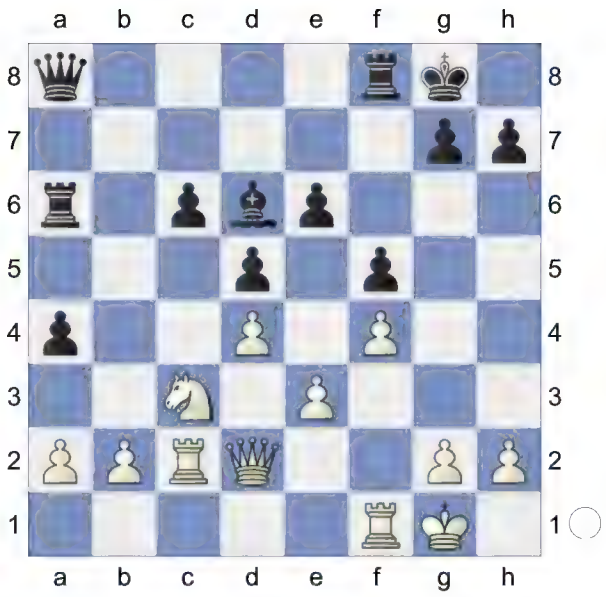
[14.Na4± 0.65/18]

14...a5!= 15.Na4 Ba6

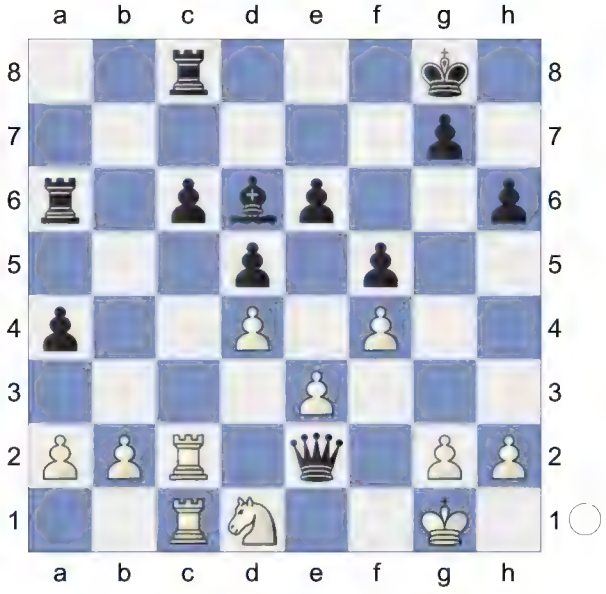


16.Bxa6 Rxa6 17.Qe2 Qa8 18.Rc2 Ne4 19.Nc3 Nxd2 20.Qxd2 a4

(Diagram)

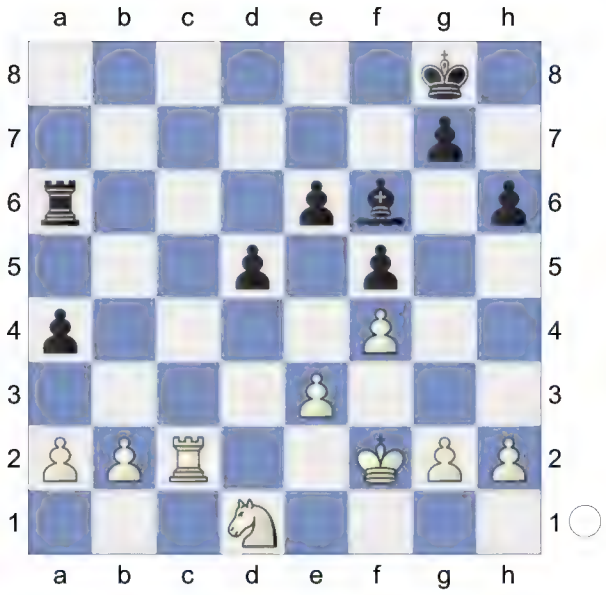


21.Ne2 Rc8 22.Rfc1 Qb7 23.Nc3 h6 24.Nd1 Qb5 25.Qe2 Qxe2

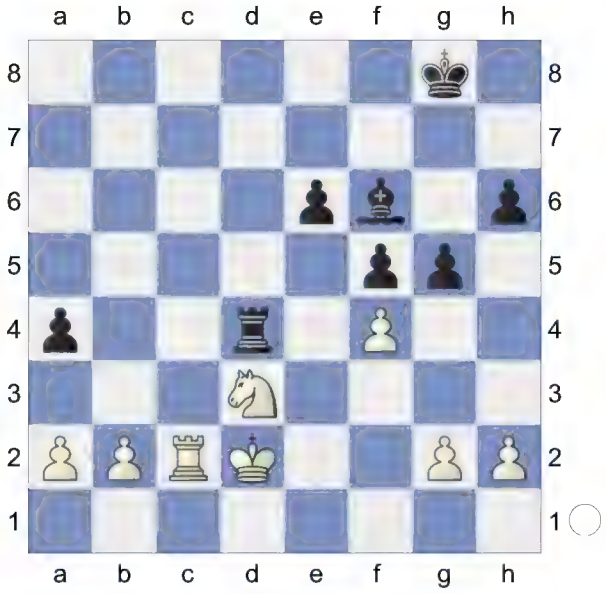


26.Rxe2 c5 27.dxc5 Rxc5 28.Rxc5 Bxc5 Endgame KRB-KRN **29.Rc2 Be7 30.Kf2 Bf6**

(Diagram)



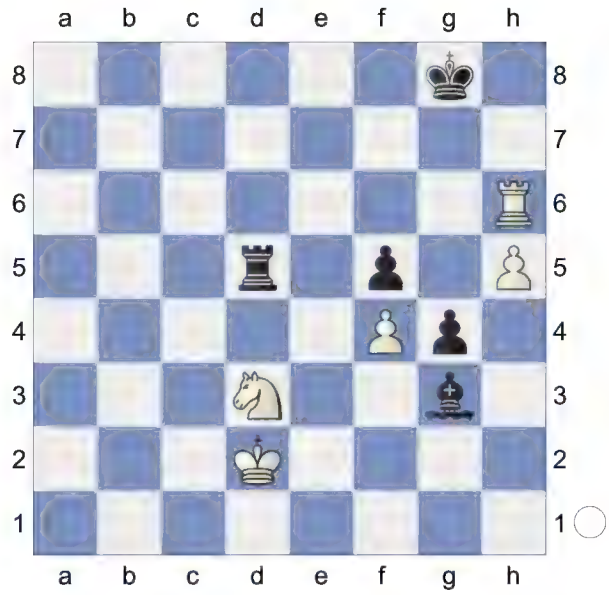
31.Ke2 Rb6 32.Kd2 d4 33.exd4
The position is equal. **33...Rb4**
Prevents Rc4. **34.Nf2**
[Don't play 34.Rc8+ Kh7 35.d5 exd5∓ *(35...Rxf4 36.dxe6 a3 37.bxa3=)*]
34...Rxd4+ 35.Nd3 g5



36.g3 Rd6 37.b3 axb3 38.axb3 Bd4 39.b4 Bg1 40.h4 g4

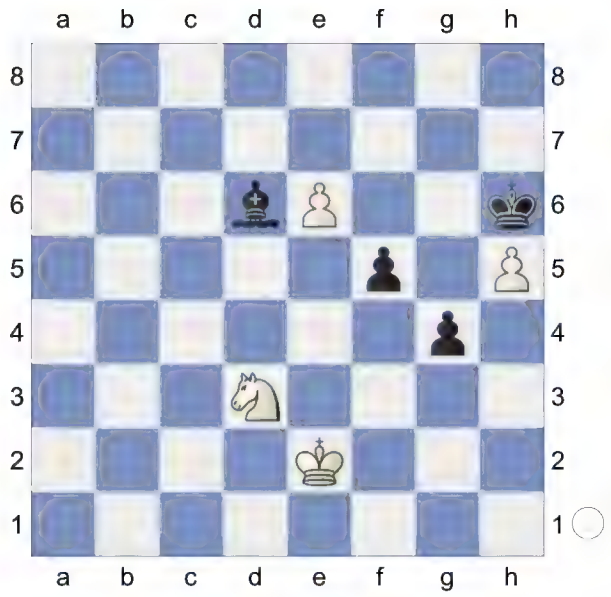
(Diagram)

41.b5 Rd5 42.Rc6 Rxb5 43.Rxe6 Bh2 44.Rxh6 Bxg3 45.h5 Rd5

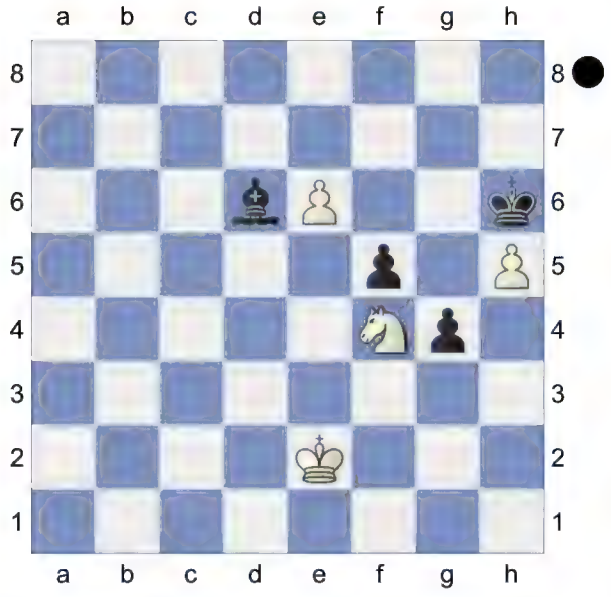


46.Ke2 Bh2 47.Re6 Kh7 48.Re5 Rxe5+ 49.fxe5 KB-KN **49...Kh6 50.e6 Bd6**
[50...Kxh5? loses. 51.e7+-]

(Diagram)

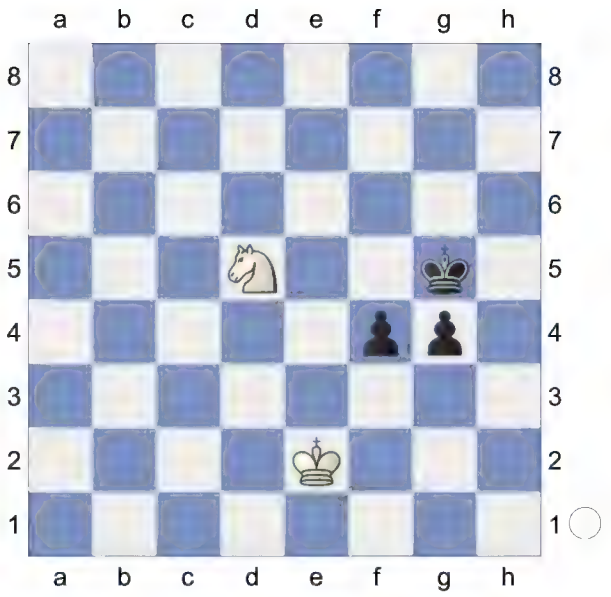


51.Nf4

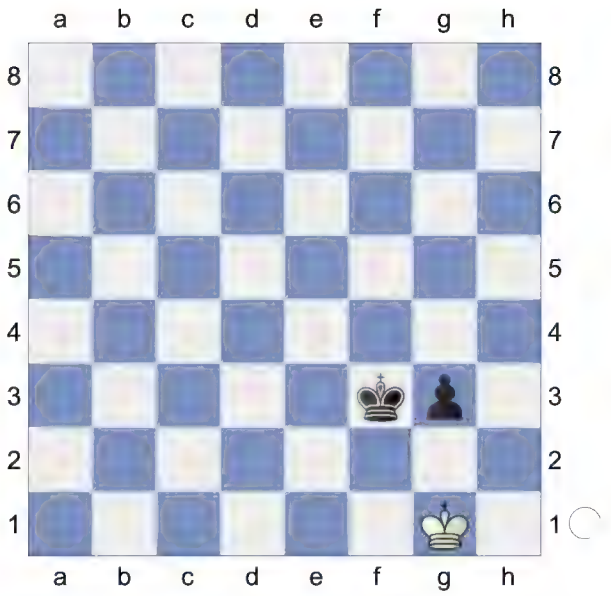


Deflection, Promotion **51...Kg5**
[51...Bxf4 52.e7 Kxh5 53.e8Q++- *(53.e8R Bc1∓)*]
52.Nd5 Kxh5 53.e7 Bxe7 Deflection **54.Nxe7** KN-KPP **54...f4 55.Nd5 Kg5**

(Diagram)

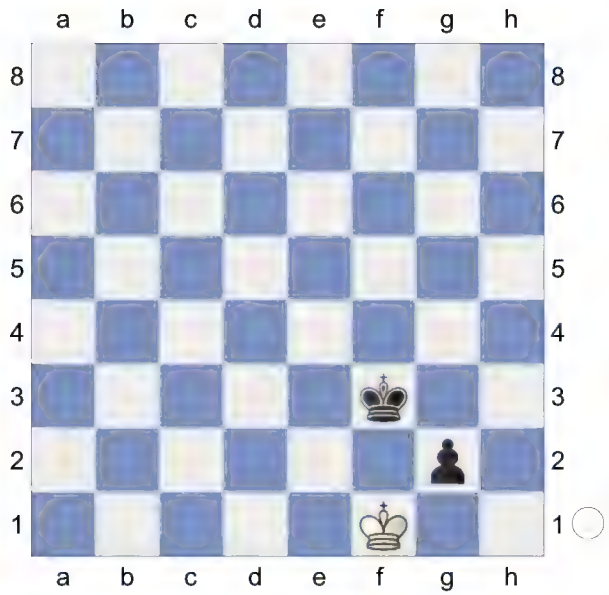


56.Nxf4 Kxf4 KP-K. Black is a pawn up.
57.Kf2 g3+ 58.Kg2 Kg4 59.Kg1 Kf3
[59...Kf4!?]



(-> ...g2) **60.Kf1 g2+**

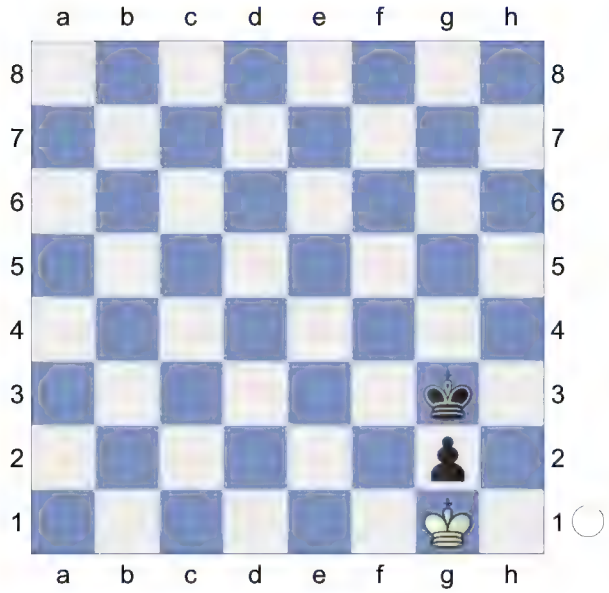
(Diagram)



61.Kg1

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

61...Kg3



½-½

43 **C70**

□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2718**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**

SuperUnited CRO Blitz 2024 (17.3)

[TA]

C70: Ruy Lopez: 3...a6 4 Ba4, Norwegian and Delayed Schliemann

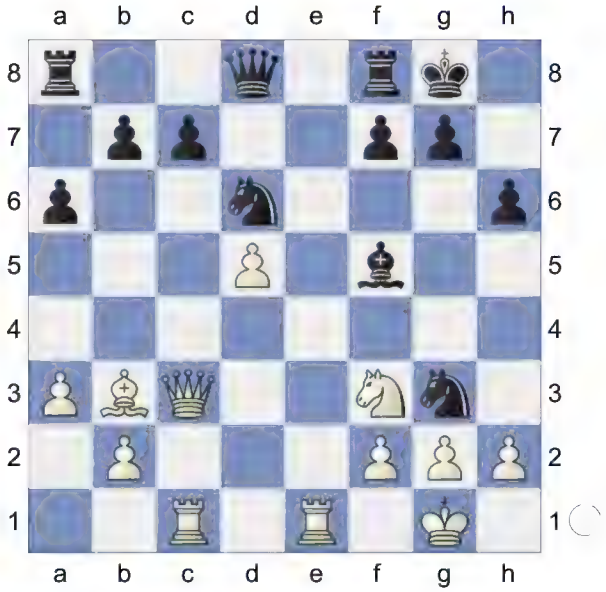
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nge7 5.c3 Ng6

6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 Black must now prevent Nc3. **7...Bb4+ 8.Nc3** White is slightly better. **8...d5 9.0-0 dxe4 10.Nxe4** d5 is the strong threat. **10...0-0**

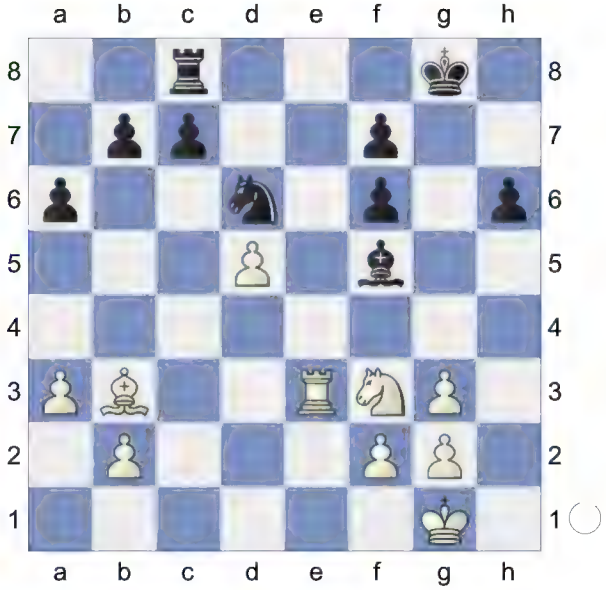
(Diagram)

11.d5 Nce7 12.Bb3 h6 13.a3 Bd6N
[13...Ba5 14.Ba2 b5 15.b4 Bb6 16.Bb2 Bb7 23) Deferred Cozio 5.c3- Deferred Cozio - 5.c3 Ng6 6.d A Black Repertoire for Ambitious Chess]
14.Re1 Nf5 15.Bd2 Bf4 1.18/6
[Black should try 15...Re8 0.80/6]

16.Rc1 0.74/4
[⌓16.Bc3 1.18/6]
16...Nd6± 17.Bxf4 Nxf4 18.Qd2 Nh5 19.Qc3 0.49/4 &Bianco is much more active. The black rooks are badly placed.
[19.Nc5!± 0.94/5]
19...Bf5 20.Ng3 Nxg3

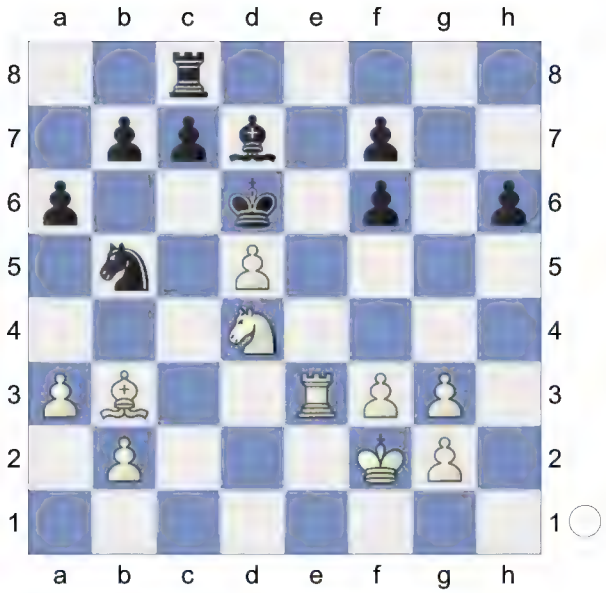


21.hxg3 Rc8 22.Re3 Re8 23.Rce1 0.04/4
[23.Ne5± 0.42/4]
23...Rxe3= 24.Rxe3 Qf6 25.Qxf6 gxf6

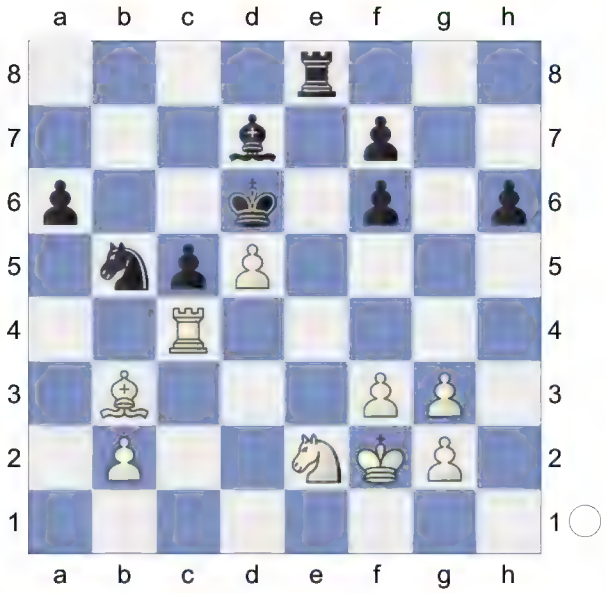


26.Nd4 Bd7 27.Rc3 Kf8 28.f3 Ke7 29.Kf2 Nb5 30.Re3+ Kd6

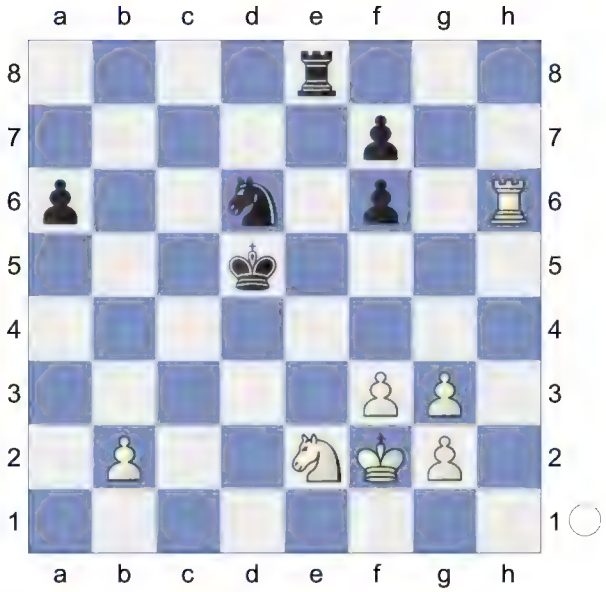
(Diagram)



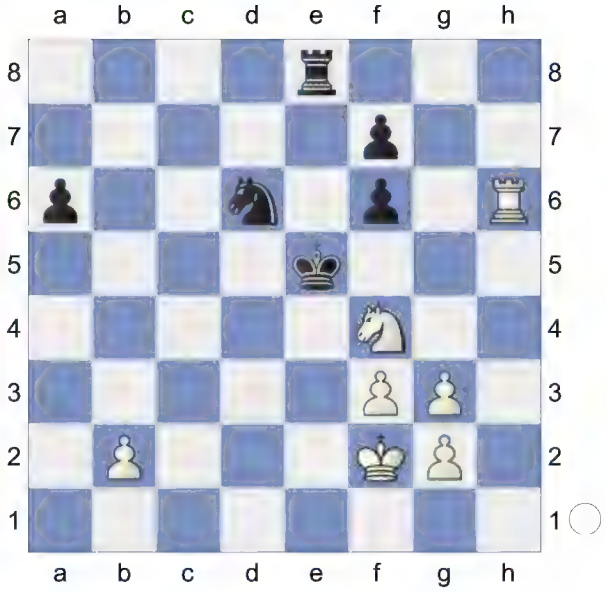
31.Ne2 Re8 32.a4 Na7 33.Rc3 b5 0.42/4
[33...a5= 0.05/6]
34.axb5 0.04/4
[34.a5± 0.42/4 is more appropriate.]
34...Nxb5 35.Rc4 c5



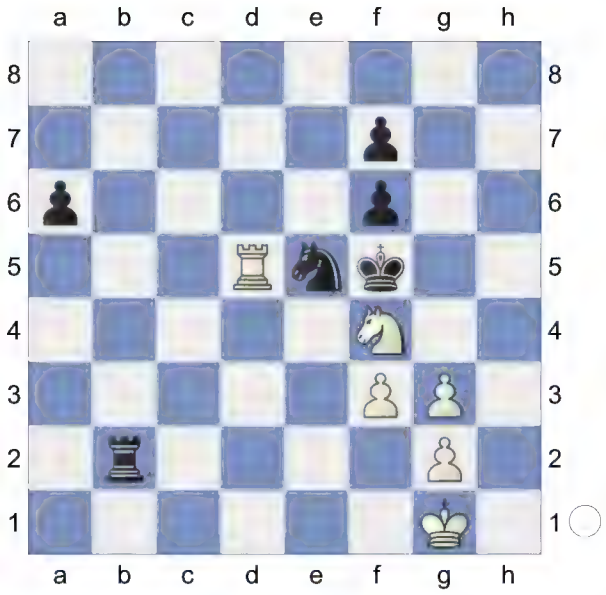
36.dxc6 0.30/5
[36.Rh4!± 0.70/2]
36...Bxc6 1.08/2
[36...Be6= 0.30/5 remains equal.]
37.Rh4± Bd5 1.76/2
[37...Ke7± 1.44/2 was necessary. 38.Bc4 *(38.Rxh6 Rb8±)* 38...Ra8]
38.Bxd5+- Kxd5 39.Rxh6 Endgame KRN-KRN **39...Nd6**



40.Nf4+!
[Resist 40.Rxf6?! Rb8±]
40...Ke5



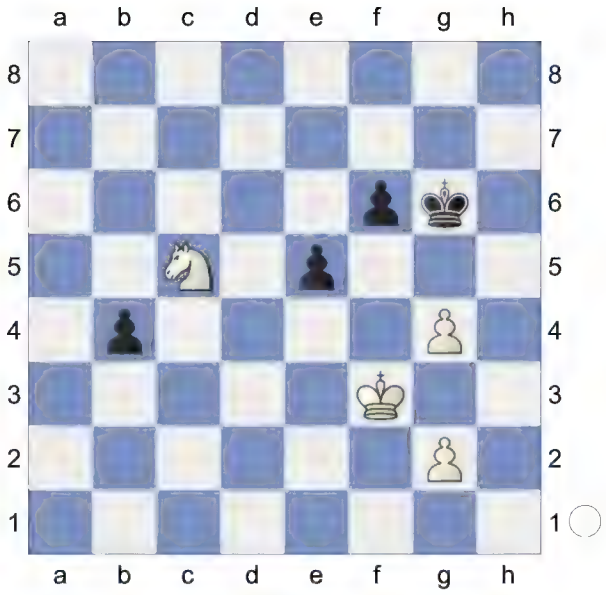
41.Rh1 1.05/3
[Better is 41.Nh5+- 1.78/2]
41...Rb8± 42.Re1+ Kf5 0.63/4
[42...Kd4± 0.96/4]
43.Rd1 0.10/3
[43.Nd3± 0.63/4]
43...Rxb2+= 44.Kg1 Nc4 45.Rd5+ Ne5



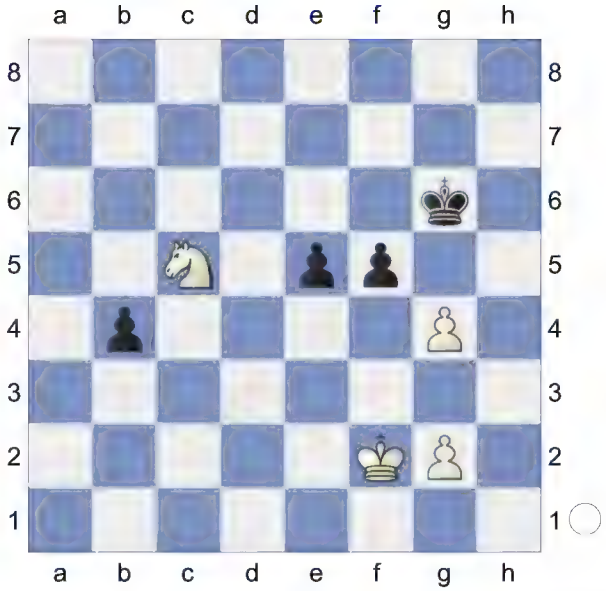
46.Ra5 Rb6 47.Kf2 Kg5 48.Nd3 aiming for f4+. **48...Rb5?** 11.49/3
[48...Kg6 2.42/5]
49.Rxb5+- axb5 KN-KN **50.f4+ Kf5**

51.fxe5 fxe5 KN-K3P **52.Nc5** 0.63/2
[52.Nb4+- 7.41/6 Strongly threatening Nd5. Kg4 53.Nc6]
52...b4 53.Kf3 f6? 14.19/3
[53...Kg5 1.63/3]
54.g4+ Kg6

(Diagram)



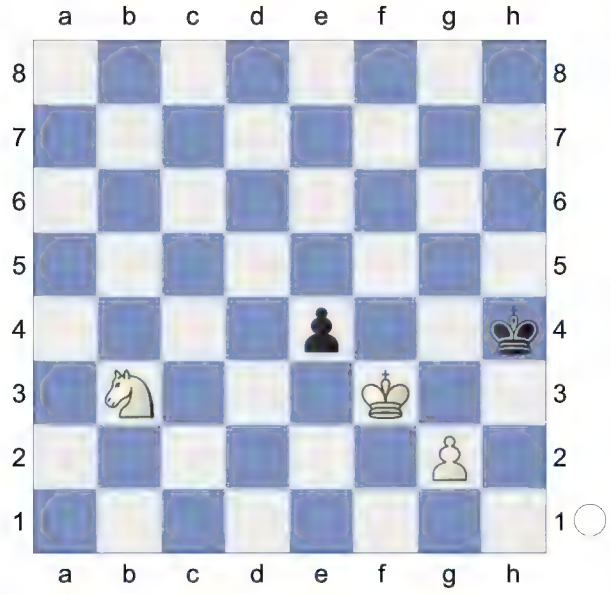
55.Kf2? 1.18/2
[55.Kg3!+- 11.98/4 Kg5 56.Nb3]
55...f5? #51/19
[55...Kh6± 1.18/2 56.Kg3 Kg5]



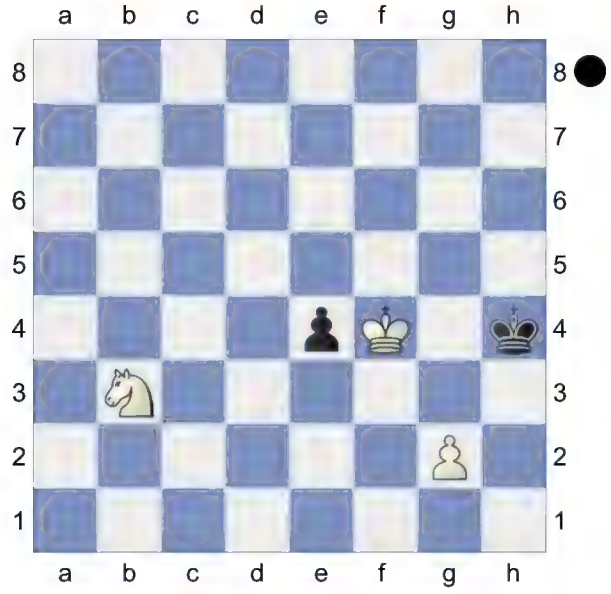
56.gxf5+ Kxf5 57.Kf3 Kg5 58.Ne4+ 4.12/3
[⌓58.g3 139.20/5 Kh5 59.Kg2]
58...Kh4 138.60/5
[⌓58...Kh6 4.12/3 59.Ke3 Kh5 60.Ng3+ Kh6]
59.Nd2 8.22/25
[⌓59.g3+ 138.60/5 Kh5 60.g4+ Kg6

61.Ke2]

59...b3 60.Nxb3 e4+



61.Kf4



Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/ Black=0.26 (precise)

1-0

44 **B30**

□ **So,Wesley** **2757**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**

SuperUnited CRO Blitz 2024 (15.3)

[Kitty Kat]

B51: Sicilian: Moscow Variation (3 Bb5+) without 3...Bd7

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

[3.c4 e5 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 f5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Ne1 Rb8 12.f4 exf4 13.gxf4 b5 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.Rb1 Bb7 17.b3 Qa8 0-1 (43) Buksa,J (2081)-Jun,R (2200) CZE-ch Amateur 2023 (8)]

3...d6

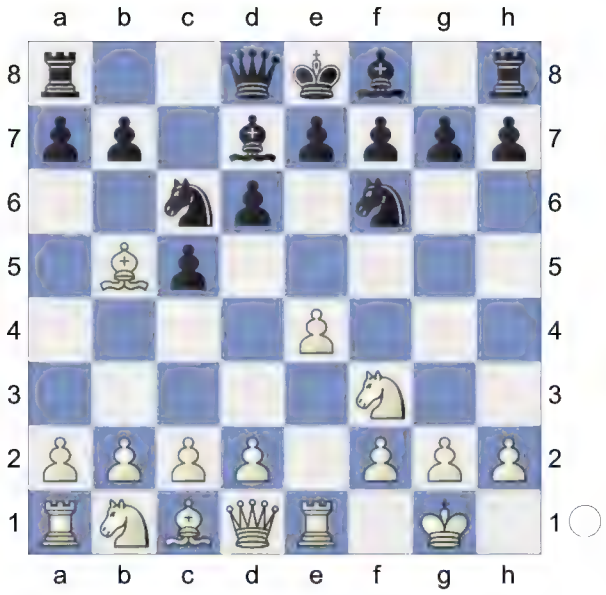
[3...e6 4.d4 Nge7 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.a3 Rc8 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Be4 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Qc7 17.c4 Red8 18.Rad1 1-0 (72) Hanke,L (2709)-10. ♗c2 c5 11. ♘bd2 15267 (2728) NAICCC VIII 9600 1996 (2)]

4.0-0N

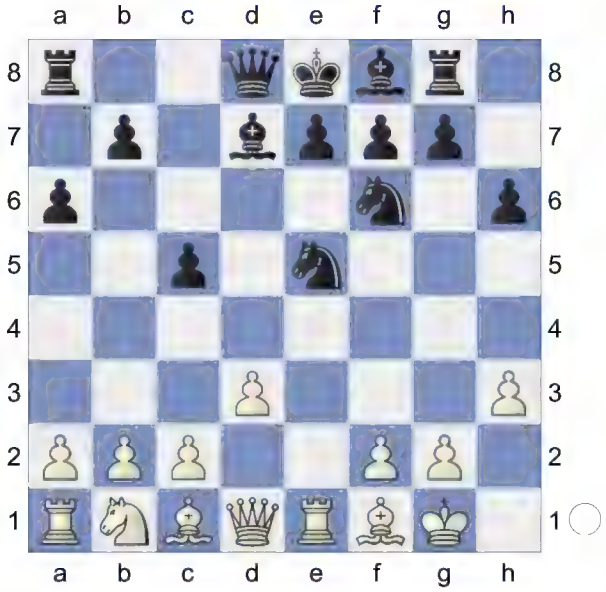
[4.b3 Bd7 5.Bb2 a6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.e5 dxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Bxe5 Bc6 10.0-0 e6 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Bb2 Qg5 13.Bf1 Bd6 14.d4 Nf6 15.d5 0-0-0 16.dxc6 Bxh2+ 17.Kxh2 Rxd1 18.cxb7+ Kxb7 0-1 (30) Aarush,R (2097)-Borwell,A (2578) 42/131 Baku 1986 (8) 19.Rxd1 Qh5+ 20.Kg1 Qxd1 21.Na3 Qh5 22.g3 Rd8 23.Bg2+ Kc8 24.Bxf6 Rd1+ 25.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 26.Kh2 gxf6 27.Be4 Qf1 28.Bd3 Qxf2+ 29.Kh3 f5 30.Nc4 Qg1 0-1 Katz,F (2097)-Abbasov,F (2578) Rohde op 08th 2008 (8)]

4...Bd7 5.Re1 Nf6

(Diagram)



6.h3 a6 7.Bf1 Rg8 8.d3 h6 9.e5 dxe5 The position is equal. **10.Nxe5 Nxe5**



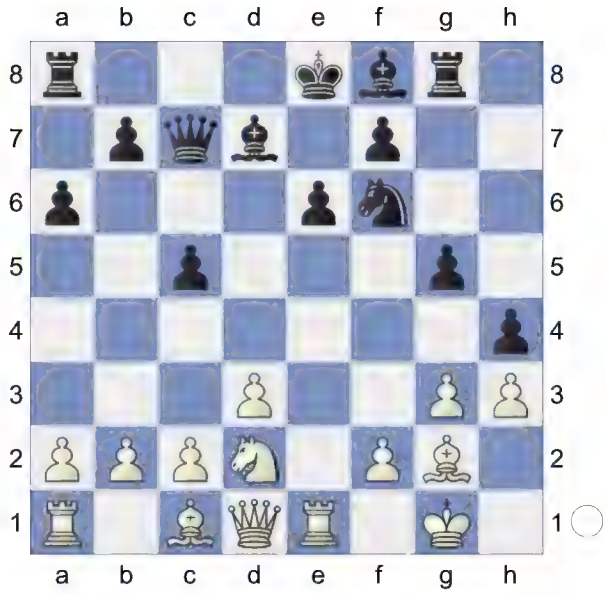
11.Rxe5 e6 12.Nd2 g5 13.g3 Qc7 14.Re1 h5 0.72/19

[14...Bc6= 0.26/22 feels stronger.]

15.Bg2 h4 0.84/21

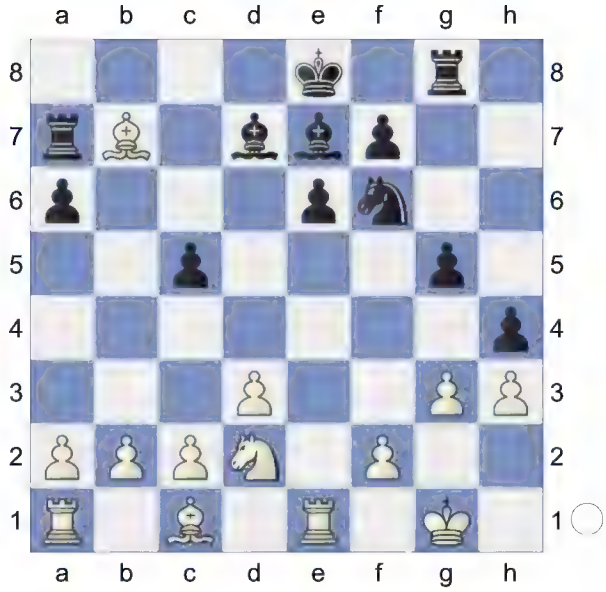
[15...Bc6± 0.47/20]

(Diagram)



16.Qf3± Be7 17.Qxb7 Qxb7 18.Bxb7 Ra7 1.23/20

[⌓18...Rb8 0.86/22 19.Bf3 *(19.Bxa6 hxg3 20.fxg3 Rh8=)* 19...hxg3]



19.Bg2 0.61/21

[19.Bf3!± 1.23/20]

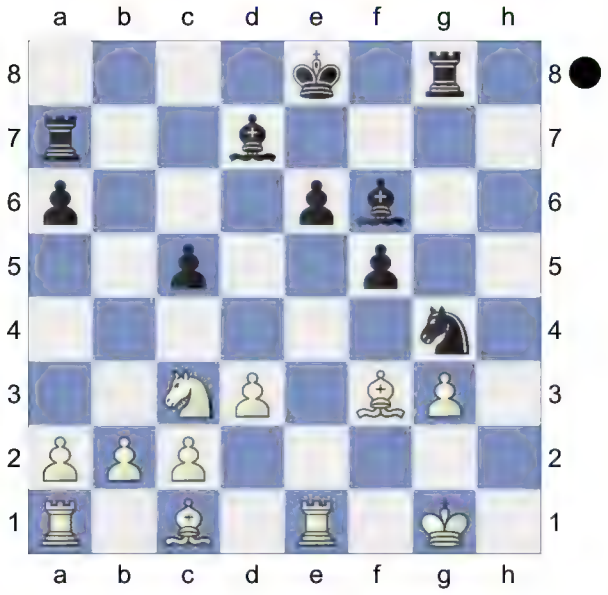
19...g4 20.hxg4

[20.gxh4? gxh3 21.Kh2 hxg2-+ *(21...Rxg2+? 22.Kxh3 Rxf2 23.Kg3-+)*]

20...Nxg4

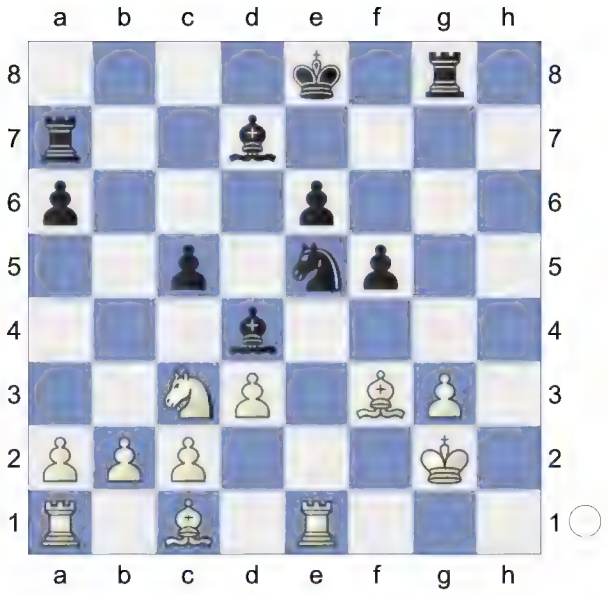
(Diagram)

21.Ne4 -0.24/18
[White should play 21.Nc4± 0.88/17]
21...f5= 22.Nc3 hxg3 23.fxg3 Bf6 24.Bf3 -0.96/20
[24.Kf1= -0.30/17 remains equal.]

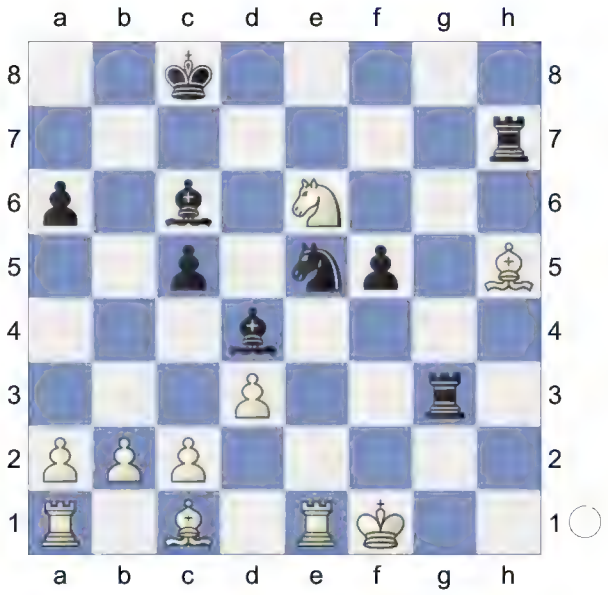


24...Bd4+ -0.24/19
[24...Bc8!∓ -0.96/20 ...Bd4+ is the strong threat. 25.Ne2 Bb7 26.Bxb7 Rxb7]
25.Kg2 Ne5

(Diagram)



Black has compensation. **26.Bh5+** -0.58/22
[26.Bd5= -0.05/21]
26...Kd8 27.Ne2! Bc6+ 28.Kf1 Rh7! 29.Nf4 -1.96/20
[29.Nxd4∓ -0.33/20 cxd4 30.Rxe5 Rxh5 31.Rxe6 Rh1+ 32.Ke2 Rh2+ 33.Kf1]
29...Rxg3→ Black attacks with force.
30.Nxe6+ Kc8



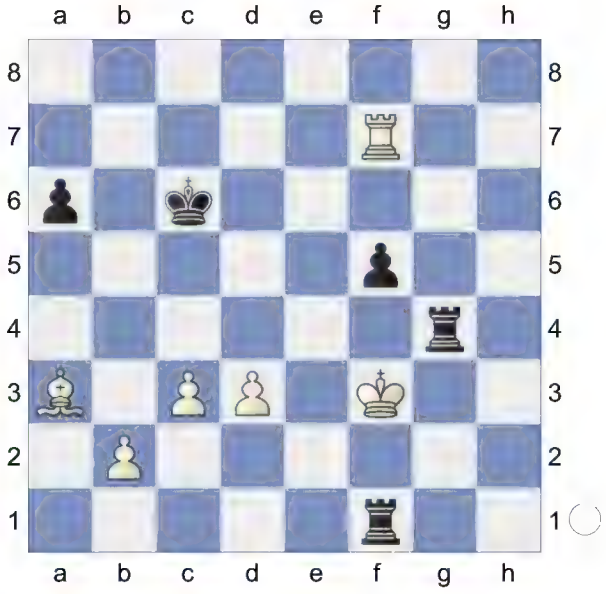
31.Nxd4 Rxh5 -1.45/18
[31...cxd4-+ -1.93/25 32.Bf4 Rg2]
32.Nxc6∓ Nxc6 33.Kf2 Rg4 34.c3

Rh2+ 35.Kf3 Rh3+

36.Kf2 Kd7
[36...Rxd3 37.Bh6∓]
37.Be3? -4.48/20
[37.Rg1∓ -1.08/17 is tougher.]
37...Rh2+ 38.Kf1 Ne5
[38...Rxb2 39.Re2 Rb8 40.Rh2= *(40.Bxc5 Rh8=)*]
39.Bxc5? -6.99/20
[39.Rad1 -3.16/19 Nf3 *(39...Rxb2 40.Re2=)* 40.Re2 Rh1+ Skewer 41.Kf2 Rxd1 42.Kxf3]
39...Nf3? -0.14/19
[39...Rf4+-+ -6.99/20 40.Kg1 Nf3+ *(40...Rxb2? too greedy. 41.Rxe5 Rg4+ 42.Kf1+-)* 41.Kf1 Nxe1+ 42.Kxe1 Rh1+ Skewer *(42...Rxb2? 43.Bg1-+)* 43.Kd2 Rxa1]
40.Re2!= Hoping for Rxh2. **40...Rh1+**

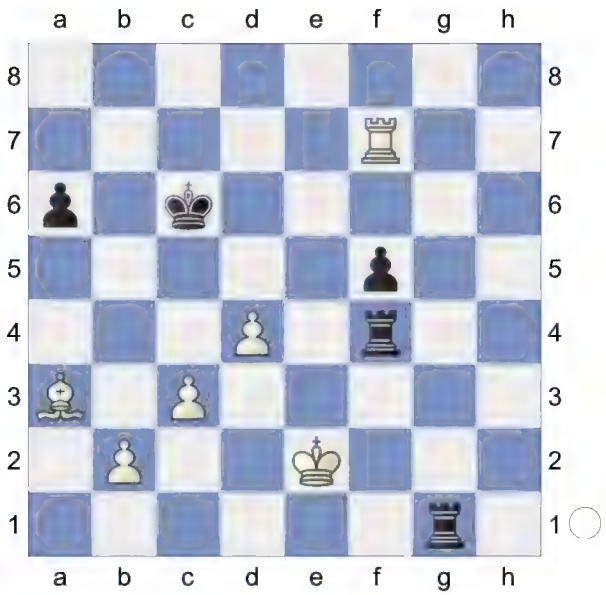
(Diagram)

41.Kf2 Rxa1 42.Kxf3 Rxa2 KRR-KRB **43.Re7+ Kc6 44.Ba3 Ra1 45.Rf7 Rf1+**



46.Ke2 Rgg1 47.d4 -1.08/23
[47.Bb4= -0.05/17]
And White is the lucky defender.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/Black=0.33
47...Rf4 0.09/21
[Black should play 47...Kd5∓ -1.08/23 48.Rf6 a5]

(Diagram)



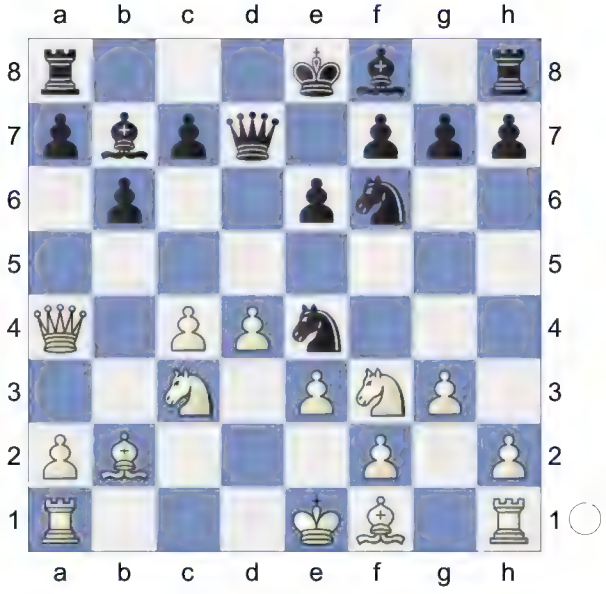
Loss on time!?
1-0

45 **A15**
□ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2720**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
SuperUnited CRO Blitz 2024 (13.2)
[TA]

A17: English Opening: 1...Nf6 with ...Bb4
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3
[3.g3 a6 4.Bg2 b5 5.b3 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.Bb2 0-0 *(7...d6 8.d3 0-0 9.e4 Nbd7 10.Ne1 c5 11.Nd2 Qc7 12.Qe2 Rfd8 13.f4 Nb6 14.Rc1 Nfd7 15.Nef3 Re8 16.g4 d5 17.e5 f6 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Ne5 Nbd7 21.Ndf3 Nxe5 22.Nxe5* Kaldarova,A (1903)-Madi,A (1587) Almaty 2023 1-0 (52)*)* 8.Nc3 b4 9.Na4 d6 10.d4 Be4 11.a3 a5 12.Ne1 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 d5 14.Qc2 bxa3 15.Bxa3 Bxa3 16.Rxa3 Nc6 17.e3 e5 Espig,L (2429)-Van Wely,L (2654) Deutschland 91/(25) 2003 CI1-130 [RR]]

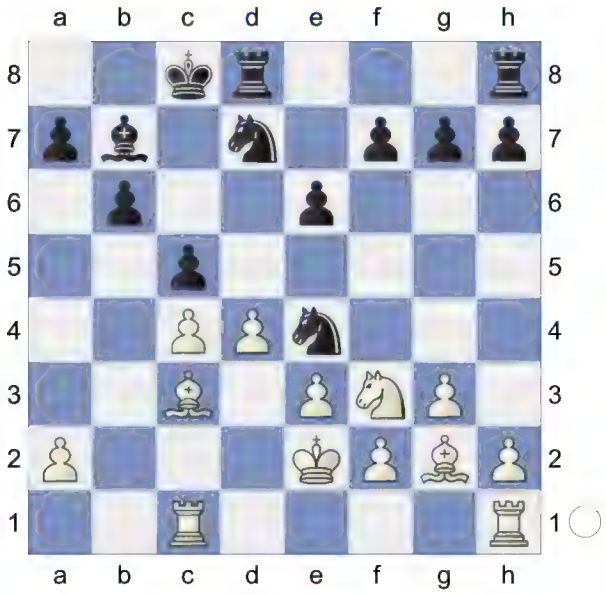
3...d5 4.e3 b6 5.b3N
[5.cxd5 exd5 6.b4 Be7 7.Bb2 a6 8.Qa4+ c6 9.b5 c5 10.bxa6+ Bd7 11.Bb5 Rxa6 15 minutes-1.Nf3 d5 for Black part 1 1.Nf3 d5 for Black part 1 2025 [GM Pier Luigi Basso]]
5...Bb7

6.Bb2 Nbd7 7.g3 dxc4 8.bxc4
The position is equal. **8...Nc5 9.d4 Nce4 10.Qa4+ Qd7**



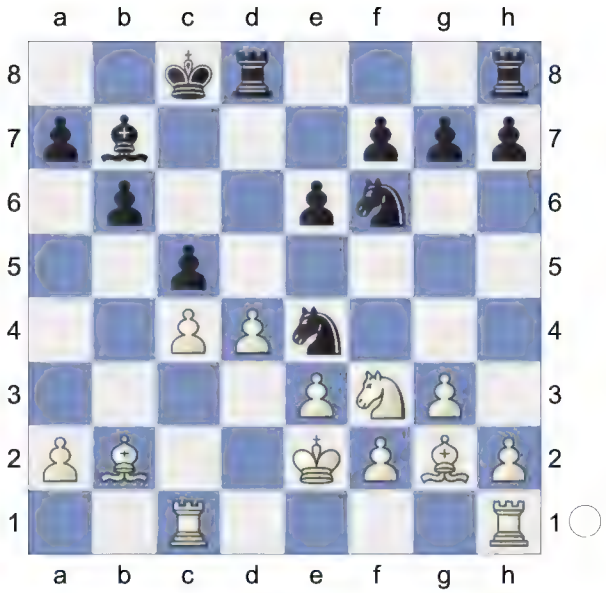
11.Qxd7+! Nxd7 12.Bg2 -0.34/26
[12.Nxe4= 0.12/21 Bb4+ 13.Ke2 Bxe4 14.Bg2]

12...Bb4 0.01/25
[12...Nd6∓ -0.34/26]
13.Rc1
[13.Nd2!? Nxd2 14.Bxb7 Nxc4 15.Bxa8 Nxb2 16.Ke2 *(16.Rc1 Na4∓)* 16...Bxc3 17.Rac1=]
13...0-0-0 14.Ke2 -0.36/19
[14.0-0= 0.01/19]
14...Bxc3!∓ 15.Bxc3 c5 0.11/17
[15...f5∓ -0.32/18 is superior.]



16.Bb2= Ndf6? 2.02/18
[16...Rhe8= 0.00/19 and Black is okay.]

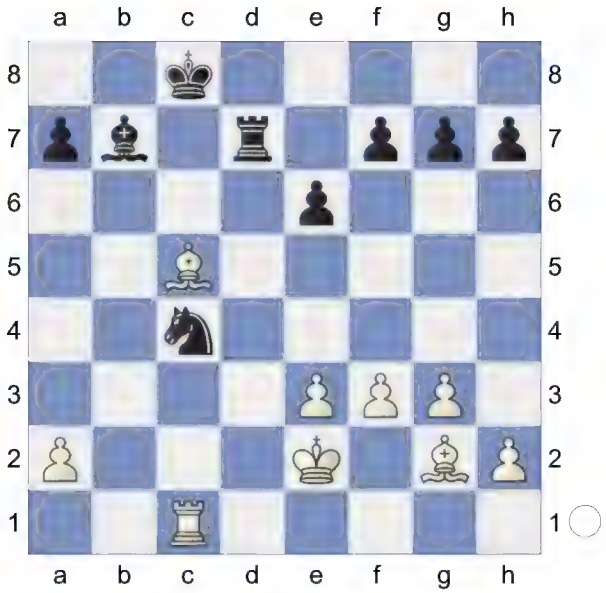
(Diagram)



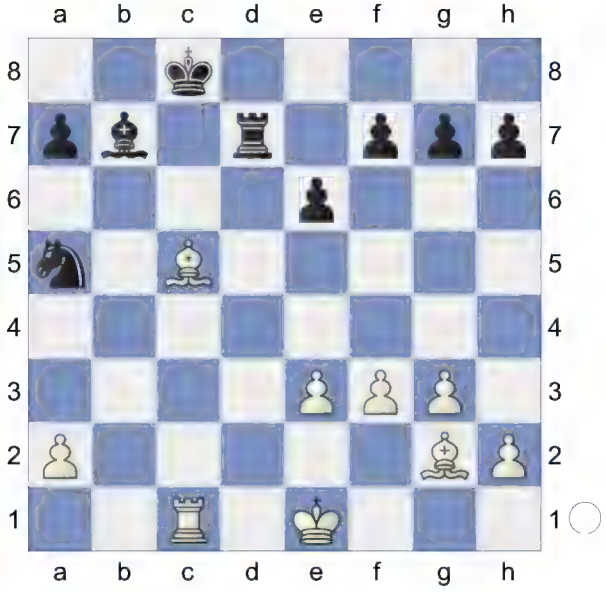
17.Ne5+- Rhf8 18.f3 Nd6 19.dxc5 bxc5 20.Ba3 Nd7

21.Nxd7 Rxd7 22.Bxc5 Rfd8 23.Rhd1
[23.Bxa7?! Bxf3+ 24.Bxf3 *(24.Kxf3 Rxa7 25.Rc2 Nf5±)* 24...Rxa7±]
23...Nxc4 24.Rxd7
[24.Rxc4? Ba6 25.Bd4+ *(25.Rdc1 Bxc4+ 26.Ke1 Rc7-+)* 25...Bxc4+ 26.Ke1 f6∓]
24...Rxd7

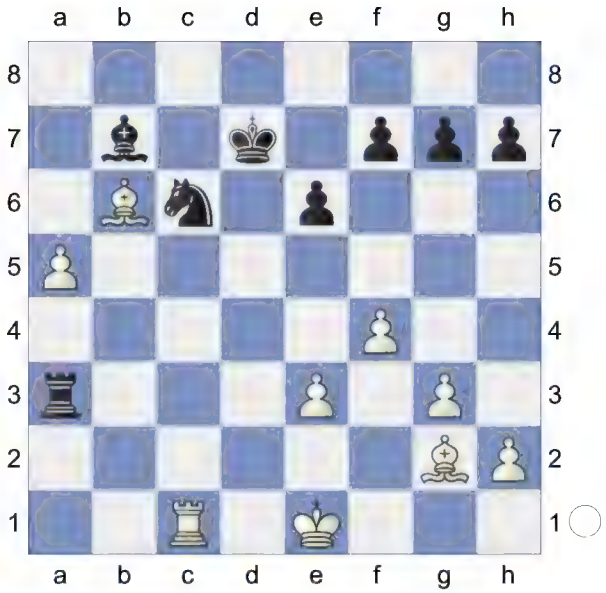
(Diagram)



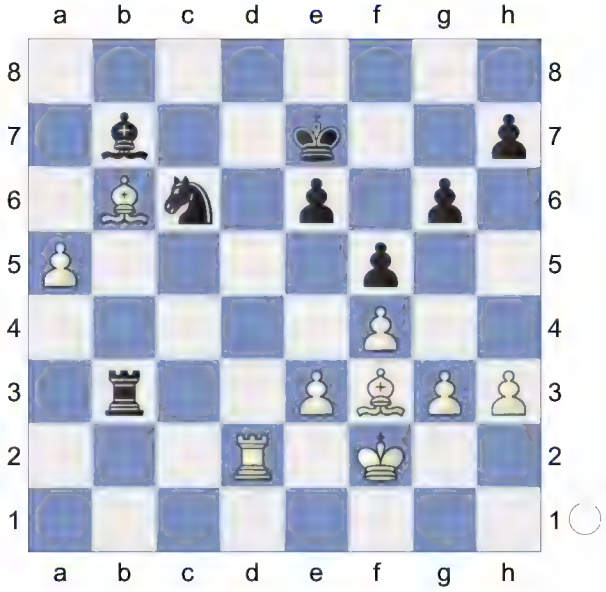
25.Ke1
[25.Rxc4? Ba6 26.Ke1 Bxc4-+]
[25.Bxa7 Rd2+ 26.Kf1 Rxa2=]
25...Na5
[25...Rd2? 26.Bf1+- *(26.Rxc4 Rxg2 27.Bxa7+ Kd7=)*]



26.Bxa7+ A strong pair of Bishops.
26...Nc6 3.23/21
[⌓26...Rc7 2.08/24 27.Rc5 Rxc5 28.Bxc5 Bd5]
27.f4 Kc7 28.a4 Rd3 29.a5 Ra3 30.Bb6+ Kd7

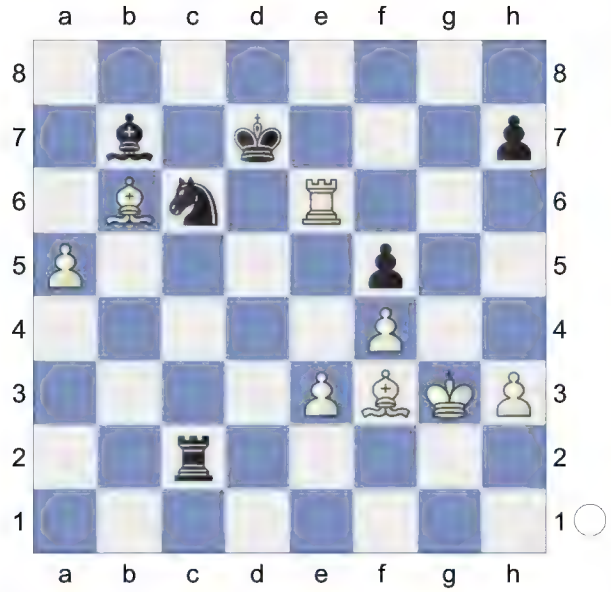


31.Rc2 f5 32.Kf2 Rb3 33.Rd2+ Ke8 34.Bf3 1.78/19
[⌓34.Rc2 3.16/18 Kd7 35.h4]
34...g6 3.04/20
[⌓34...Ra3 1.78/19 35.Rb2 Nb4]
35.h3 1.28/19
[35.Be2+- 3.04/20 and White stays clearly on top.]
35...Ke7? 4.53/22
[35...Ra3± 1.28/19 36.Rb2 Nb4]

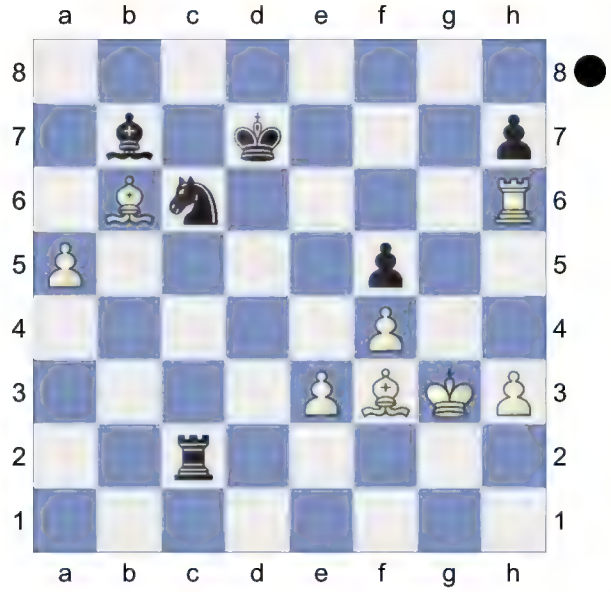


Loses the game. **36.g4 Ke8 37.Rd6** White is clearly winning. **37...Rb2+**

38.Kg3 Rc2 39.Rxe6+ Kd7 40.gxf5 gxf5



41.Rh6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.48

1-0

46 **C44**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**

■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2796**

SuperUnited CRO Blitz 2024 (11.4)

[TA]

A04: Unusual lines after 1 Nf3 and King's Indian Attack

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 Nge7!

[5...d6 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 0-0 8.h3 Re8 9.d3 a5 10.a4 b6 11.Na3 Ba6 12.Nb5 Qd7 13.Be3 Nd8 14.c4 Ne6 15.Qc2 Nc5 16.Rad1 Bb7 17.b3 h6 18.Nc3 Kh7 19.g4 Qc8 20.Nd5 Saric,I (2661)-Sevian,S (2687) Chess.com INT 2023 1-0 (63)]

6.c4N

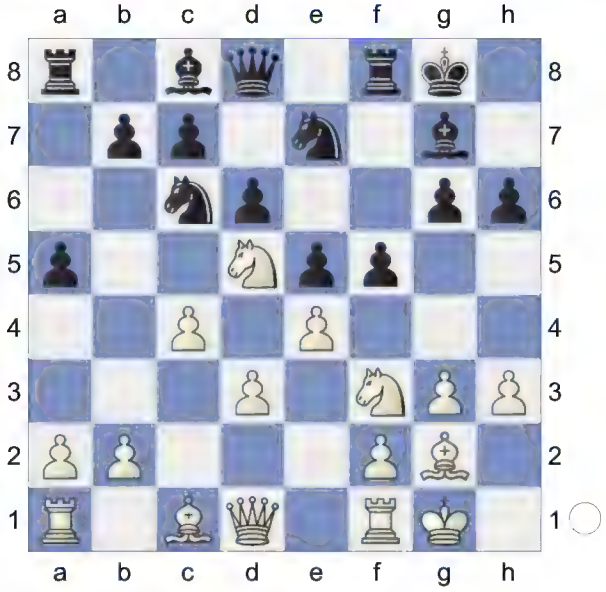
[6.Nc3 0-0 7.Re1 d6 8.d3 f5 9.exf5 Bxf5 10.h3 Qd7 11.g4 Be6 12.Ng5 h6 13.Nxe6 Qxe6 14.Be3 Qf6 15.g5 hxg5 16.Qg4 Qf5 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.Bxd5+ Kh7 19.Kg2 Nd4 20.Be4 Qxg4+ Philippe,C (2377)-Delorme,A (2527) Brest 2018 EXT 2019 [ChessBase II] ½-½ (36) 21.hxg4 Bf6

22.Bxd4 exd4 23.Bxb7 Rab8 24.Bd5 Be5 25.Rh1+ Kg7 26.Rh3 Rh8 27.Rah1 Rxh3 28.Kxh3 c6 29.Bxc6 Rxb2 30.Bd5 Rxc2 31.Kg2 Rc5 32.Bb3 Rc3 33.Rd1 Bf4 34.Kf3 Kf6 35.Ke4 Rc1 Rabiller,N (2377)-3.♕c2 ♘f6 4. ♘f3_31752 (2527) European Championship, Antalya 2018 Juniors [Dragan Solak] ½-½ (36)]

6...d6 7.h3 Against Bg4 **7...0-0 8.Nc3** The position is equal. **8...h6 9.d3 f5 10.Nd5** -0.19/20 Inhibits f4.

[⌓10.exf5 0.12/21 Bxf5 11.g4]

10...a5=



11.Rb1 g5 0.08/19

[⌓11...Rf7 -0.26/21]

12.exf5! Bxf5 13.Be3 -0.52/21

[13.h4= 0.05/22]

13...Nxd5∓ 14.cxd5 Nb4 15.h4 -1.70/20 Black keeps a firm grip on the game.

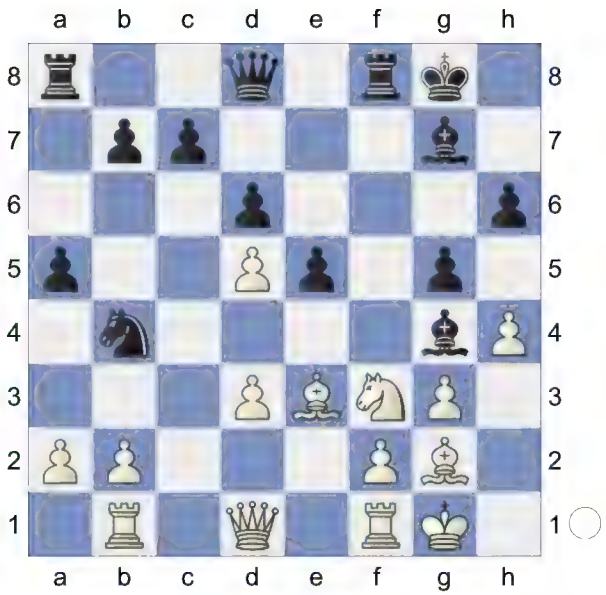
[15.Ne1∓ -0.52/17]

15...Bg4!-+

[Don't play 15...Nxd3 16.hxg5 hxg5 17.Nxg5=]

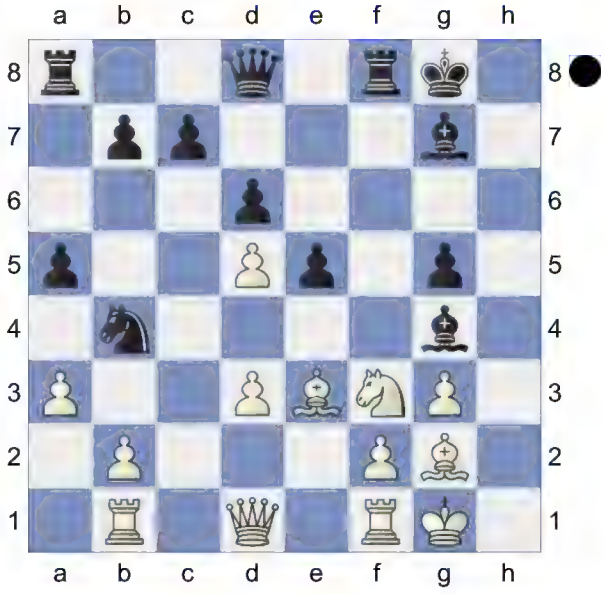
[15...Nxd5 16.Qb3 c6 17.hxg5=]

[15...Bxd3 16.hxg5 Bxf1 17.Bxf1=]



16.hxg5 hxg5 17.a3 -2.01/20

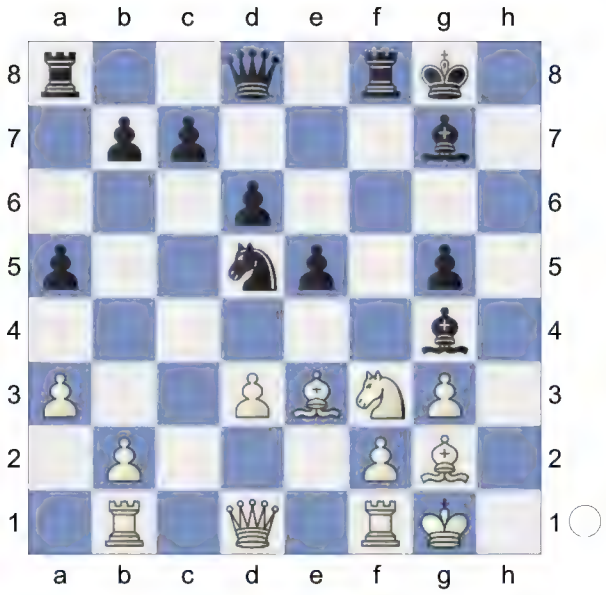
[17.Rc1∓ -1.46/24]



17...Na6!

[17...Nxd5

(Diagram)



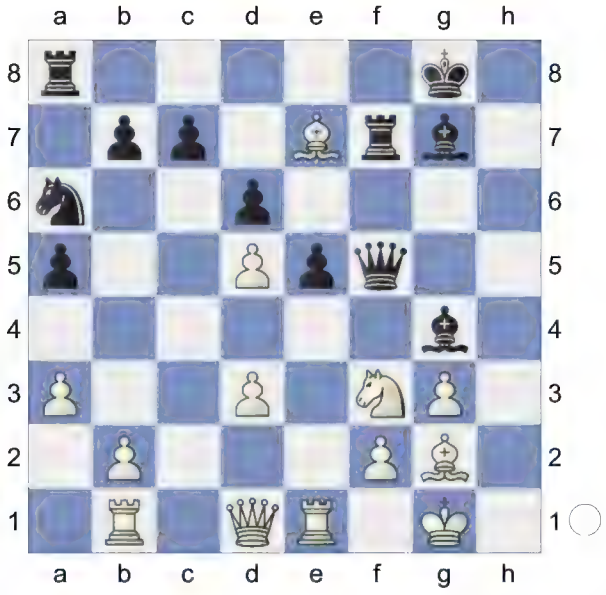
18.Qb3! Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Rxf3 20.Qxd5+ Rf7 21.Qxb7±]

18.Re1 Qf6 19.Bxg5 Qf5 20.Be7 -3.34/21

[⌓20.Re3 -1.99/21]

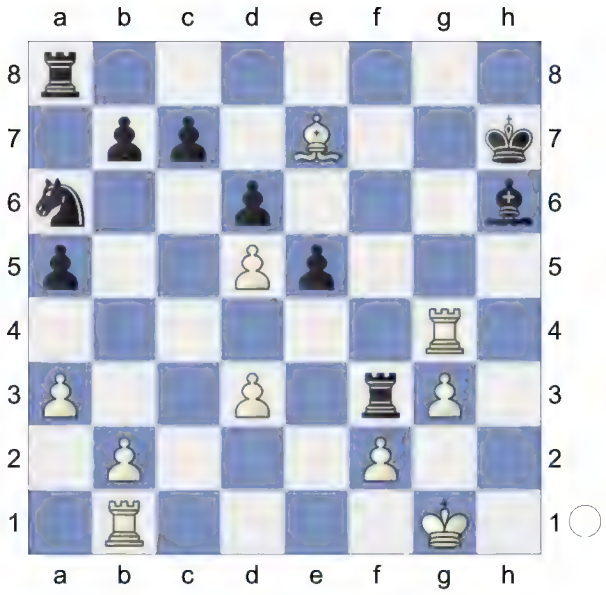
20...Rf7

[Don't blunder 20...Bxf3? 21.Bxf3 Rf7 22.Kg2 Rxe7 23.Be4-+]



21.Re3 Bh6 Against Bg5 **22.Re4 Bxf3** The board is on fire. **23.Bxf3 Qxf3 24.Rg4+ Kh7 25.Qxf3 Rxf3**

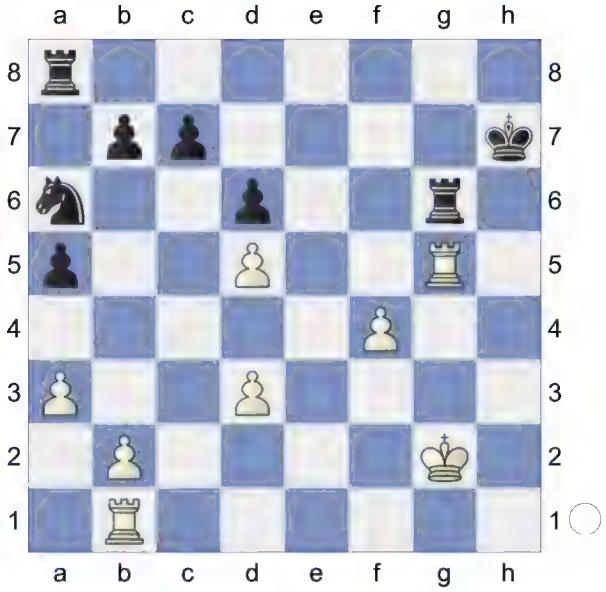
(Diagram)



26.Kg2 Rf7

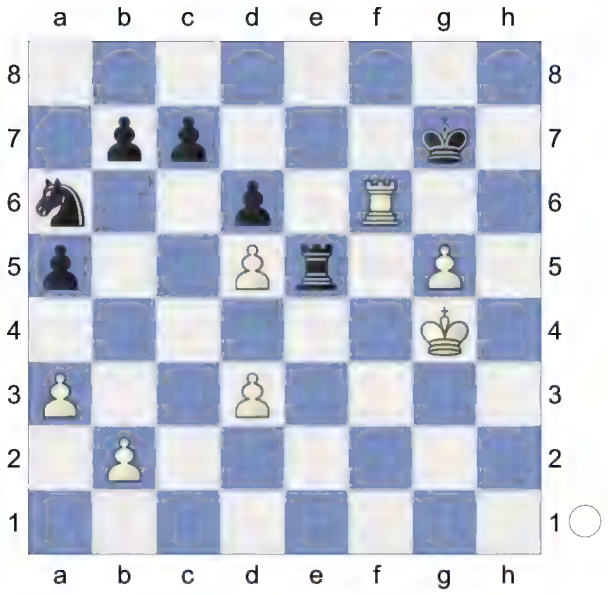
[Weaker is 26...Rxd3 27.Rh1 Rg8 28.Rgh4∓]

27.Bg5 Bxg5 28.Rxg5 Rf6 29.f4 exf4 30.gxf4 Rg6

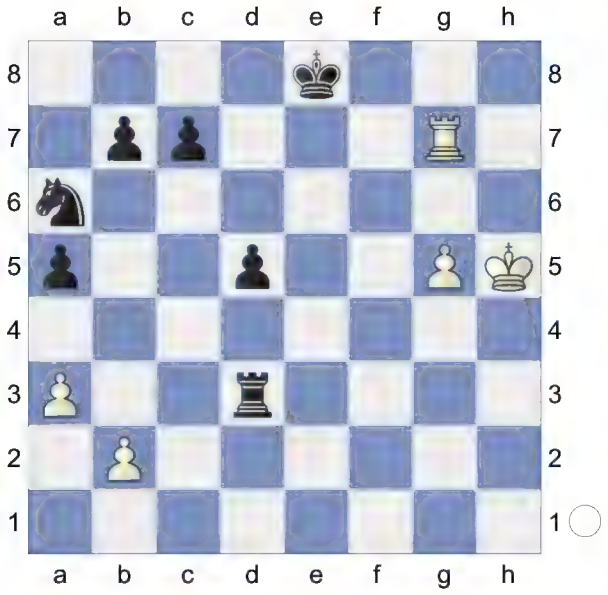


31.Kf3 Rxg5 32.fxg5 Endgame KRN-KR **32...Kg6 33.Kg4 Re8** Against Re1 **34.Rf1 Re5 35.Rf6+ Kg7**

(Diagram)

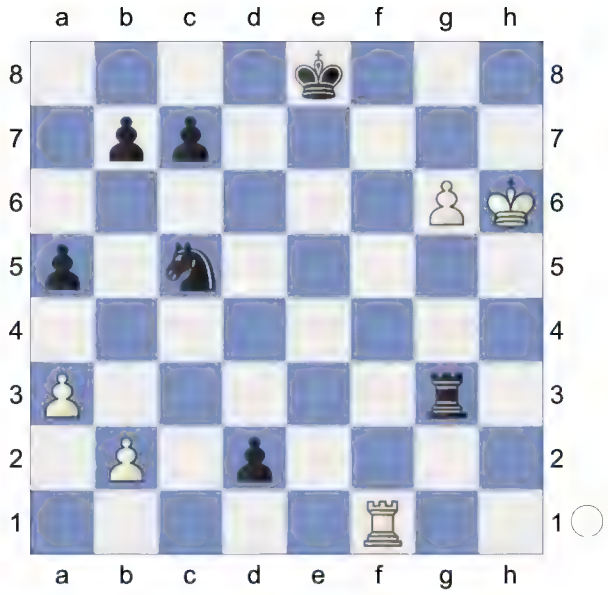


36.Re6 -6.94/20
[⌓36.Kh5 -4.86/21 Rxd5 37.Rg6+ Kf7 38.Rf6+ Kg7 39.Rg6+ Kf8 40.Kh6]
36...Rxd5 37.Kh5 Rxd3 38.Re7+ Kf8 39.Rd7 Ke8 40.Rg7 d5

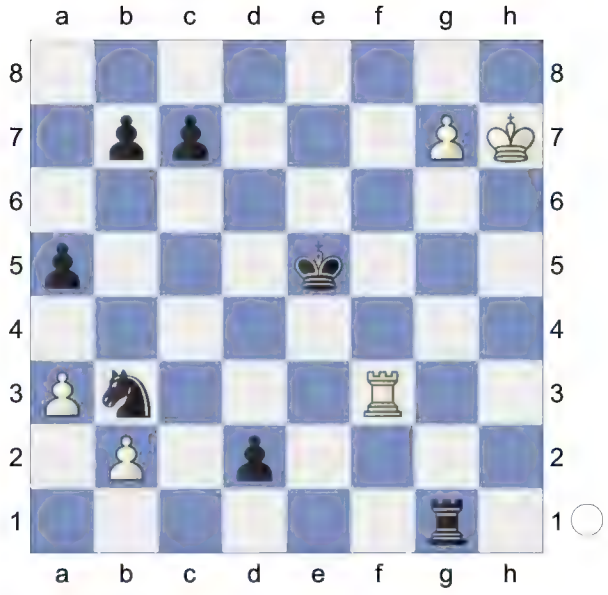


41.g6 Rg3 42.Rh7 d4 43.Kh6 d3 ...d2 is the strong threat. **44.Rf7 d2 45.Rf1 Nc5**

(Diagram)

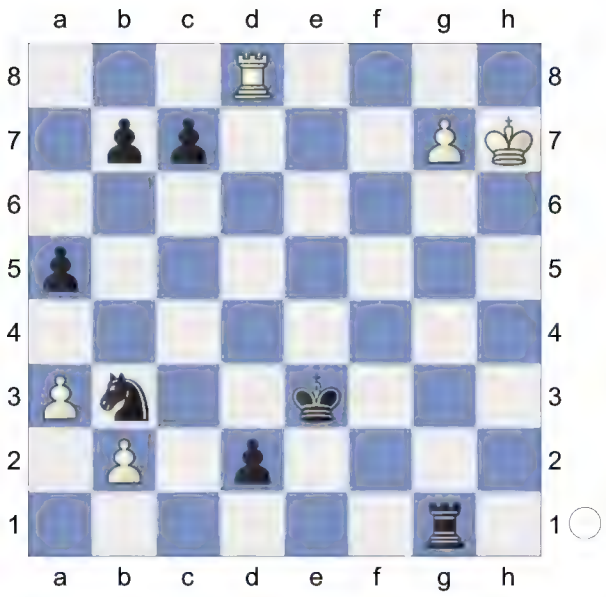


46.Rd1 Nb3 47.g7 Kf7 Threatens to win with ...Rg6+. **48.Rf1+ Ke6** aiming for ...Ke5. **49.Kh7 Ke5 50.Rf3 Rg1** -11.67/20
[⌓50...Rxf3 -#13/14 51.g8Q Rh3+ 52.Kg7 Rg3+ 53.Kh8 Rxg8+ 54.Kxg8 Kf6 55.Kh7 d1Q 56.Kh8 Qg4 57.Kh7 Qg7#]



51.Rd3 Ke4 52.Rd8 Ke3

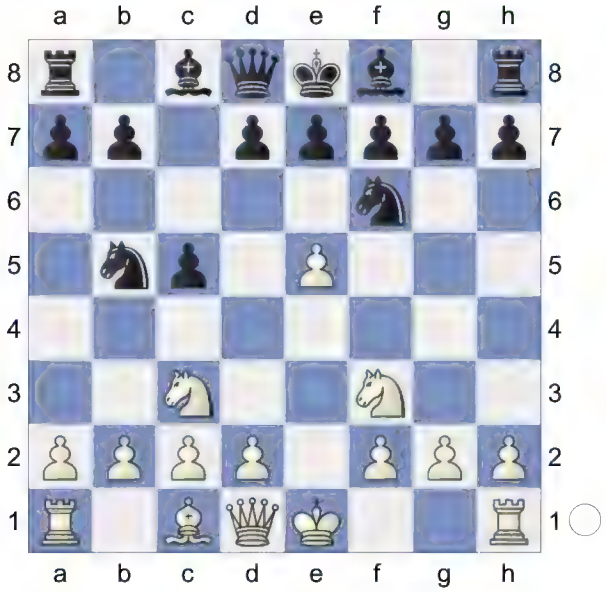
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.09 (flawless)
0-1

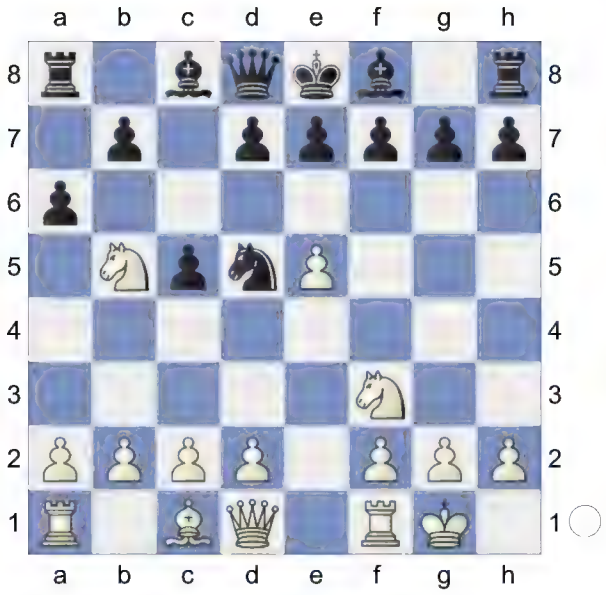
47 **B30**
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2729**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
SuperUnited CRO Blitz 2024 (10.2)
[TA]

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6
Vasiukov,E: 'Inf 20/370' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5**
[3.c4 e5 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 f5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Ne1 Rb8 12.f4 exf4 13.gxf4 b5 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.Rb1 Bb7 17.b3 Qa8 Buksa,J (2081)-Jun,R (2200) Hluk 2023 0-1 (43)]
3...Nf6N
[3...e6 4.d4 Nge7 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.a3 *(11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Qb3 Nb4 13.Rxe7 Qxe7 14.Bxd7 Nxa2 15.Bf5 Nxc1 16.Rxc1 g6 17.Bh3 Rad8 18.g3 Rfe8 19.Ne5 Rd6 20.Rc5 Rb6 21.Qc3 f6 22.Rc7 Qd6 23.Rd7 Qf8 24.Nd3 Rd8 25.Nc5 Qe8* Vasiukov,E-Timoscenko, G USSR 20/370 1975 CI1-130 [Vasiukov,Evgeni] 1-0) 11...Rc8 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Be4 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Qc7 17.c4 Red8 18.Rad1 Grischuk,A (2709)-Radjabov,T (2728) Rishon Le Zion ISR 2006 [Jonathan Rowson] 1-0 (72) Na5 19.c5 Bc6 20.h4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Rd5 22.Bf4 Qd8 23.Bd6 Nc4 24.Bg3 Rcxc5 25.dxc5 Rxd1 26.Qxc4 Rxe1+ 27.Nxe1 Qd1 28.Qf1 Qc1 29.a4 Qxc5 30.Nf3 Kg7 31.Qb5 Qxb5 32.axb5 a6 33.b6 Hanke,L (2709)-10. ♗c2 c5 11. ♘bd2_15267 (2728) corr ICCF 2006 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 1-0 (72)]
4.Nc3 Nd4 5.e5 Nxb5

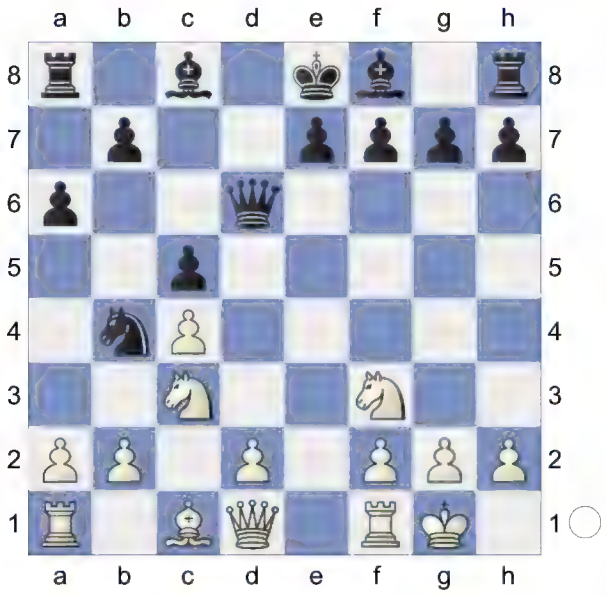


6.Nxb5 Nd5 7.0-0 a6

(Diagram)

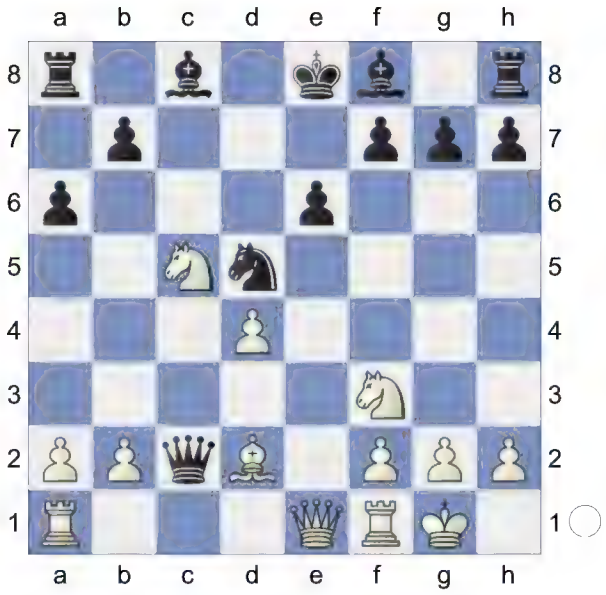


8.c4! Nb4 9.Nc3 Threatens to win with d4. **9...d6! 10.exd6 Qxd6**



White is slightly better. **11.Ne4 Qd3 12.Nxc5 Qxc4 13.d4 Qc2 14.Qe1! Nd5 15.Bd2!** Rc1 is the strong threat. **15...e6!**

(Diagram)



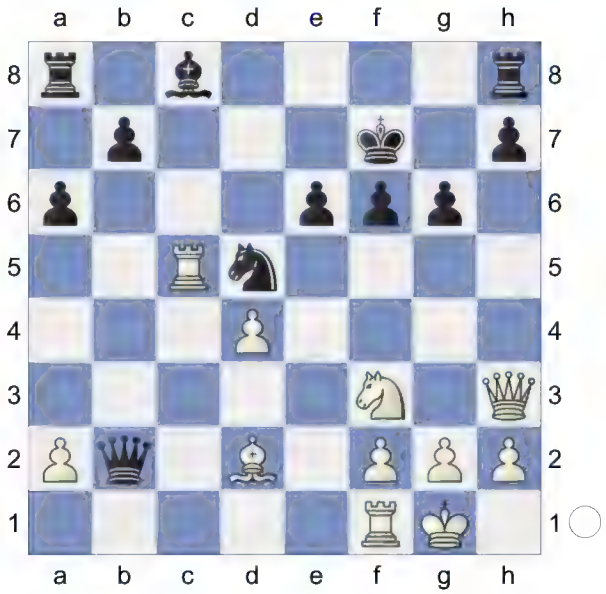
16.Rc1! Qxb2 17.Qe5! f6 18.Qh5+ g6 19.Qh3 Bxc5

[19...Qxa2 20.Nxe6 Be7 21.Rfe1±]

20.Rxc5 Kf7 2.01/5

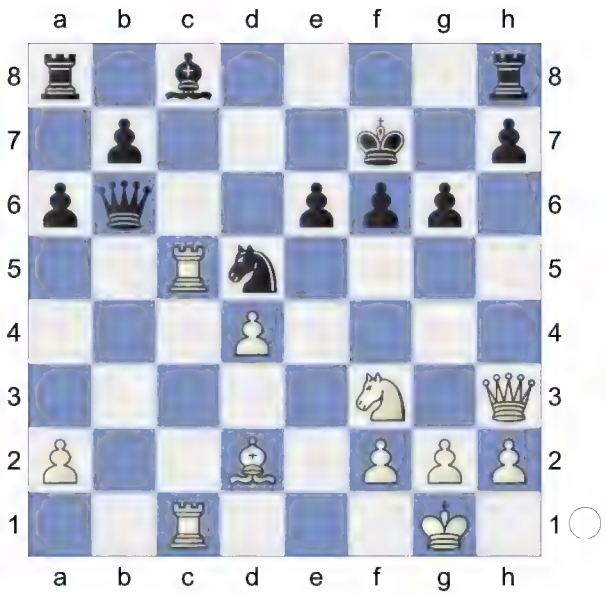
[20...Qxa2? 21.Rxc8+! Kd7 22.Rxa8 Rxa8 23.Qxh7+ Kc6 24.h4+-]

[20...Bd7± 0.68/5]

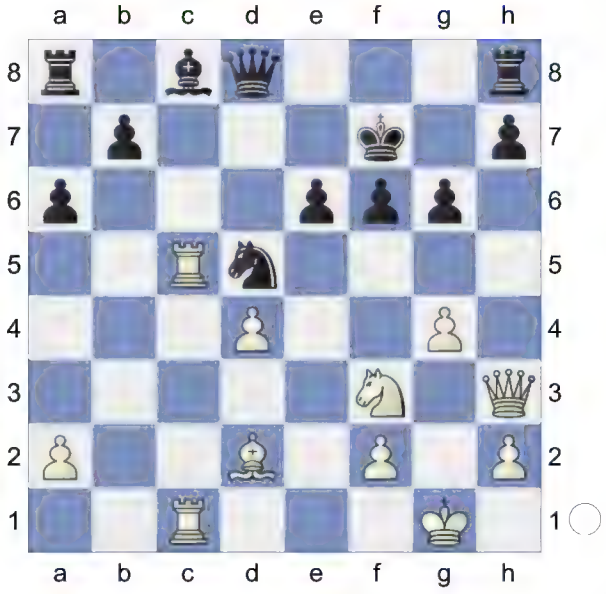


21.Rfc1+- White has strong compensation. **21...Qb6**

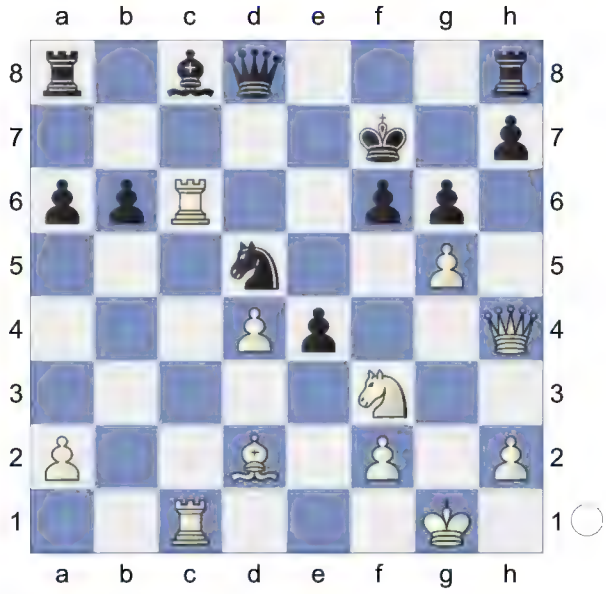
(Diagram)



22.g4! Qd8? 1.39/5
[Better is 22...h5+- 4.07/5 23.g5 f5]

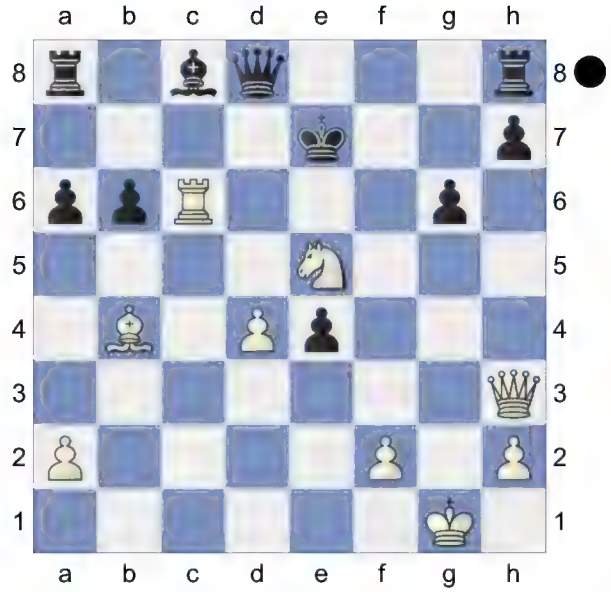


23.g5!± Strongly threatening gxf6. &Bianco is more active. **23...e5?** 4.56/6 Loses the game.
[23...b6± 1.36/3 is more resistant. 24.gxf6 Qxf6]
24.Qh4+- And now gxf6 would win.
[24.Nxe5+ fxe5 25.Qf3+ Kg7 26.Rxd5 *(26.Qxd5 Qxd5 27.Rxd5 Re8±)* 26...Bd7 27.dxe5 Re8]
24...b6? 4.87/2
[24...Be6 2.51/4 25.gxf6 Qxf6]
25.Rc6 e4



26.Rxf6+ Remove Defender **26...Nxf6**
[26...Qxf6 27.gxf6]
27.Ne5+ Ke6 #8/18
[27...Kg8+- 4.21/3]
28.Qh3+ 5.35/3
[⌓28.Rc6+ #8/18 Qd6 29.Qh3+ Ke7 30.gxf6+ Qxf6 31.Bb4+ Qd6 32.Bxd6+ Kf6 33.Bf8+ Be6 34.Rxe6+ Kg5 35.Bh6#]
28...Ke7 29.gxf6+ White mates.
29...Kxf6 30.Rc6+ Ke7

31.Bb4+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.98

1-0

48 **D26**

□ **Giri,Anish** **2745**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**

SuperUnited CRO Blitz 2024 (9.5)

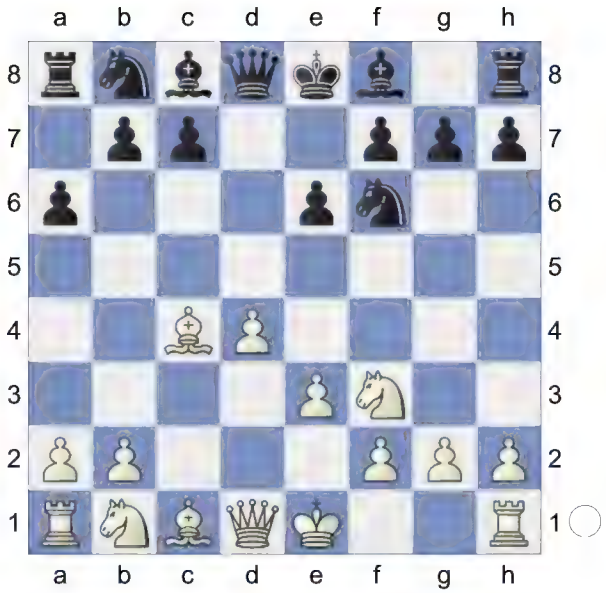
[Kitty Kat]

D26: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 4 e3 e6 5 Bxc5 c5 sidelines

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 a6

[5...c5 6.0-0 a6 7.Be2 cxd4 8.exd4 Nc6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Bf4 Nf6 12.Rc1 0-0 13.Na4 Nd5 14.Bg3 Bd6 15.Bd3 Nce7 16.Qb3 b6 17.Be4 Rb8 18.Rfe1 Bb7 19.Nc3 Nxc3 20.Bxb7 0-1 (110) C 06/32 (2809)-Deslandes,P (2807) GER-ITA email 2012 (2)]

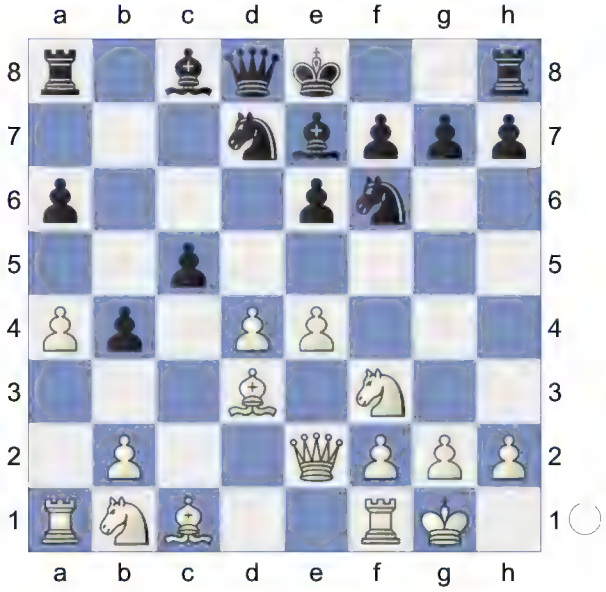
(Diagram)



6.0-0 Be7 7.Qe2N

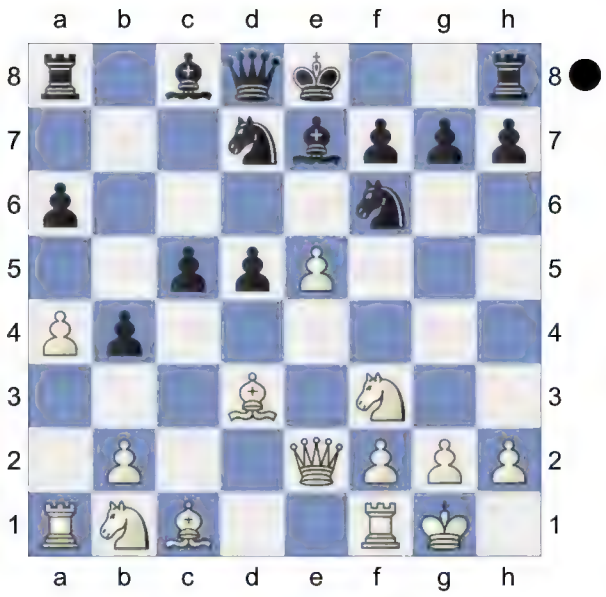
[7.Nbd2 b5 8.Be2 Nbd7 9.a4 bxa4 10.Qxa4 0-0 11.Nb3 c5 12.Bd2 cxd4 13.Nfxd4 Ne5 14.Rfc1 Bb7 15.Qa5 Qb8 16.Qc7 Bd6 17.Qxb8 Rfxb8 18.Na5 Be4 19.b3 h6 20.f3 Bd3 21.Kf1 Bb4 ½-½ (41) Le,Q (2739)-Giri,A (2728) 7th Prague Masters 2025 (1)]

7...b5 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.a4 White is slightly better. **9...b4 10.e4 c5**

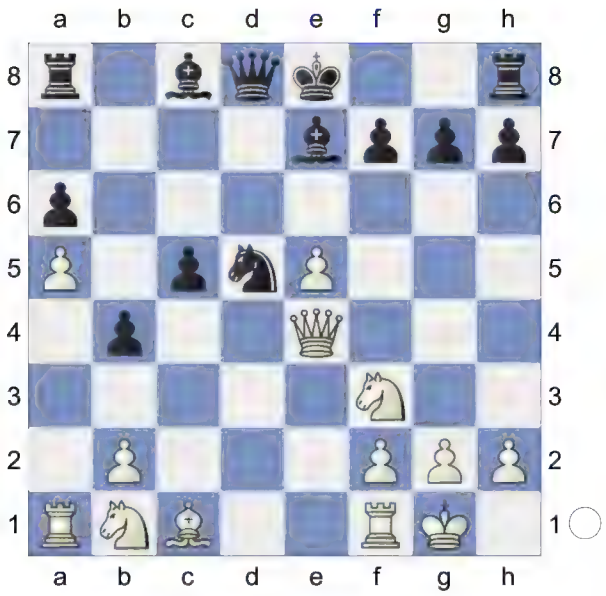


11.d5 -0.32/21 **exd5∓ 12.e5**

(Diagram)

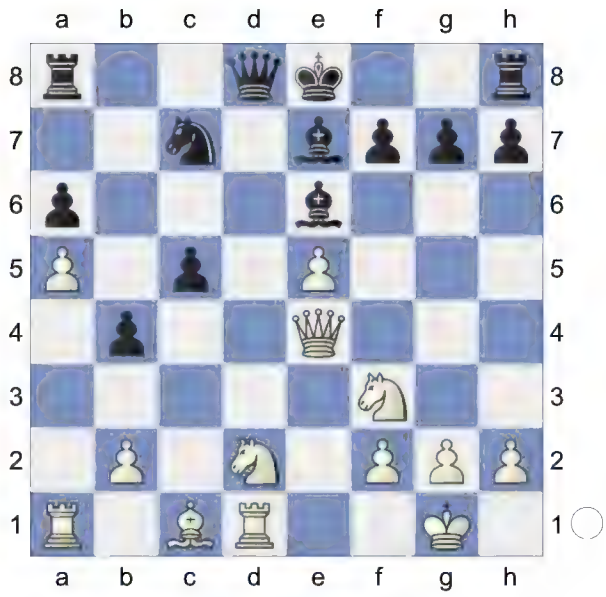


Ne4 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.Qxe4 Nb6 0.03/18
[14...Ra7∓ -0.33/19]
15.a5!= Nd5

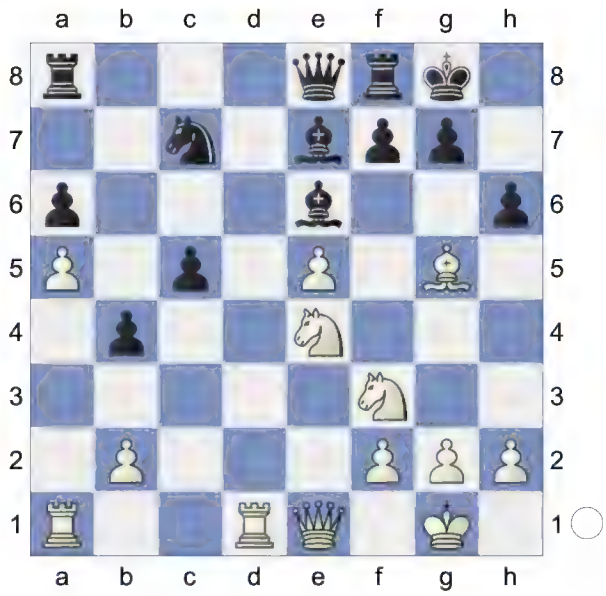


16.Rd1 -0.85/22
[16.Bg5!= 0.13/20 keeps the balance. Bxg5 17.Nxg5]
16...Be6∓ 17.Nbd2 and Nc4 would now be decisive **17...Nc7?** 0.81/22
[17...0-0!∓ -0.83/20 and life is bright. 18.h3 h5]

(Diagram)

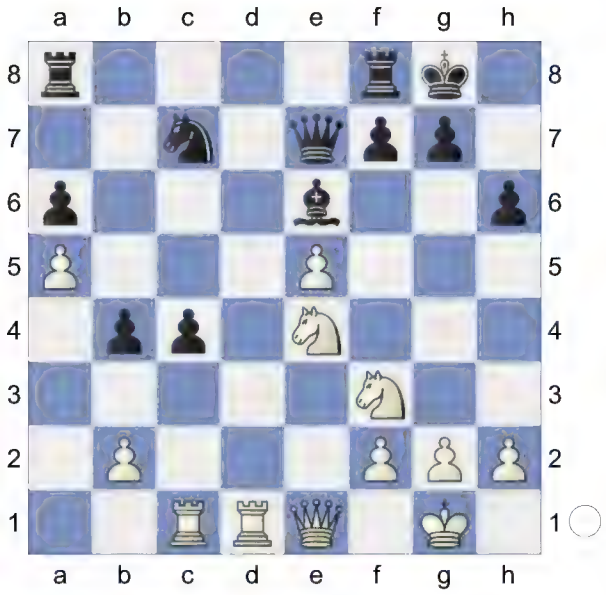


18.Qe1 0.43/21
[18.Qc6+ Kf8∓]
[18.Qc2!± 0.81/22]
18...0-0± 19.Ne4 Qe8 20.Bg5 h6

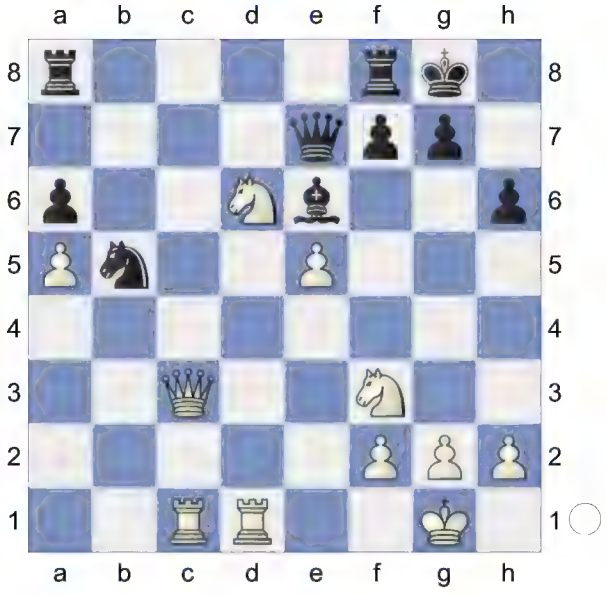


21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Rac1 Black is on the road to losing. **22...c4** 1.41/18
[22...Rfd8= 0.18/20]

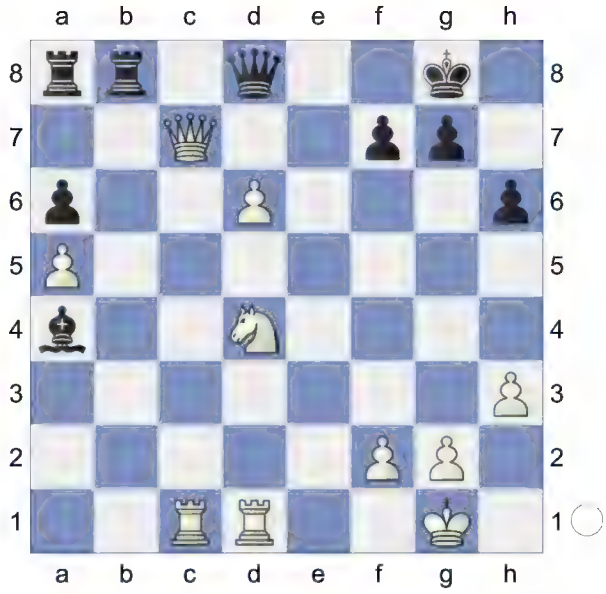
(Diagram)



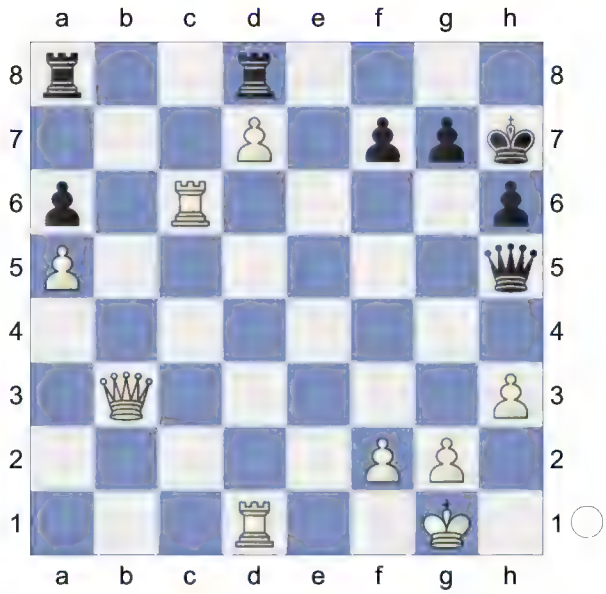
23.Nd6 0.85/18 White is more active.
[White should play 23.Nd4! 1.41/18]
23...c3 1.75/20 **24.bxc3+- bxc3** 1.92/19
[24...b3± 1.51/20]
25.Qxc3 Nb5



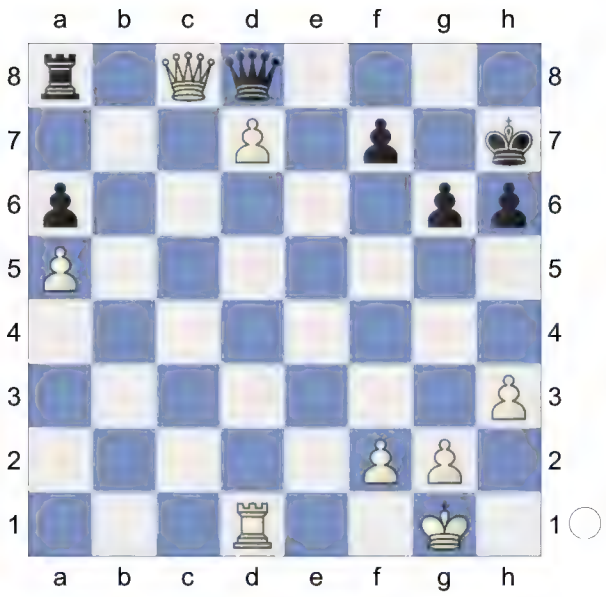
Black is weak on the dark squares
26.Qc5 Rfb8 1.93/19
[26...Ra7± 1.56/17 27.Nd4 *(27.Nxb5 axb5 28.Qxb5 Rfa8±)* 27...Nxd4 28.Qxd4 *(28.Rxd4 Rb8±)* 28...Rc7]
27.h3 Nxd6 3.14/19
[⌓27...Ra7 1.73/18 28.Nd4 Nxd4 29.Qxd4 *(29.Rxd4 Kh7±)* 29...Rc7]
28.exd6 Qd8 29.Nd4 Prevents Rb5
29...Bd7 30.Qc7 Ba4



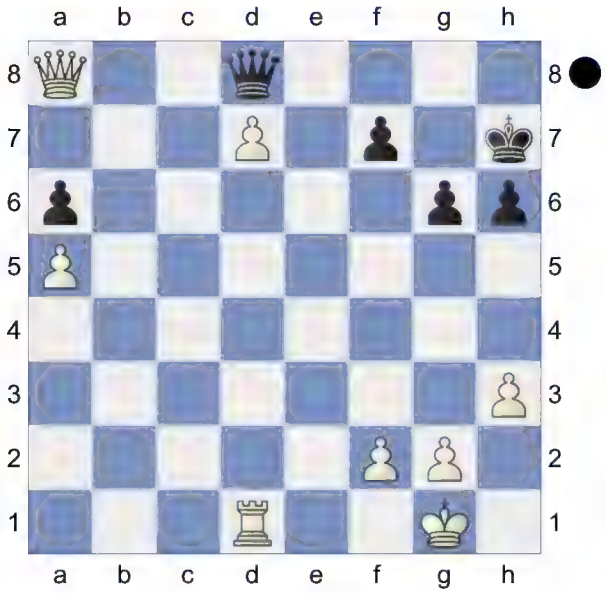
31.Nc6 Bxc6 32.Rxc6 Qg5? 5.76/20
[32...Rc8 3.30/17 is a better defense.]
33.d7 Rd8 34.Qb6 Kh7 35.Qb3 Qh5? 6.05/17
[35...Qf5 3.57/17 36.Qa4 g6]



36.Qc2+ White is clearly winning. **36...g6**
37.Rc5 Repels Qf5 **37...Qh4 38.Rc8 Qe7 39.Rxa8 Rxa8 40.Qc8 Qd8**
(Diagram)



Repels Qxa8
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.70
41.Qxa8!!



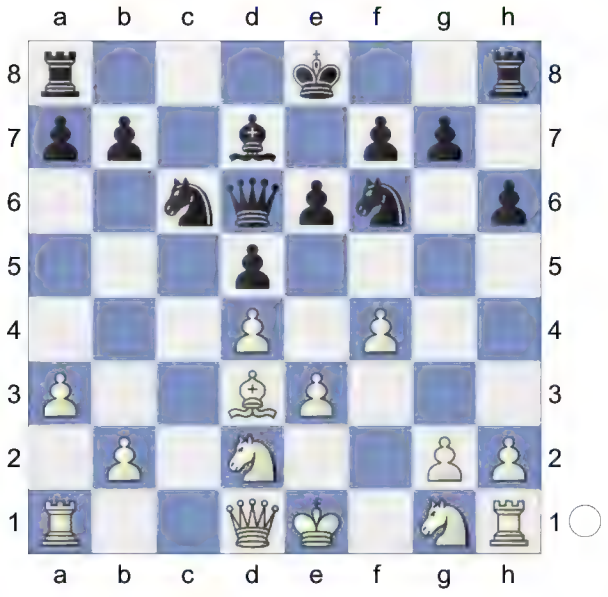
1-0

49 **D00**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2718**
Superbet Croatia Blitz, Zagreb (8.3)
[TA]

D00: 1 d4 d5: Unusual lines
1.d4 Nf6
[1...d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 g6 *(3...Nbd7 4.f4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 b6 7.Nbd2 Bb7 8.c3 0-0 9.Ne5 Ne4 10.a4 a6 11.Qb3 Nd6 12.a5 b5 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Qc2 e6 15.Nb3 Bc6 16.Nc5 Qc8 17.Be2 Rd8 18.b3* Can,E (2483)-Erdogan,H (2234) Kemer-Antalya TUR 2011 [Jones, Gawain] 1-0 (36)) 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c3 b6 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.Bd2 Qc8 10.Be1 Ba6 11.Bh4 Qb7 12.Ne5 Bxd3 13.Nxd3 Ne4 14.f5 Nc6 15.Nd2 c4 16.Nf4 Abdulla,A (2359)-Rausis,I (2525) Calcutta 2001 CBM 82 [Ernst] 0-1]
2.Bf4 d5N
[2...c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.a4 Na6 8.Be2 Nc7 9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nd7 12.Qd2 a6 13.Be2 Rb8 14.a5 b5 15.axb6 Rxb6 16.Nd1 Benoni Benko Defense-3...d6 with 4...g6 #2]
3.e3 c5 4.c3 e6 5.Nd2 Nc6

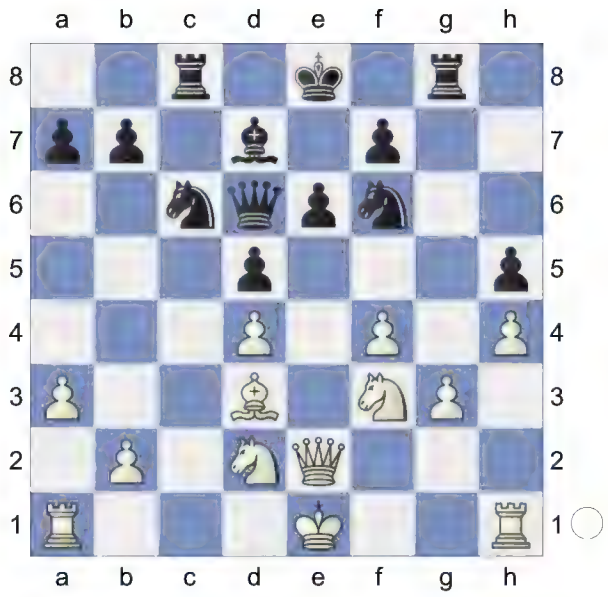
(Diagram)

6.Bd3 Bd6 7.Bxd6 Qxd6 8.f4
Prevents e5. **8...cxd4 9.cxd4**
The position is equal. **9...Bd7 10.a3 h6** 0.22/4
[10...Ne7 -0.27/6 feels stronger.]

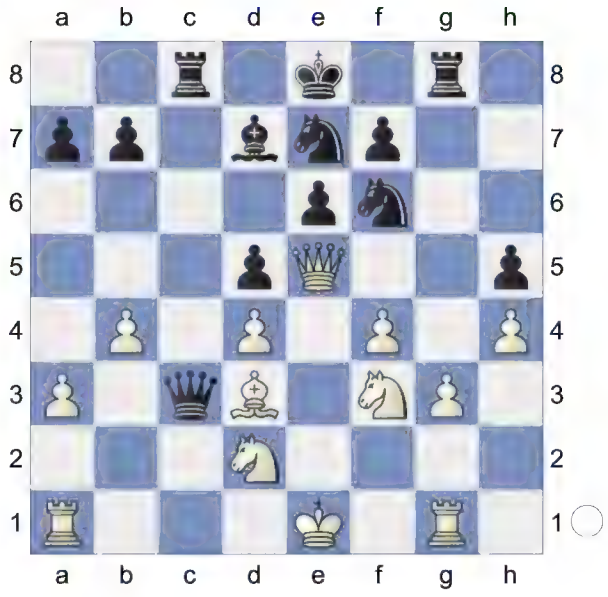


11.Ngf3= g5 12.g3 gxf4 13.exf4 h5 14.Qe2 Rc8 15.h4 -0.96/3
[15.Nb3= 0.19/6]
15...Rg8∓

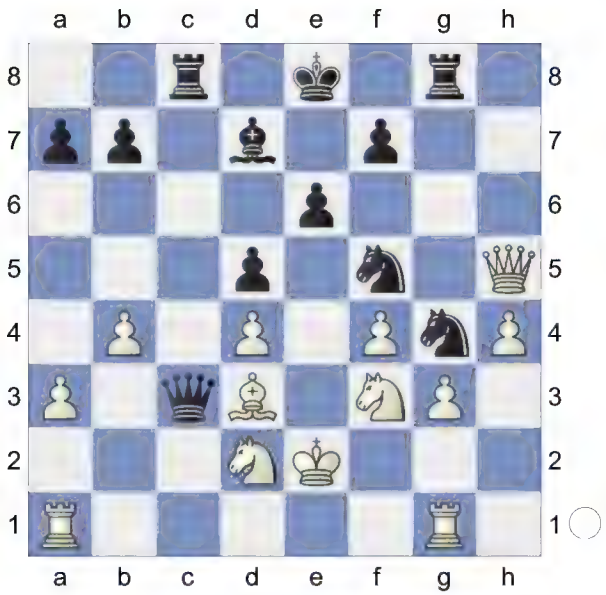
(Diagram)



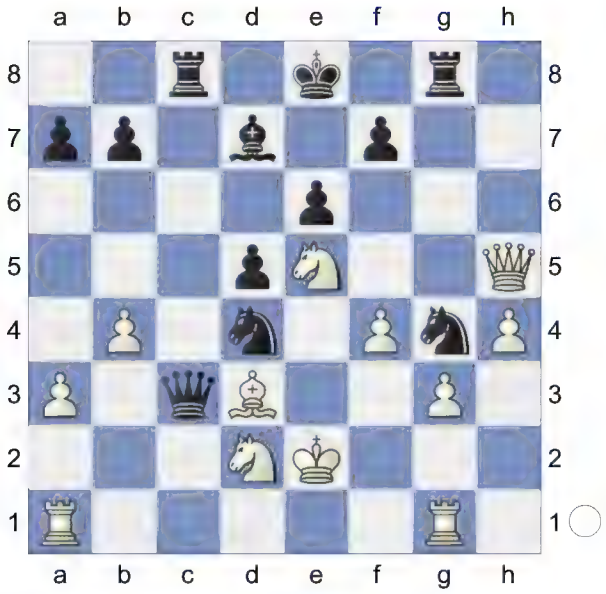
16.Rg1 Qc7 -0.51/6
[Black should try 16...Ng4∓ -0.84/5]
17.b4 Ne7 18.Qe5 -2.19/6
[18.Kf1∓ -0.99/5 was worth a try.]
18...Qc3!-+



aiming for ...Ng4. **19.Ke2?** -4.65/3
[19.Qxf6 -2.60/4 Qxa1+ 20.Kf2 Qxa3 21.Bh7]
19...Ng4 20.Qxh5 -2.53/5
[⌓20.Rac1 -5.11/6 Qxd3+ 21.Kxd3 Bb5+ 22.Nc4 dxc4+ 23.Kd2 Nxe5 24.dxe5]
20...Nf5



The board is on fire. **21.Ne5** -9.40/20
[⌓21.Qxg4 -5.19/16 Rxg4 22.Bxf5 exf5 23.Kf2]
21...Nxd4+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.69/ Black=0.05 (flawless)
0-1

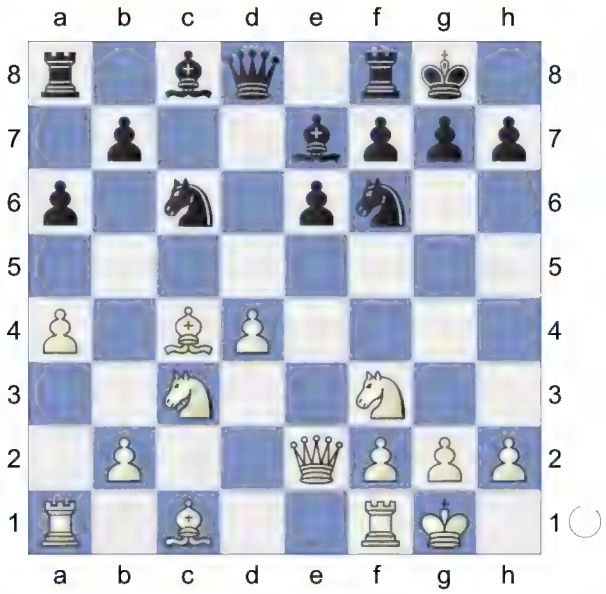
50 **D32**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2796**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
SuperUnited CRO Blitz 2024 (2.4)
[Kitty Kat]

D27: Queen's Gambit Accepted: Classical main line: 7 e4!? and 7 a4
1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c5 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 dxc4

6.Bxc4 a6 7.a4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7N
[8...Bd6 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.e4 h6 12.e5 Nd7 13.Re1 Ke7 14.Bf4 Nb6 15.Bf1 Rd8 16.Rec1 Na5 17.Ne4 Bb4 18.Bd2 Bxd2 19.Nexd2 Nd5 20.Rab1 Nc6 21.Ne4 Bd7 22.Nc5 Rab8 23.Nxd7 0-1 (58) Onischuk,A (2640)-Nabaty,T (2629) WchT Pool-B 13th rapid 2022 (4.1) Kxd7 24.Bd3 g5 25.h3 Nf4 26.Bf1 Nd5 27.Bd3 Rbc8 28.Be4 Ke7 29.g3 Ndb4 30.Rc4 Rd7 31.Bxc6 Nxc6 32.b4 Na7 33.Rbc1 Kd8 34.Kg2 Rd5 35.Rxc8+ Nxc8 36.Rc3 Ne7 37.Rc4 Nc6 38.Re4 0-1 (58) 4. ♘f3 ♗g7 5. ♗c4 c6 3932 (2640)-Intro Be3 (2629) WchT 3rd

Luzern 1993 (4.1)]
[8...cxd4 9.exd4 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.d5 exd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Bb4 14.Re2 Be6 15.Bb3 Qxd1+ 16.Bxd1 Bd5 17.Ne5 Nd4 18.Re3 Rad8 19.Bf3 Nc2 20.Rd3 Bxf3 21.Rb1 Be4 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.Bg5 0-1 (32) Chandrasekaran,S (1466)-Chen,M (1900) San Francisco Neil Falconer op 2013 (5)]

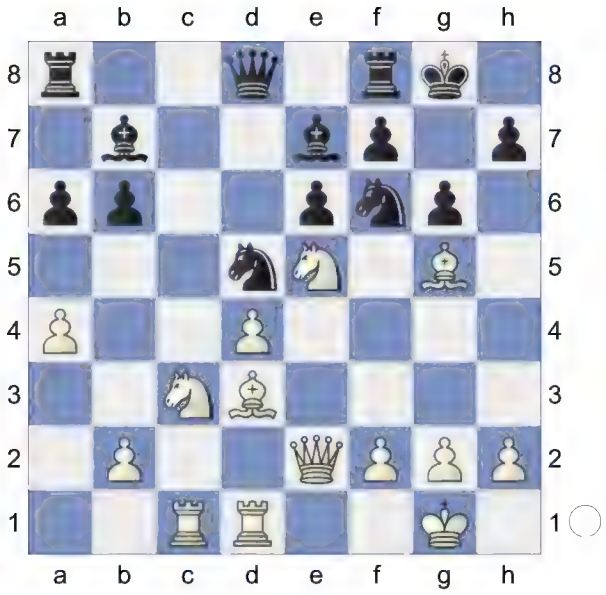
9.Qe2 cxd4 10.exd4 0-0



11.Rd1 Nb4 12.Ne5 b6 13.Bg5 Bb7 14.Rac1 Nbd5 0.28/19
[14...Nfd5 -0.19/19 might be stronger. 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bxe7 Qxe7]

15.Bd3 White has an edge. **15...g6** 0.67/19
[15...h6= 0.00/19 16.Bd2 Nxc3 17.Rxc3 Bb4]

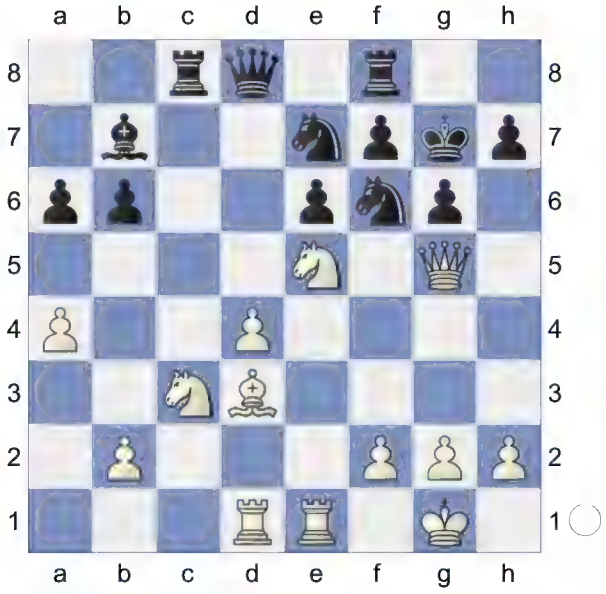
(Diagram)



16.Re1 0.01/20 White has more active pieces.
[16.h4± 0.67/19]

16...Nh5!= 17.Bxe7
[17.Bh6 is interesting. Ndf4 18.Qd1 Bg5 19.Bxg5 Qxg5 20.g3]

17...Nxe7 18.Qe3 Nf6 19.Qg5 Kg7 20.Rcd1 Rc8



21.h4 h6 22.Qg3 Qd6
[22...Qxd4? 23.Bxg6 Qb4 24.Be4+ *(24.Bxf7+ Kh7+-)* 24...Kh8 25.Bxb7+-]

23.Qh3 Qb4

[23...Qxd4? 24.Bxa6+-]

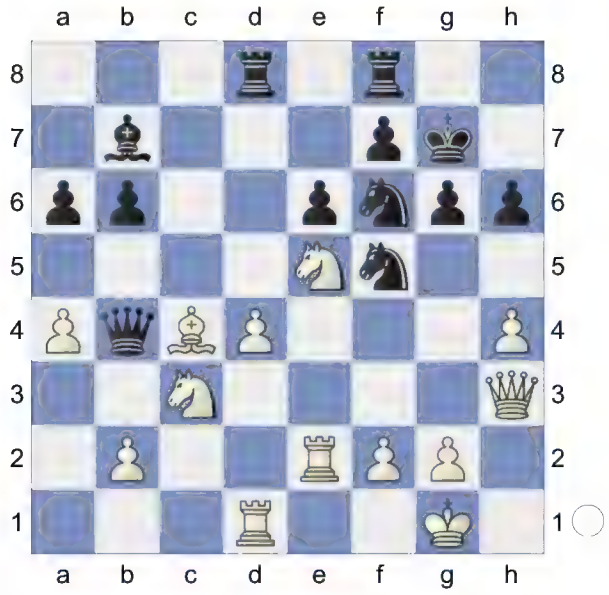
24.Re2 -0.97/18

[24.Qg3= -0.25/18]

24...Rcd8∓

[24...Qxd4?! 25.Bxg6 *(25.Bxa6 Rxc3 26.Rxd4 Rxh3=)* 25...Rxc3 26.Rxd4±]

25.Bc4 Nf5



26.Red2 h5 -0.75/16

[⌓26...g5 -1.11/18]

27.b3 -1.80/20

[27.Qh2∓ -0.75/16 was called for.]

27...Qa5 -1.01/21

[27...Ng4-+ -1.80/20 28.Na2 Qe7 29.Nxg4 hxg4 30.Qxg4 Rh8 *(30...Nxh4 31.d5∓; 30...Qxh4 31.Qxh4 Nxh4 32.Bf1∓)*]

28.Rd3 Qb4 29.R3d2 -1.50/19

[⌓29.Qh2 -0.76/19]

29...Qe7 -0.65/17

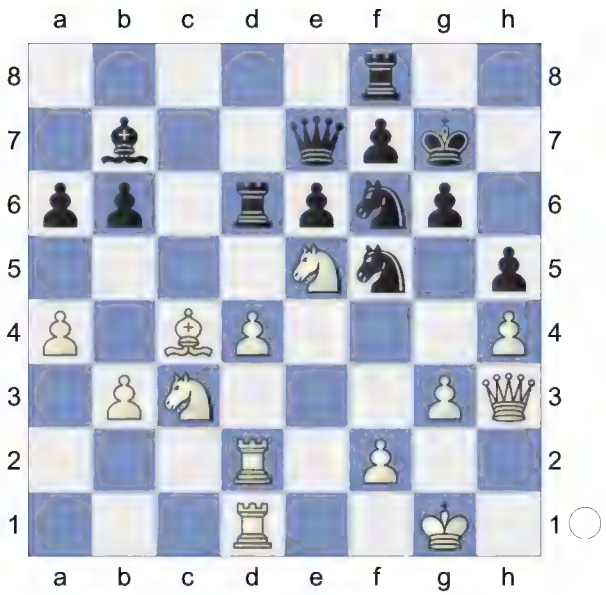
[29...Ng4∓ -1.50/19 30.Na2 Qe7 31.Nxg4 hxg4 32.Qxg4 Nxh4]

30.g3? -2.31/20

[30.Qh2!∓ -0.65/17]

30...Rd6

(Diagram)



31.Qf1 Rfd8 -0.62/17

[31...Rc8-+ -2.00/18 32.Qe1 Re8]

32.Bxa6∓ Nxd4 0.10/20

[32...Rxd4 33.Rxd4 Nxd4 34.Bxb7 Qxb7 35.Nb5±]

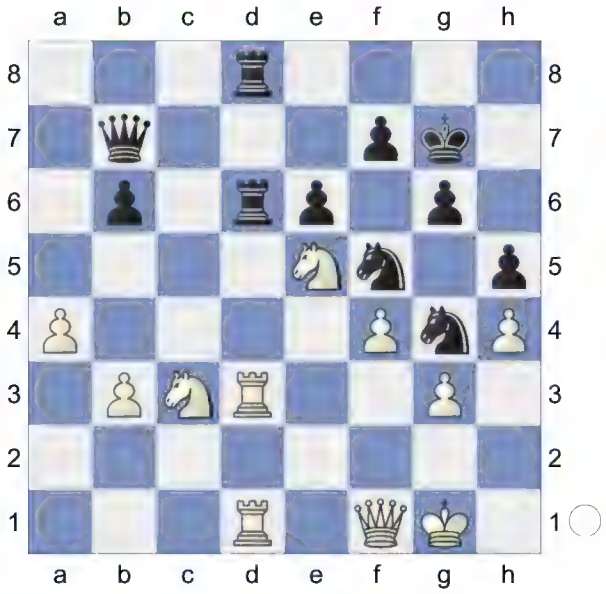
[32...Ba8∓ -0.55/20]

33.Bxb7= Qxb7 34.Rd3 -1.23/20

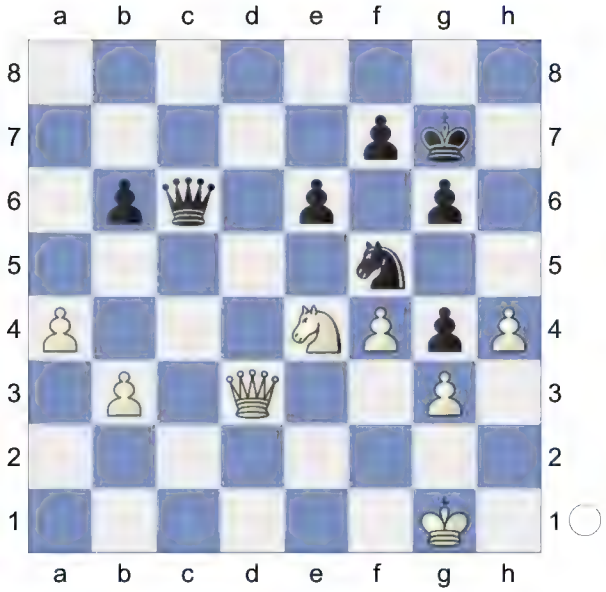
[34.Ne2= 0.06/20 remains equal. Nxe2+ 35.Qxe2 Rxd2 36.Rxd2]

34...Ng4∓ 35.f4 Nf5 0.00/26

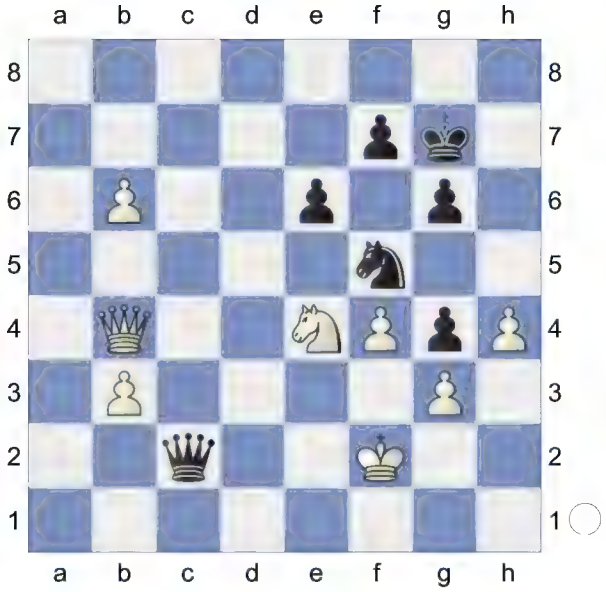
[Better is 35...Qc8∓ -1.26/18 Hoping for ...Qc5. 36.Ne4 Rd5]



36.Rxd6= Rxd6 37.Rxd6 Nxd6 38.Nxg4 hxg4 Endgame KQN-KQN **39.Qd3 Nf5 40.Ne4 Qc6**

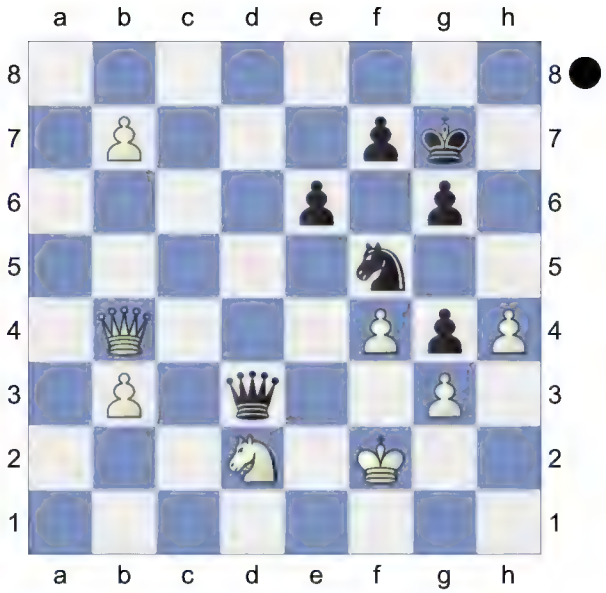


41.Kf2 Qb7 42.Qc3+ Kf8 43.Qb4+ Kg7 44.a5 Qc6 45.axb6 Qc2+

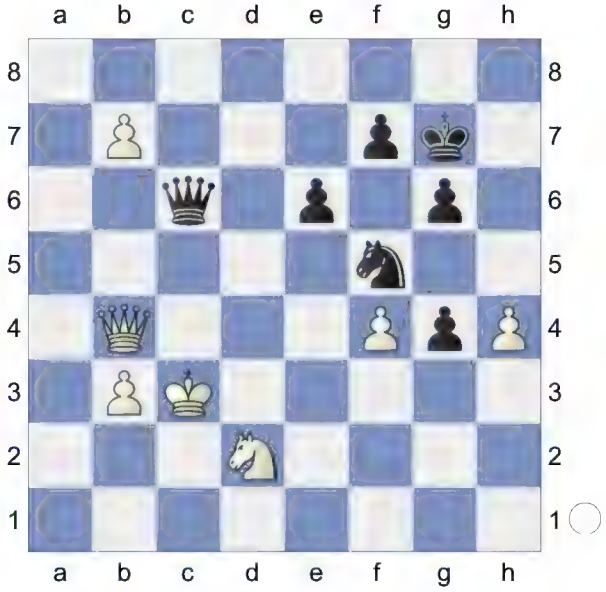


46.Nd2 b7 would now be deadly.
46...Qd3 47.b7? -4.68/28
[47.Nf1= 0.00/21 and White stays safe.]

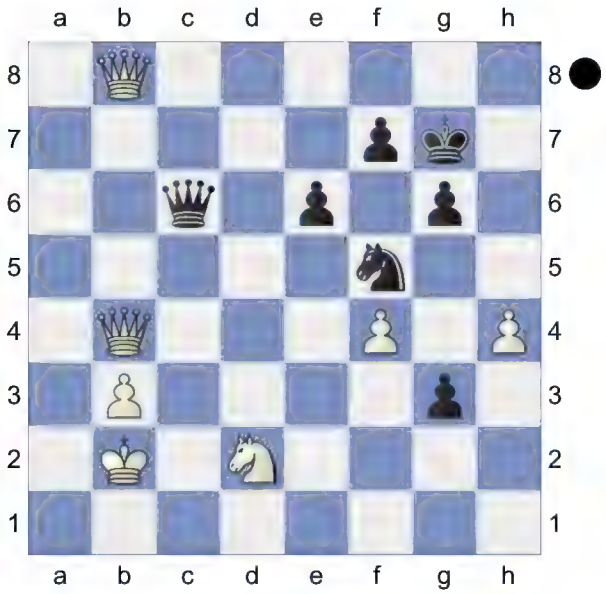
(Diagram)



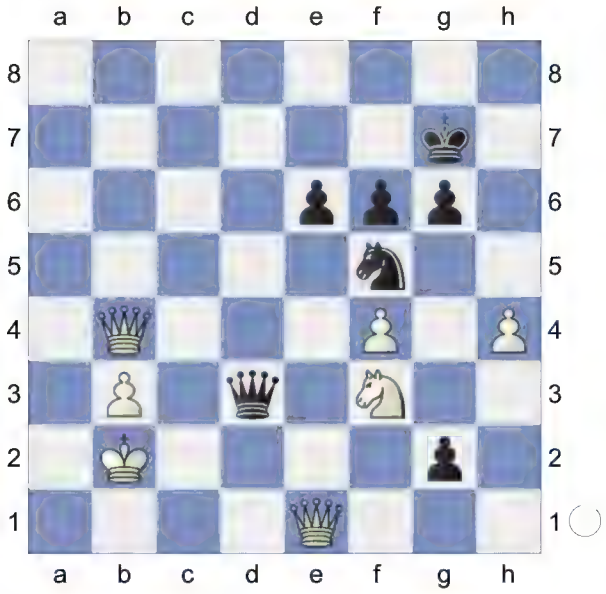
47...Qxg3+? 0.51/23
[47...Qe3+!-+ -4.68/28 48.Kf1 Nxg3+ 49.Kg2 Ne2 50.Qf8+ Decoy *(50.Kf1? g3-+)* 50...Kxf8 51.b8Q+ Ke7 52.Qc7+ Kf6 53.Qe5+ Qxe5 54.fxe5+ Kxe5]
48.Ke2± Really sharp!White now steadily converts the win. **48...Qg2+?** 6.54/21
[48...Qe3+± 0.64/19 49.Kd1 Nd4 *(49...Qg1+? 50.Kc2+-)* 50.Qxd4+ *(50.b8B?* loses. *Qg1+-+)* 50...Qxd4]
49.Kd3+- Qd5+ 50.Kc3 Qc6+



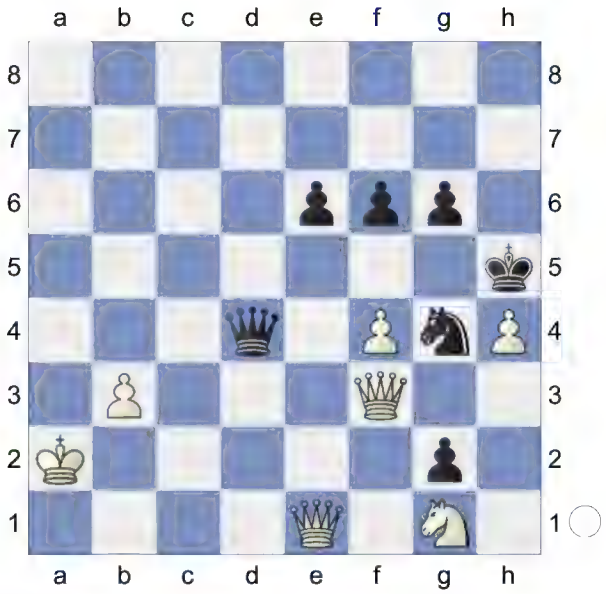
51.Kb2 g3 52.b8Q
[52.b8N Qd5 53.Qc3+ f6∓]



52...g2 53.Qe5+ f6 54.Qe1 8.03/14
[⌓54.Qxf6+ #8/15 Kh7 55.Qbf8 *(55.Qf7+ Kh6+-)* 55...Qc1+ Decoy 56.Kxc1 g1Q+ 57.Kc2 *(57.Kb2 Qd4+ 58.Qxd4 Nxd4 59.Ne4 g5 60.h5 gxf4 61.Ng5#)* 57...Nd4+ 58.Kb2 Qc1+ Decoy 59.Kxc1 Ne2+ 60.Kb2 Ng3 61.Q8h8#]
54...Qd7 55.Nf3 Qd3

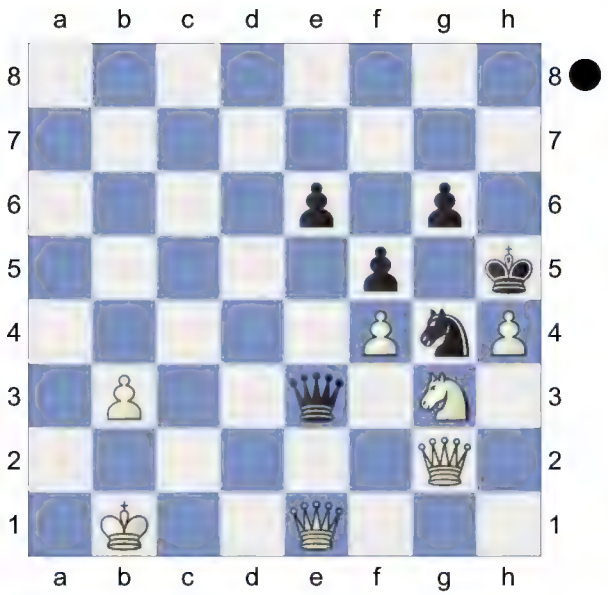


56.Qb7+ Kh6 57.Qa8
[Inferior is 57.Qxe6 g1Q 58.Nxg1 Qd2+ 59.Kb1 *(59.Ka3 Qa5+ 60.Kb2 Qd2+ 61.Ka3 Qa5+ 62.Kb2 Qd2+=)* 59...Qd1+ 60.Ka2 Qd2+ 61.Ka3 Qa5+ 62.Kb2 Qd2+ 63.Ka1 Qc1+ 64.Ka2 Qd2+ 65.Ka3 Qa5+ 66.Kb2 Qd2+=]
57...Kh5 58.Ng1 Qd4+ 59.Ka2 Ne3 60.Qf3+ 11.09/16
[⌓60.Qe2+ #3/14 Kxh4 61.Qh8+ Kg3 62.Qf3#]
60...Ng4



White is clearly winning. **61.Qxg2 Qa7+ 62.Kb1 f5 63.Ne2** Intending Ng3+ and mate. **63...Qe3**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.74
64.Ng3+

(Diagram)

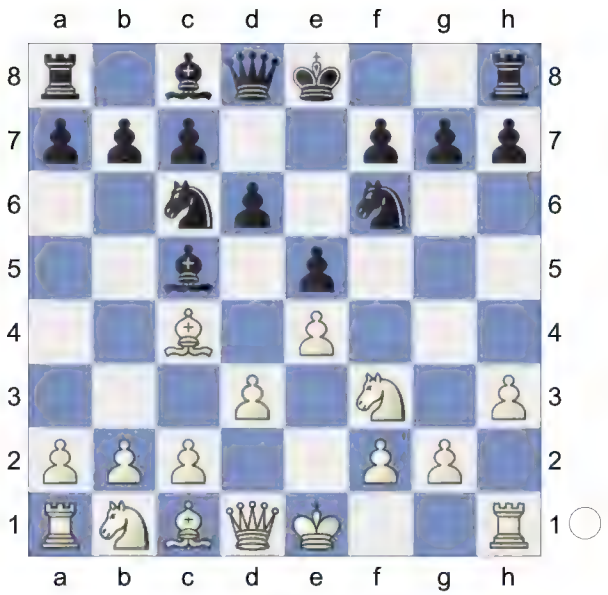


1-0

51 **C50**
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2729**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
SuperUnited CRO Rapid 2024 (8.5)
[Kitty Kat]

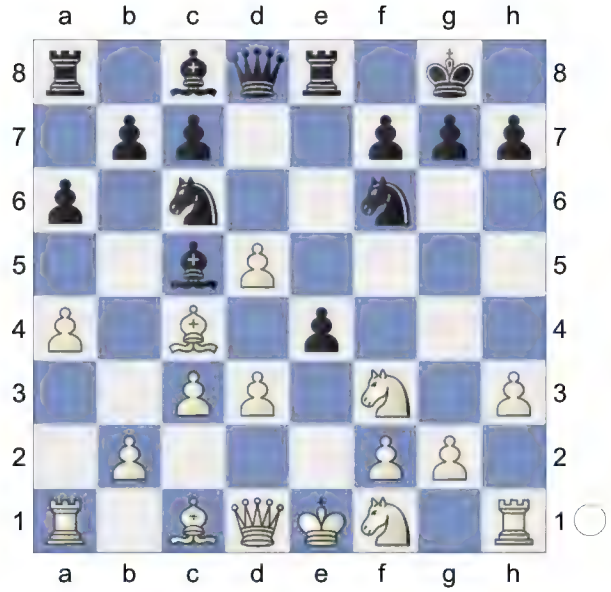
C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.h3 d6

(Diagram)



6.a4
[6.Nc3 a6 7.a3 Ba7 8.Be3 h6 9.d4 0-0 10.0-0 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Re8 14.f4 b5 15.Ba2 Bb7 16.Rae1 c5 17.Qd3 Qb6 18.Kh2 c4 19.Qf3 Qd4 20.Rd1 Qc5 1-0 Dardha,D (2609)-Yurasova,D (2048) Titled Tuesday intern op 22nd Nov Early blitz 2022 (2)]
6...a6 7.c3 0-0N
[7...h6 8.0-0 Ba7 9.Re1 0-0 10.Nbd2 Re8 11.Nf1 Be6 12.Bb3 Qd7 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.Nxe3 d5 15.Qc2 dxe4 16.Bxe6 Qxe6 17.dxe4 Rad8 18.Rad1 Ne7 19.Rd3 Ng6 20.c4 Rxd3 21.Qxd3 Nf4 22.Qb3 \ -\ 6.e3 0-0 7. ♗d2 a6 (1939)-Kasapchuk,A (2053) 65/353 Groningen 1995 (5.16) Nxe4 23.Nd5 Nc5 24.Qa3 Ncd3 25.Nxf4 Nxf4 26.Rxe5 Qd7 27.Qe3 Rxe5 28.Nxe5 Qd1+ 29.Kh2 Ne6 30.b3 Qd6 31.g3 Nd4 32.Ng4 h5 33.Qe8+ Qf8 34.Qe4 Nxb3 35.Ne3 Nc5 36.Qe5 Ne6 37.Qxh5 ½-½ Pedmanson,A (1939)-Jodorcovsky,A (2053) World ol U16 2023 (5.16)]
8.Nbd2 The position is equal. **8...Re8**

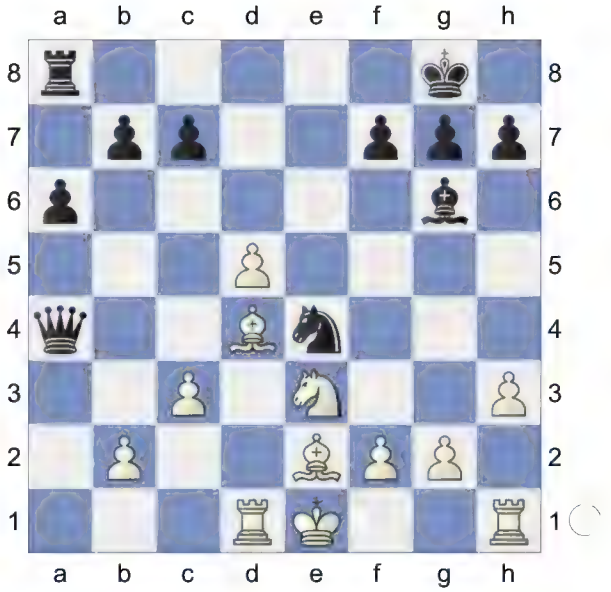
9.Nf1 -0.22/21
[9.0-0± 0.33/19]
9...d5= 10.exd5 e4



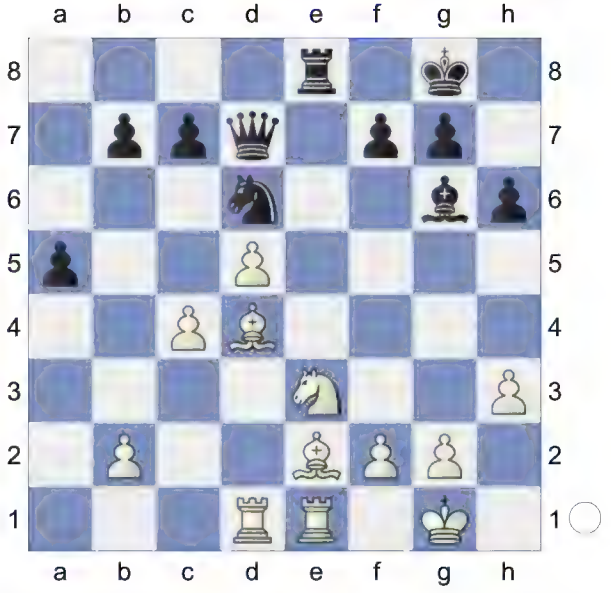
11.dxe4 Nxe4 12.Be3 -0.81/22
[12.Ne3= -0.27/22 keeps the balance.]
12...Ne5!∓ 13.Nxe5 Rxe5 14.Qe2
Threatens to win with Be3xc5. **14...Nd6**
15.Bxc5 -1.61/21
[15.0-0-0∓ -0.50/20]
15...Rxe2+-+

16.Bxe2 Ne4 17.Be3 Bf5
[17...Qxd5? 18.Rd1+-]

18.Rd1 Qd7 -1.14/21
[⌓18...Qe7 -1.57/21 19.Bd4 Bd7]
19.Bd4∓ Qxa4 20.Ne3 Bg6

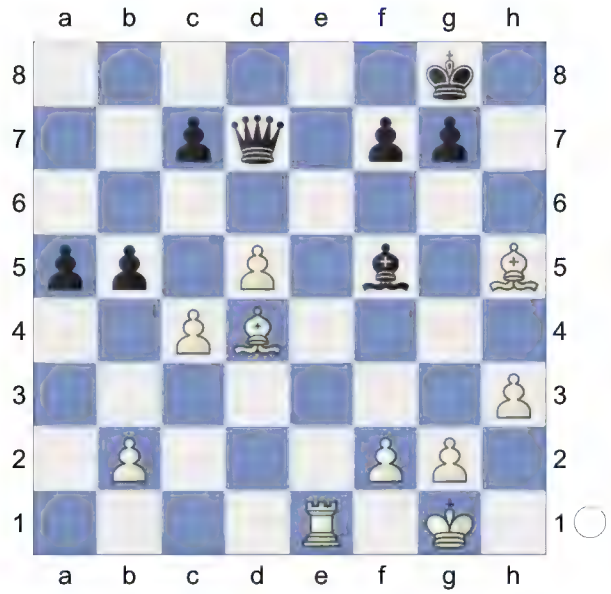


21.0-0 Re8 22.Ra1 Qd7 23.Rfe1 h6
24.Rad1 Nd6 -0.89/19
[⌓24...a5 -1.32/19 25.Ra1 a4]
25.c4 a5 -0.67/20
[25...Qa4∓ -1.07/19 26.Bf1 Nf5]



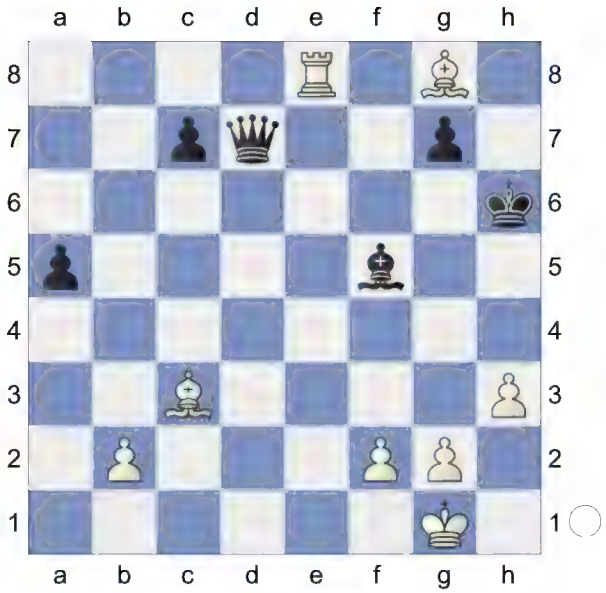
26.Rc1 Nf5 27.Bg4 h5 28.Nxf5 Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 Bxf5
[29...hxg4 30.Nxg7± f6 *(30...gxh3 31.Ne8=)* 31.Ne6]

30.Bxh5 b5 -0.24/25
[30...Bd3∓ -1.40/20 31.b3 b5]

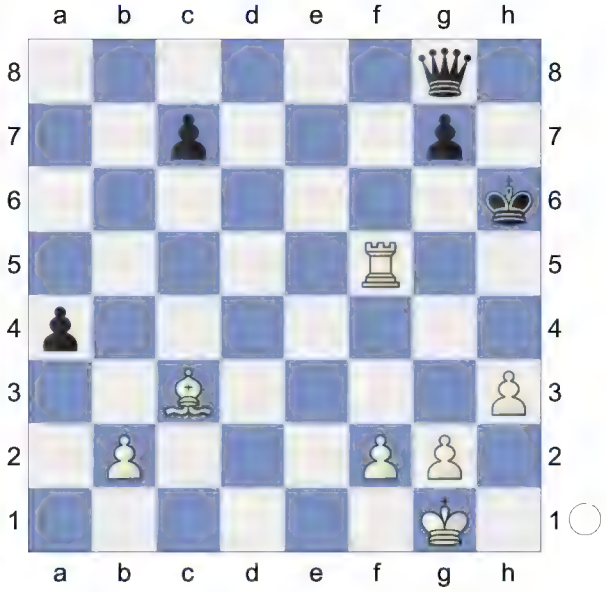


31.cxb5 -0.69/23
[31.Bc5= -0.24/25 g6 *(31...bxc4 32.Re7=)* 32.Re7]
31...Qxd5∓
[31...Qxb5 32.Re7=]
32.Re8+ Kh7 33.Bc3 Qxb5 0.59/26
[33...Bxh3 34.Bf3 Qg5 *(34...Qxb5? 35.Re5+-)* 35.Re5∓]
[33...Be6∓ -0.86/22 34.Bf3 Qc4 *(34...Qxb5 35.Be4+ f5 36.Rxe6±)*]
34.Bxf7± Qd7 35.Bg8+ A strong pair of Bishops. **35...Kh6**

(Diagram)

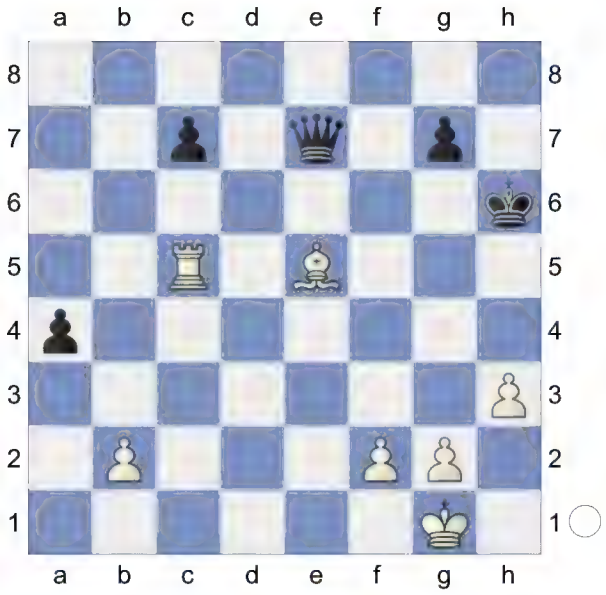


36.Re5 a4 37.Rd5 Qe8 38.Rxf5 Qxg8± Endgame.

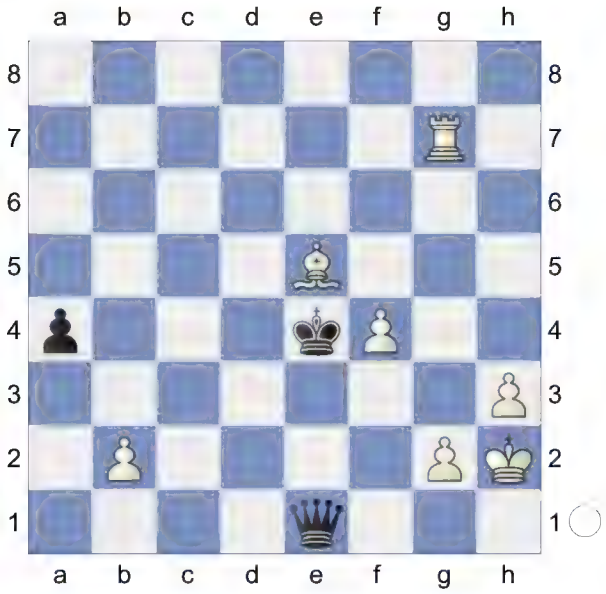


KQ-KRB **39.Rc5** 0.01/26
[Better is 39.Rf4!± 0.76/26]
39...Qd8 40.Be5 Qe7 1.44/27
[40...Qd2!= 0.16/25 remains equal.]

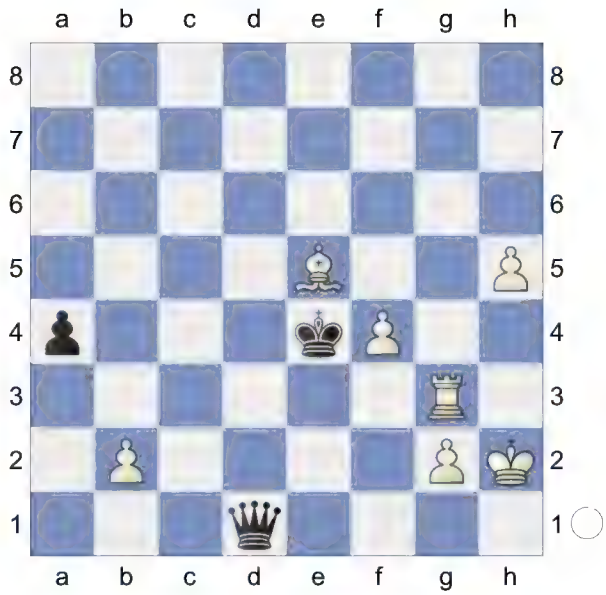
(Diagram)



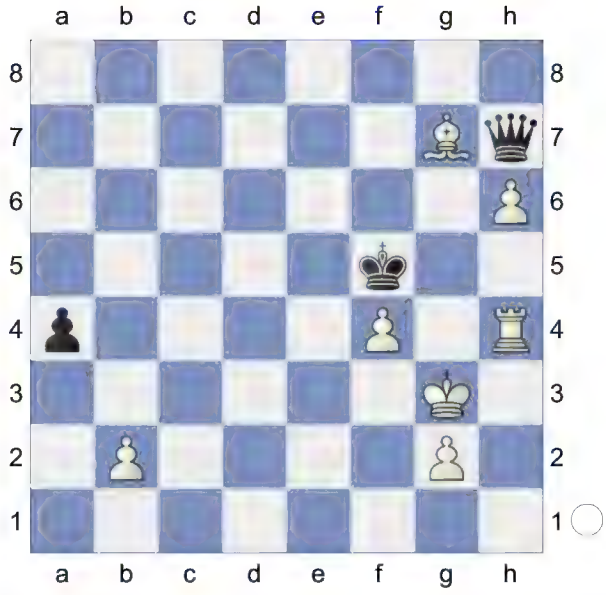
41.Rc6+! Kg5 42.f4+ Kf5 43.Rxc7
White is much more active.
[Of course not 43.Bxc7?! Qb4=]
43...Qb4 44.Rxg7 Ke4 45.Kh2 Qe1



46.Rg3 Kf5 47.h4 1.16/30
[White should try 47.Rg8 1.52/25]
47...Qe2 48.Rg5+ Ke4 49.h5 Qe1? 4.16/29
[49...Qa6± 1.22/26 keeps fighting. 50.Rg4 Ke3]
50.Rg3+- White wants to mate with h5-h6. **50...Qd1?** 8.19/28
[50...Qb4 3.70/28 51.Ra3 Qb5]

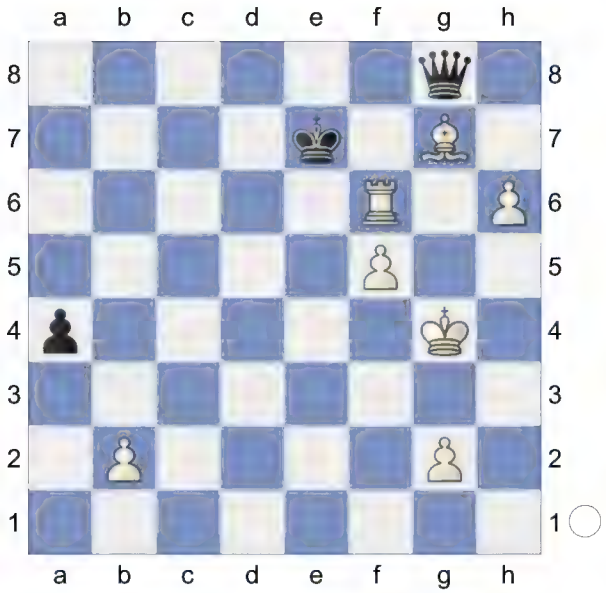


51.h6 Threatening mate with h6-h7.
51...Qd7 52.Rh3 h6-h7 would kill now.
52...Qh7 53.Rh4
[Stronger than 53.g4 Qd7=]
53...Kf5 54.Bg7 Ke4 55.Kg3 Kf5? 8.02/23
[55...Qg6+ 3.58/23 56.Kh2 Ke3]

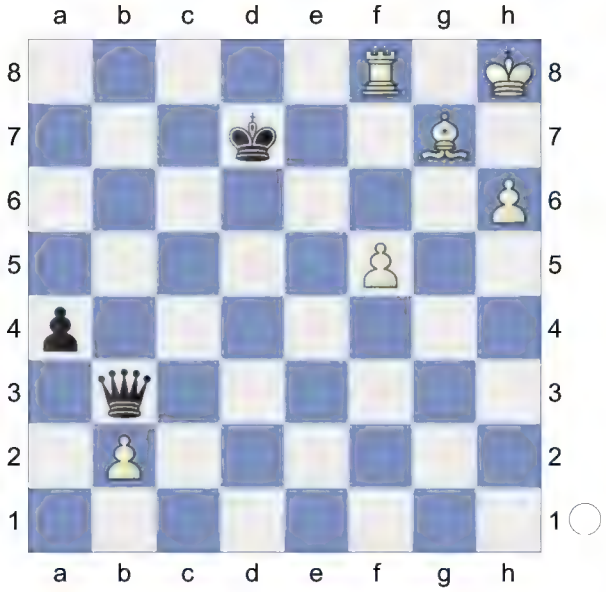


56.Rh5+ Kg6 57.Kg4 Kf7 58.Rf5+ Ke6 59.Rf6+ Ke7 60.f5 Qg8

(Diagram)

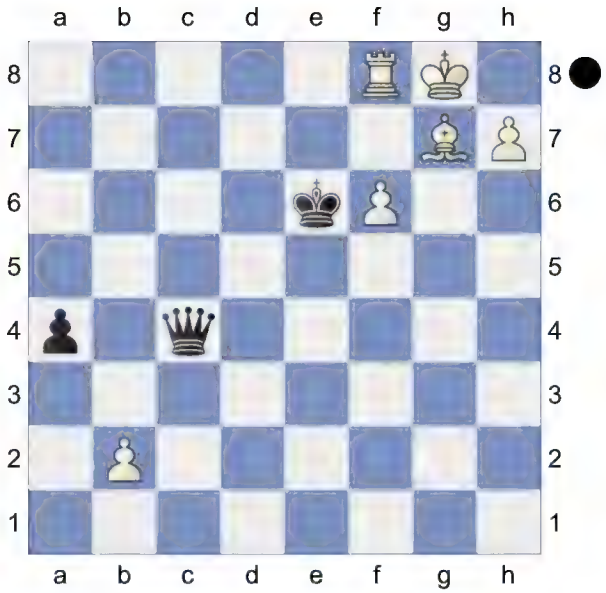


61.Kg5 Qd5 62.Kg6 And now g2-g4 would win. **62...Qxg2+ 63.Kh7 Qd5 64.Rf8 Kd7 65.Kh8 Qb3**



66.h7 Qc4 67.f6 White threatens f6-f7 and mate. **67...Ke6 68.Kg8**

(Diagram)



White used his chance.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.33
1-0

52 **B30**
□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2718**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
SuperUnited CRO Rapid 2024 (4.3)
[TA]

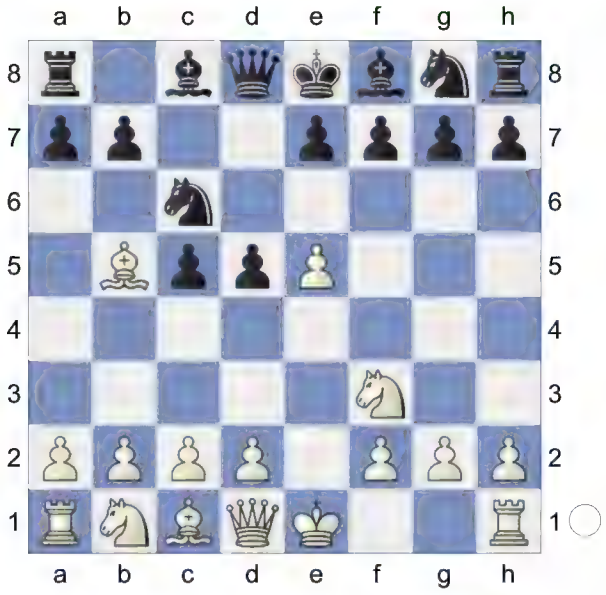
B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4
[3.Bb5 e6 4.d4 Nge7 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.a3 Rc8 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Be4 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Qc7 17.c4 Red8 Hanke,L (2709)-10.♗c2 c5 11.♘bd2_15267 (2728) corr ICCF 2006 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 1-0 (72)]
[3.c4 e5 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 f5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Ne1 Rb8 12.f4 exf4

13.gxf4 b5 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.Rb1 Bb7 17.b3 Qa8 Cortes Ventura,J (2081)-Remmelgas, A (2200) Jamshedpur 2023 CHECK99 [John Watson] 0-1 (43)]

3...Nf6N

[3...e6 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 Qc7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.d3 Ng6 8.Bd2 Be7 9.Re1 0-0 10.Ne2 Bf6 11.c3 Nge5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Bf4 Qb6 14.Bxe5 Bxe5 15.d4 cxd4 16.cxd4 Bd6 17.Qb3 Qxb3 18.Bxb3 Wilfert,E (1571)-Geier,B (1571) Schloss Schney 1999 EXT 2002 [ChessBase II] 1-0 (56)]

4.e5 d5 5.Bb5 Ng8



6.d4 e6 7.c3 Bd7 8.Ba4 White is slightly better. **8...cxd4 9.cxd4 Nge7** 0.82/21

[9...Bb4+± 0.44/23 10.Nc3 Nge7]

10.Nc3± Ng6 1.26/19

[10...Nf5± 0.58/22]

(Diagram)

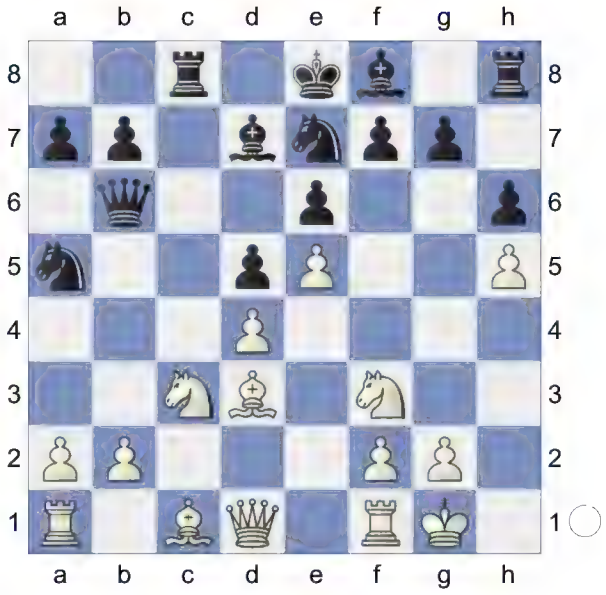
11.h4! h6 12.h5 Nge7 13.Bc2 Rc8 1.65/20

[13...Na5± 1.20/20]

14.0-0 1.14/20

[14.Kf1+- 1.65/20]

14...Na5 15.Bd3 Qb6

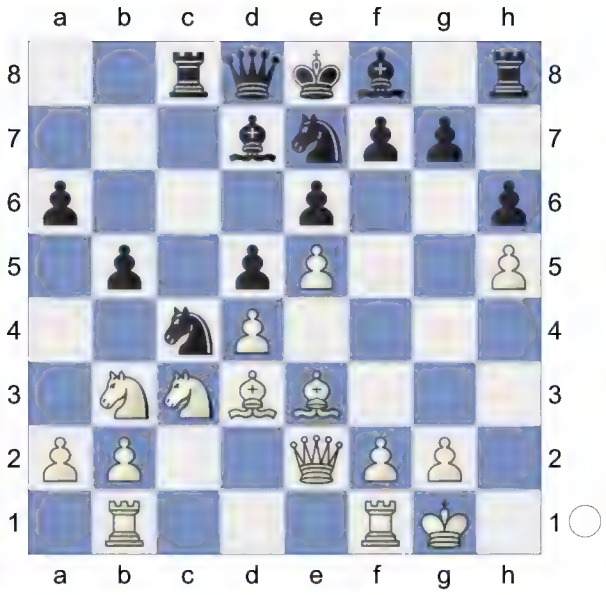


16.Rb1 a6 17.Be3 Nc4 18.Qe2 Qa5 19.Nd2 b5 1.59/19

[⌓19...Nxd2 1.01/20 20.Qxd2 *(20.Bxd2 Nc6=)* 20...Nc6]

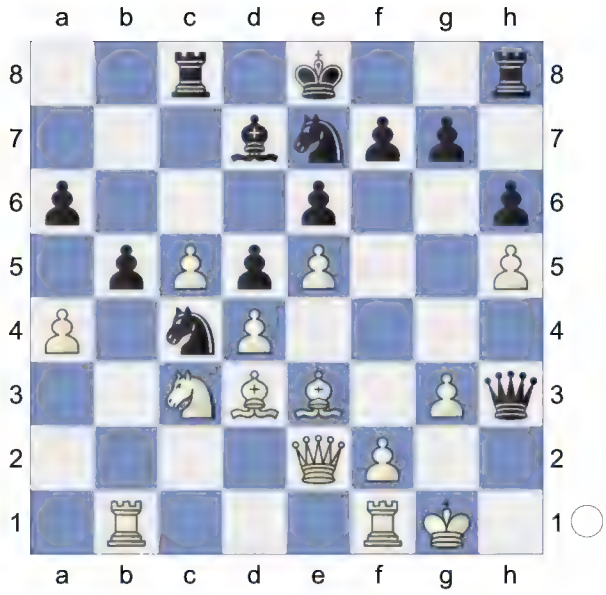
20.Nb3 Qd8

(Diagram)

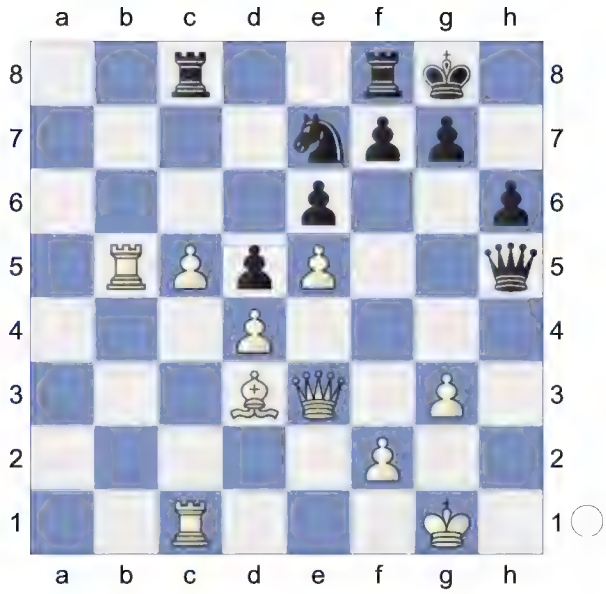


21.Nc5 Black must now prevent Bxc4.
21...Nc6 22.b4 0.63/20
[22.Nxa6?! Qa5 23.Nc5 Nxe3 24.fxe3 *(24.Qxe3 Bxc5 25.dxc5 d4∓)* 24...Bxc5 25.dxc5 b4∓]
[22.Nxd7± 1.44/20 Qxd7 23.Qg4]
22...Bxc5± **23.bxc5** And now Bxc4 would win. **23...Qh4 24.g3** 0.16/20
[24.f4!± 0.57/22]
24...Qh3= 25.a4 -0.18/20
[25.Rfd1 0.13/23 is more appropriate.]
25...Ne7 1.05/20
[25...b4= -0.18/20 26.Ne4 0-0]

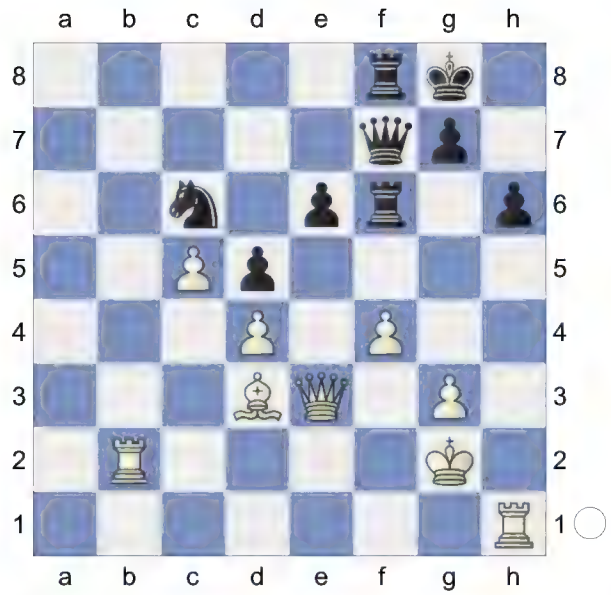
(Diagram)



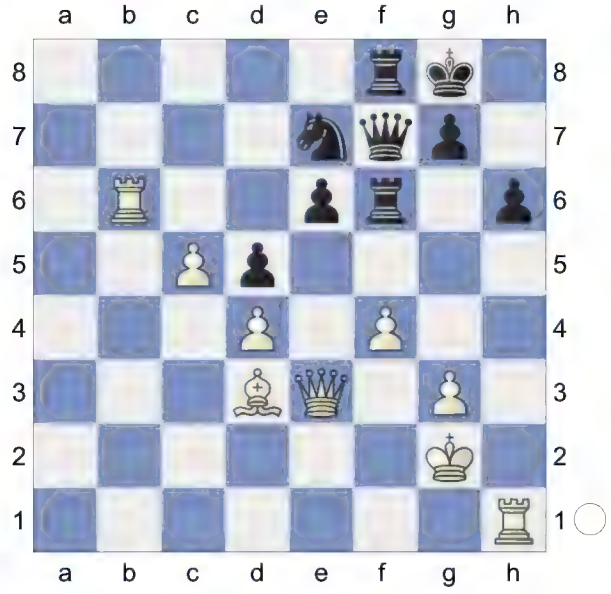
26.axb5± axb5 27.Nxb5 Bxb5
28.Rxb5 0-0 29.Rc1 0.91/21
[⌓29.Rb7 1.27/23 Nf5 30.Bxf5 Qxf5 31.Rfb1]
29...Nxe3 30.Qxe3 Qxh5



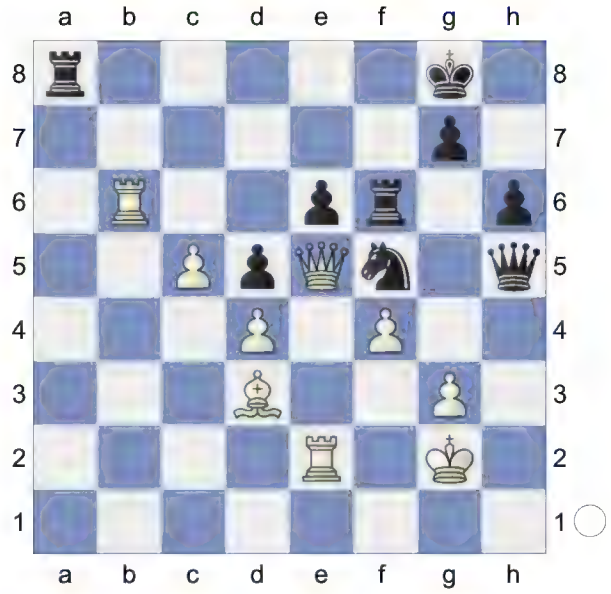
31.Kg2 f5 1.22/23
[31...Nc6± 0.66/21]
32.exf6 Rxf6 33.Rh1 0.82/24
[⌓33.Rb7! 1.18/22 Nf5 34.Bxf5 Qxf5 35.c6]
33...Qf7 34.Rb2 Rf8! 35.f4 Nc6 1.47/20
[35...Nf5± 0.39/22 36.Bxf5 exf5]



36.Rb6 Ne7

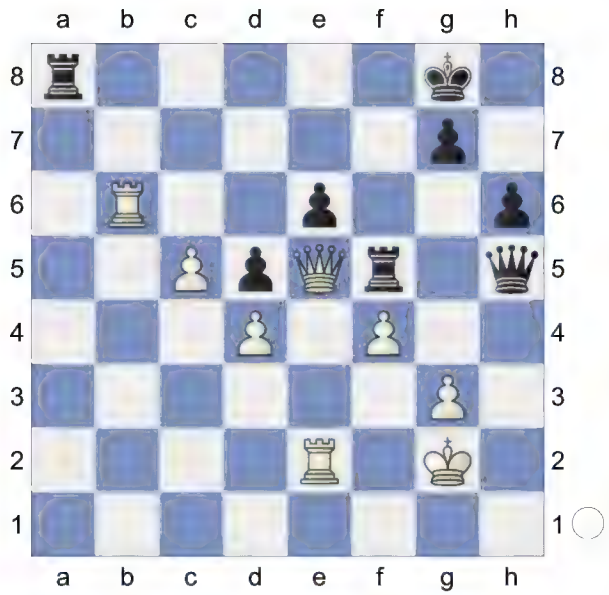


37.Re1! Ra8 3.03/19
[37...Re8 1.83/21 was necessary. 38.Qe2 *(38.Rxe6 Rxe6 39.Qxe6 Qxe6+-)* 38...Ra8]
38.Re2? 0.88/23
[38.Rxe6 Ra2+ 39.Kg1 Rxe6 40.Qxe6 Qxe6 41.Rxe6 Kf7±]
[38.Qe5+- 3.03/19 is more deadly.]
38...Qh5 1.48/22
[⌓38...Nf5 0.88/23 39.Bxf5 exf5]
39.Qe5 0.68/20
[Don't play 39.Rxe6?! Ra1 40.Re1 Ra2+ 41.Be2 *(41.Re2 Ra1=)* 41...Nf5=]
[Better is 39.Reb2± 1.48/22]
39...Nf5!±

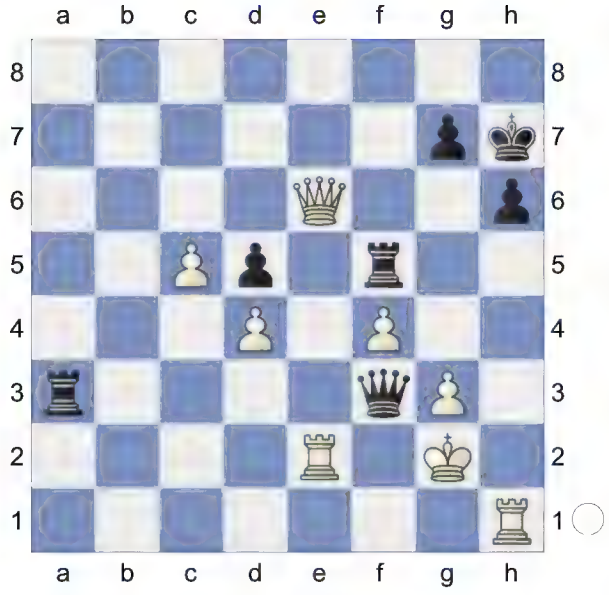


...Ra3 is the strong threat. **40.Bxf5** 0.43/19
[Of course not 40.Rxe6?! Ra1 41.Re8+ *(41.Re1 Rxe1 42.Qxe1 Nh4+ 43.gxh4 Qg4+ 44.Qg3 Qxg3+ 45.Kxg3 Rxe6∓)* 41...Kh7=]
[White should try 40.Rb8+!± 0.85/23 Rxb8 41.Qxb8+ Kh7 42.Re1]
40...Rxf5

(Diagram)



41.Qxe6+ Kh7! 42.Rb1 0.00/32
[42.Rbb2!± 0.46/24]
42...Ra3 (-> ...Qf3+) **43.Rh1?** -#4/18
[43.Rf1= 0.00/23]
43...Qf3+



Deflection, Double Attack.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.51/ Black=0.24 (precise)
0-1

53 **B32**
□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2744**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
Superbet Classic TB 2024 (3.2) 05.07.24
[Roiz,M]

B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 The Kalashnikov is a rare guest on the top level nowadays. **5.Nb5 d6**

6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 Be6 8.Nc4 Nf6
This is actually a transposition into one of the well-forgotten Sveshnikov lines.
[8...Rb8 is a common alternative. For instance, the following memorable encounter saw 9.Nd5 Bxd5 10.exd5 Nce7 11.g3 Dominguez Perez,L (2743)-Nakamura,H (2768) Saint Louis USA 2023 [Roiz,M]]
9.Bg5
[9.a4 Rc8 10.Bg5 Nb4 11.Ne3 Be7 12.Be2 Ng4 13.Bxg4 Bxg5 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Qg4 Qf6 16.0-0 0-0 17.Rad1 Qe7 18.Qe2 Nc6 19.Qd3 Nd4 20.Ne2 Bxe3 21.fxe3 Rxf1+ 22.Rxf1 Nc6 23.Qd2 Rd8

Erigaisi,A (2712)-Nakamura,H (2780) Douglas 2023 ½-½ (39)]
[9.Be3 b5 10.Nd2 Be7 11.a3 0-0 12.Be2 Qd7 13.h3 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.Nb3 Rad8 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.Bxc5 Qb7 19.Qc1 Rfe8 20.Rg1 Nd4 21.Qd2 Bc4 22.Bd3 e4 23.Bxd4 exd3+ Munoz Padilla,A (1604)-Mariani,K (1814) Montesilvano 2024 0-1]

9...b5N Perhaps, GM Gukesh has messed something up in his preparation. This move puts Black in a difficult position at an early stage.
[The better option is 9...Rb8 , as in Bogner,S (2574)-Jobava,B (2582) Terme Catez SLO 2021 [Roiz, M] 10.Nd5 Bxd5 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Qxd5 Nb4 13.Qd2 d5 14.exd5 Rd8 15.Ne3 Bc5 16.c4 Qg6 17.a3 Bxe3 18.Qxb4 Bd4 19.0-0-0 Rd6 20.Bd3 Qg5+ 21.Qd2 Qxg2 22.Rhg1 Qxh2 23.Rxg7 Rf6 24.Rf1 Rxf2 15.♘c4 0-0 16. ♕e5 ♖ab8 (2707)-11. ♗e2 a5 12. ♗e3 (2422) Palma de Mallorca 2011 200 Traps In The Opening [Pilnik,H/Primel,D] ½-½ (44)]
[9...Rc8 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Ne3 Bh6 12.Bd3 Bxe3 13.fxe3 Qb6 14.Qc1 h5 15.0-0 Rh6 16.Kh1 Ne7 17.Be2 h4 18.Na4 Qc6 19.Nc3 h3 20.Bf3 hxg2+ 21.Bxg2 Kd7 22.Rf2 Rch8 23.Kg1 Rxh2 24.Rxf6 Obrien,G (1222)-Sabbatini,G (1812) Lechenicher SchachServer 2016 Fernschach2025 [Stockfish 16.1] 0-1 (35)]

10.Bxf6 gxf6
[After 10...Qxf6 11.Ne3 (Instead, *11.Nxd6+* 0.37/4 11.Ne3 0.78 *Bxd6 12.Qxd6 Nd4* offers Black some compensation for the pawn.) 11...Qd8 12.Ncd5 Be7 13.a4 b4 14.Bc4 White has a perfect setup, and Black's weaknesses start to tell. This assessment was proven in dozens of games.]

11.Ne3± Black has no compensation for his permanent defects. Pair of Knights!
11...Ne7? 1.66/3 Surprisingly, this is already a decisive mistake!
[11...Bh6 12.Nf5 (White can also opt for *12.Ncd5!?±* 0.78/2 12.Nf5 1.33) 12...Bxf5 13.exf5 d5 14.Qxd5 Qxd5 15.Nxd5 0-0-0 , searching for some drawing chances due to bishops of different colors. Inhibits Nc7.]
[11...Bh6± 0.94/4]

12.a4+- Alireza simply plays the most natural moves and achieves a winning position! White is clearly better. **12...Bh6** 2.25/5 This innovation doesn't change anything.
[After 12...b4 13.Ncd5 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 Black was positionally busted in Cieslak,W - Krzyzanowska Zadlo, L Szklarska Poreba 2017]
[⌓12...b4 1.70/4]

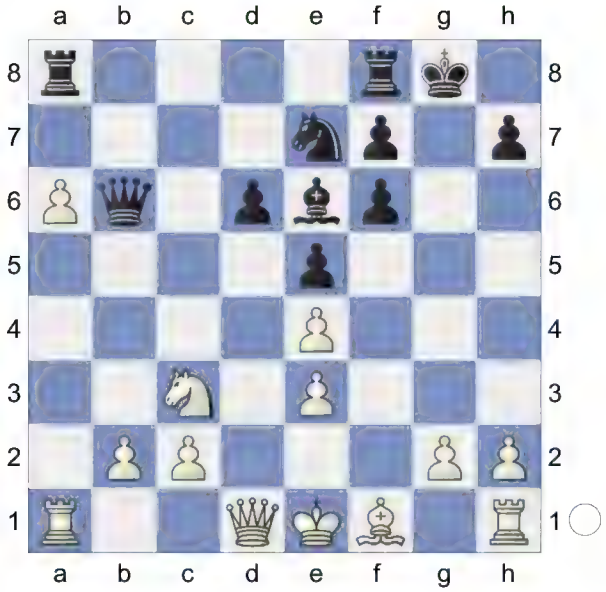
13.axb5 Bxe3 14.fxe3 0-0
[I am not sure if 14...Qb6 15.bxa6

Qxb2 2.17/3 *(15...0-0* 1.62/3 was called for. *16.Bb5 Qxe3+ 17.Qe2 Qc5)* 16.Nb5 Strongly threatening Nc7+. 0-0 17.Bd3+- yields Black any more practical chances.]

15.bxa6

[Don't do 15.Rxa6?! Rxa6 16.bxa6 Qb6±]

15...Qb6



16.Qd2

[Even more energetic is 16.Bd3! Qxe3+ 2.62/4 *(16...Qxb2±* 1.57/4 *17.Na4 Qb4+ 18.Qd2 Rfb8 19.Qxb4 Rxb4)* 17.Qe2+- Qb6 18.Qf2? 0.37/4 *(18.Na4+-* 1.98/5 *Qa7 19.Rf1)* 18...Qxb2± 19.Kd2 Rfc8 0.27/5 *(19...Rac8±* 0.73/2 *20.Na4 Qb4+ 21.c3 Qa5)* 20.Na4+-]

16...Qxb2 17.Rb1 Qa3 18.Bd3!

Alireza manages to quickly consolidate. The a-passer should secure a win.

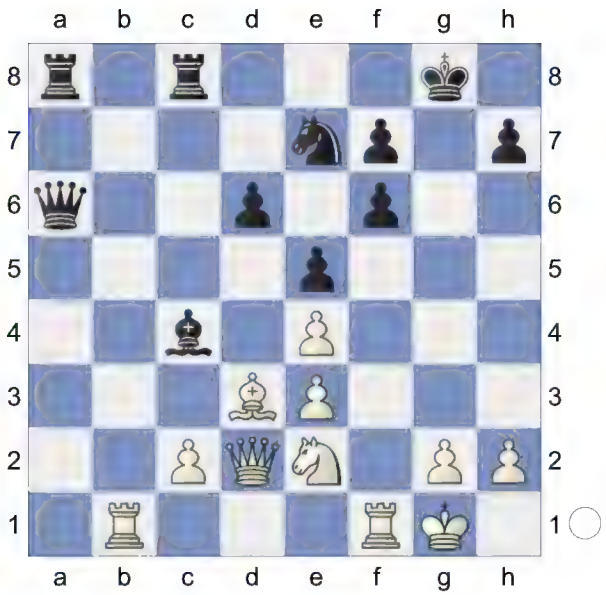
18...Rfc8 19.Ne2 2.11/4

[19.Nd5± 1.24/5 Bxd5 20.exd5]

19...f5

[After 19...Bc4 20.0-0! Threatens to win with Bxc4. Qxa6

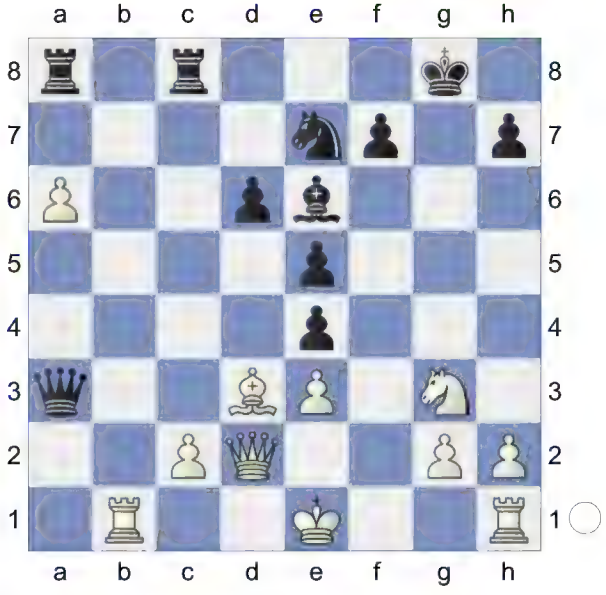
(Diagram)



21.Ng3! And now Nh5 would win. Bxd3 2.46/4 *(21...Qa2±* 1.24/5 *22.Qd1 Qa7 23.Qg4+ Ng6)* 22.cxd3+- d5 2.14/4 *(⌓22...Qa2* 1.63/3 *23.Qd1 Rc2)* 23.Qf2+- White's attack is decisive.]

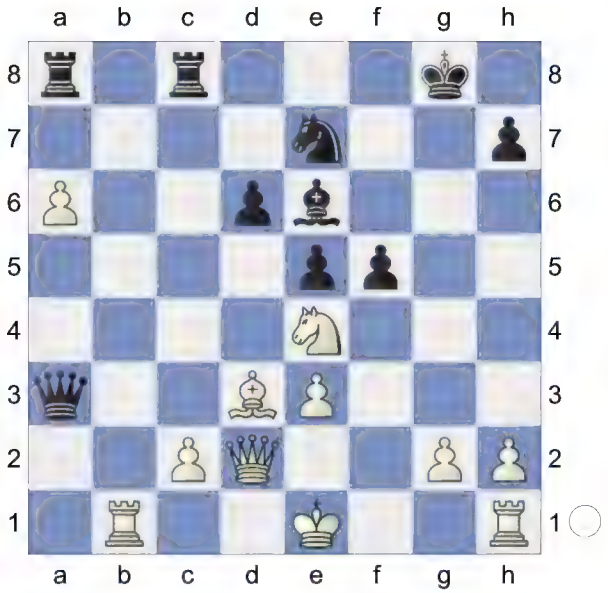
20.Ng3 fxe4 2.23/2

[20...Ba2 1.72/3 might work better.]



21.Nxe4 White is up a pawn, while Black's king is very exposed. **21...f5**

(Diagram)



Desperation. **22.Ng5** 0.76/5 This move yields Black some chances.

[Much stronger is 22.Nf6+! Kh8 23.0-0+-]

[22.Nf6++- 2.97/4 is the precise move to win. Kg7 23.Nh5+ Kh8 24.0-0]

22...e4? 2.37/3 Alas, GM Gukesh returns the favor, and the game loses its intrigue. **23.Nxe6** Hoping for Be2.

23...Qa2

[Equally bad is 23...exd3 24.cxd3 Rxa6 1.33/2 *(24...Qxa6+- 2.36/6 25.0-0 Qa2 26.Qxa2 Rxa2)* 25.0-0+-]

(Diagram)

24.c4! Qxd2+ 3.34/4 This costs Black the game.

[24...Qxa6± 1.46/1 was worth a try. 25.Be2 Qa2]

[24...Rxa6 25.Qxa2]

25.Kxd2 exd3

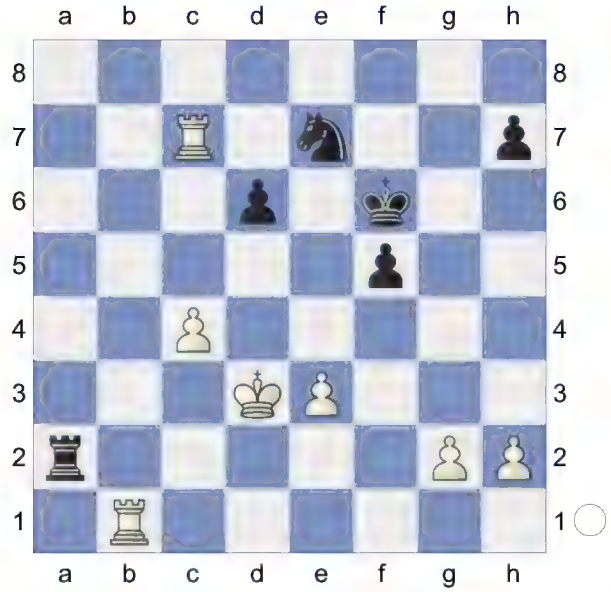
26.Rb7 The rest is just agony. **26...Kf7?** 4.90/4

[26...Rxa6 2.77/3 27.Rxe7 Rca8 28.Kxd3 Ra2]

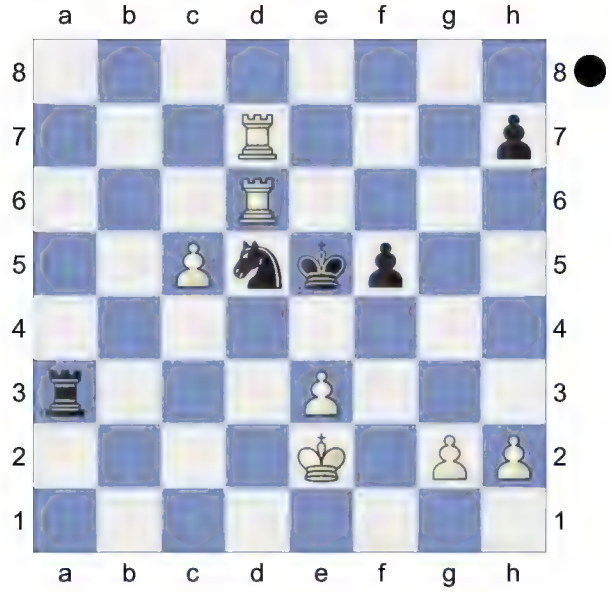
27.Nc7 Rxc7 28.Rxc7 Rxa6 29.Kxd3 Endgame KRR-KRN **29...Ra2?** 6.45/6

[29...Kf6 3.60/6 30.Rb1 h5]

30.Rb1 White is clearly winning. **30...Kf6**



31.Rb6 Ke6 32.c5 Nd5 33.Rxd6+ Ke5 34.Rcd7 Ra3+ 35.Ke2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.67

1-0

54 **C44**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**

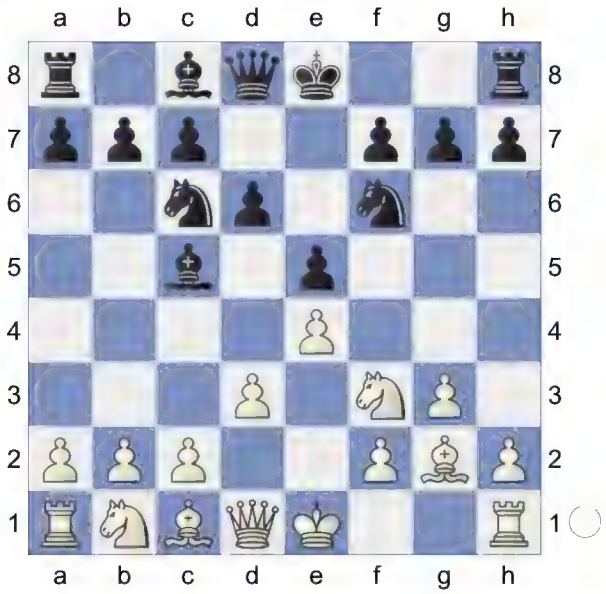
■ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2757**

Superbet Classic TB 2024 (2.1) 05.07.24

[TA]

C26: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6, sidelines

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d3 Nf6 4.g3 Bc5 5.Bg2 d6



6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 -0.26/20

[⌓7.c3 0.09/22]

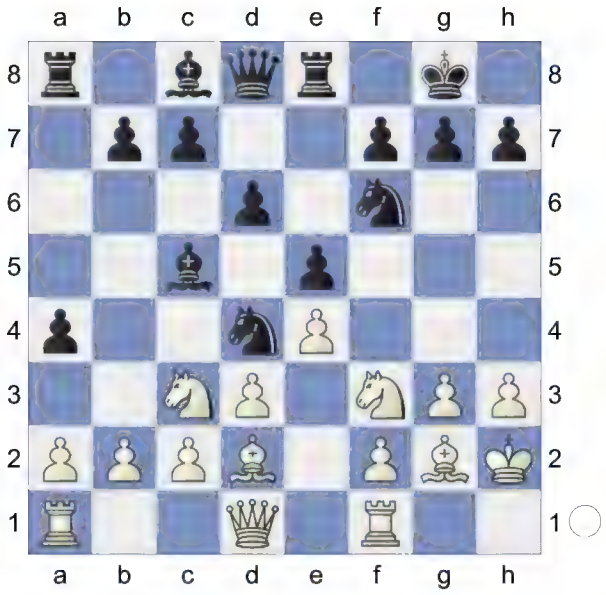
7...a5N

[7...a6 8.h3 h6 9.Kh2 Be6 10.Nh4 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Qg4 Bxg2 *(13...Be6 14.Qh5 #26 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3-quick ...Bc5 Glek's plan Main Level)* 14.Bxh6 Qf6 15.Bg5 Bxh3 16.Kxh3 Qd6 17.c3 KIA vs 1...e5 - and 1st move -KIA vs 1...e5 - and 1st move]

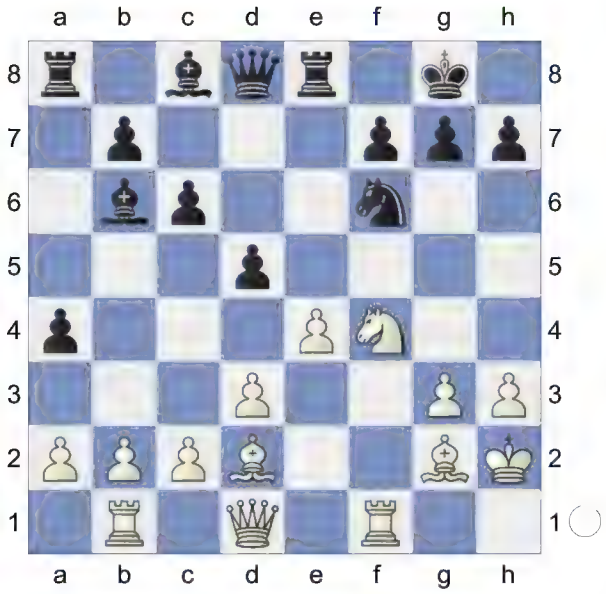
8.h3 Re8 9.Kh2 a4 The position is equal. **10.Bd2 Nd4** 0.17/21

[⌓10...h6 -0.21/22]

(Diagram)

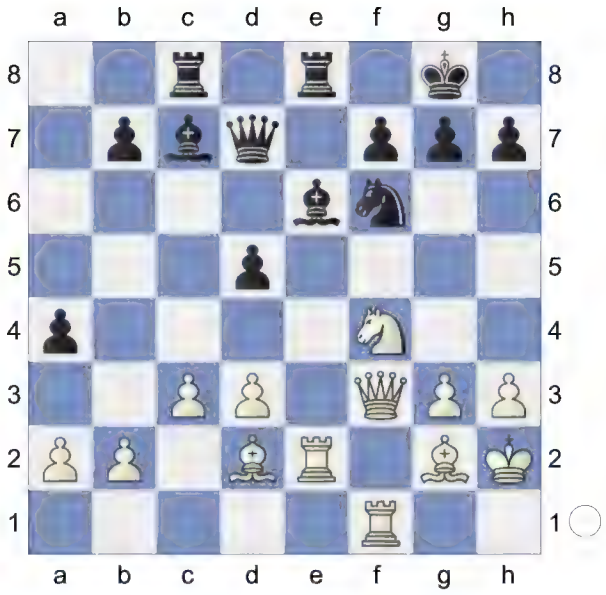


11.Nxd4 Bxd4 12.Rb1 -0.23/20
[12.a3 0.19/22 might be stronger.]
12...c6 13.Ne2 Bb6 14.f4 exf4 15.Nxf4 d5

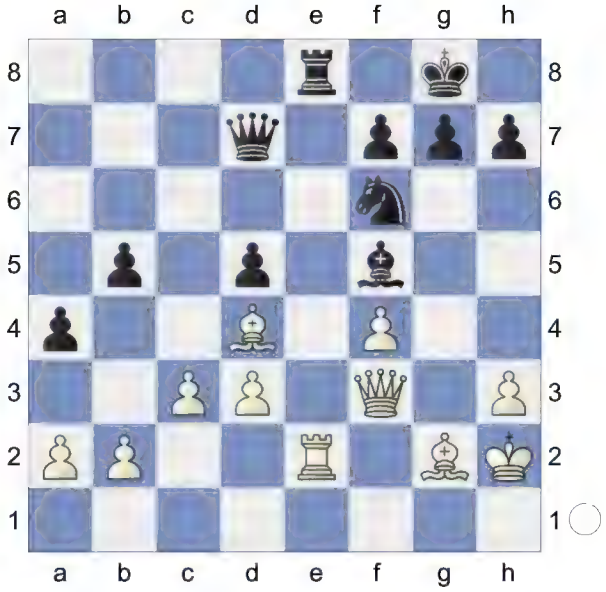


16.exd5 cxd5 17.Qf3 Be6 18.Rbe1 Rc8 19.c3 Qd7 20.Re2 Bc7

(Diagram)

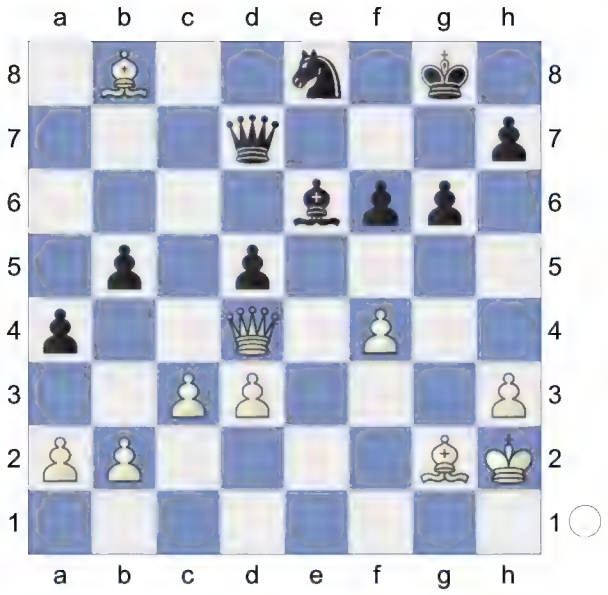


21.Rfe1 b5 22.Be3 Bf5 23.Bd4 Bxf4 24.gxf4 Rxe2 25.Rxe2 Re8

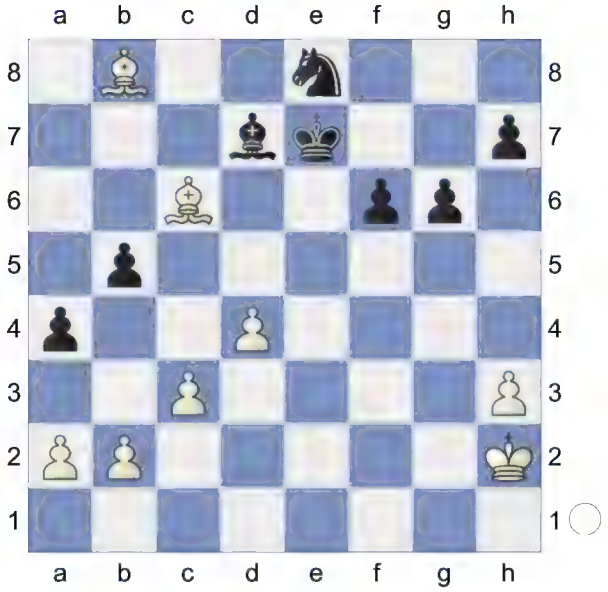


26.Re5 Rxe5 27.Bxe5 This bishop pair is nice.
[Don't do 27.fxe5 Ne8±]
27...Ne8 28.Qe3 f6 29.Bb8 Bxd5+! is the strong threat. **29...g6 30.Qd4 Be6**

(Diagram)

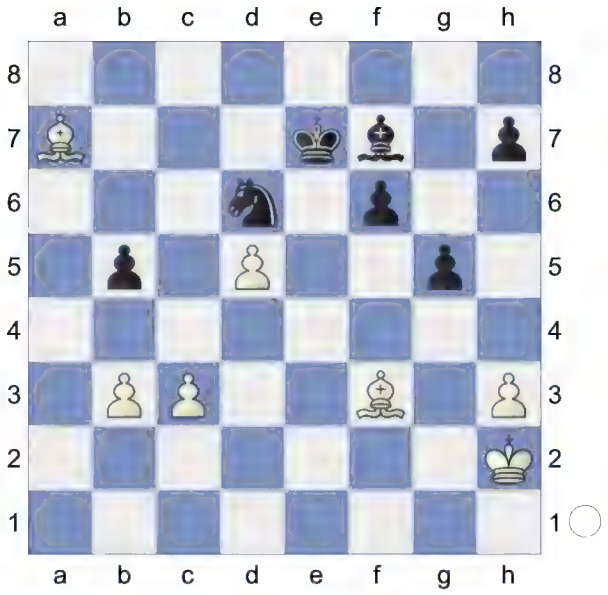


31.f5 Bxf5 32.Qxd5+
[32.Bxd5+ with more complications. Kg7 33.h4 Be6 34.Bf3]
32...Qxd5 33.Bxd5+ Endgame KBB-KBN **33...Kf8 34.d4 Ke7 35.Bc6 Bd7**

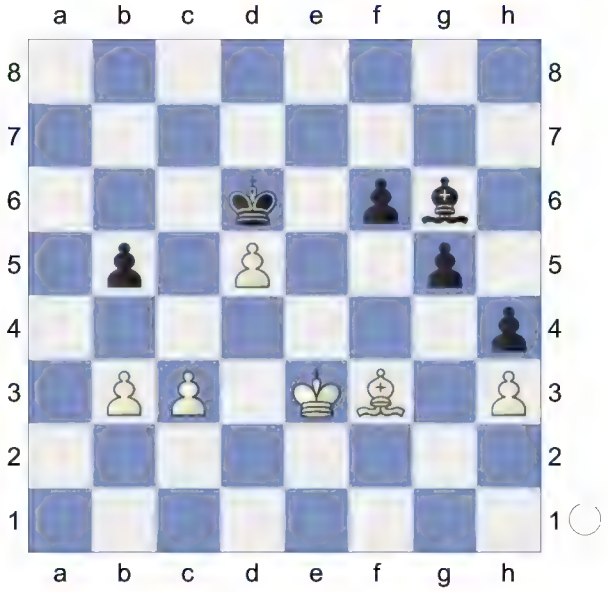


36.Bf3 Be6 37.d5 Bf7 38.b3 axb3 39.axb3 Nd6 Prevents c4. **40.Ba7 g5**

(Diagram)

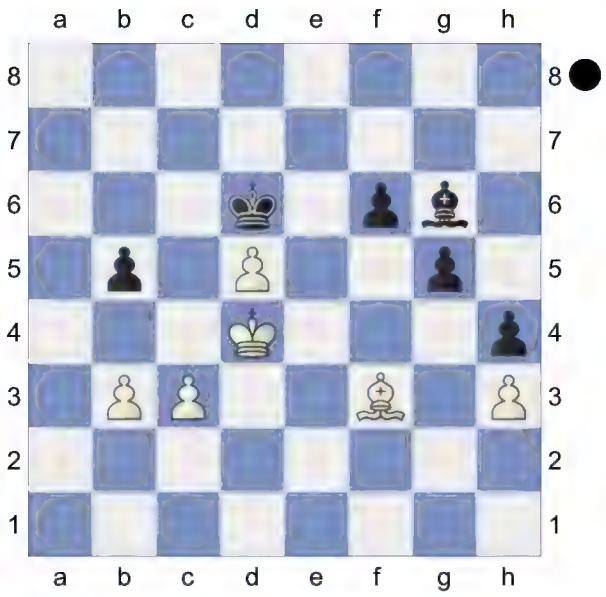


41.Bc5 Kd7 42.Kg2 h5 43.Kf2 Bg6 44.Ke3 Threatening Bxd6. **44...h4 45.Bxd6 Kxd6**

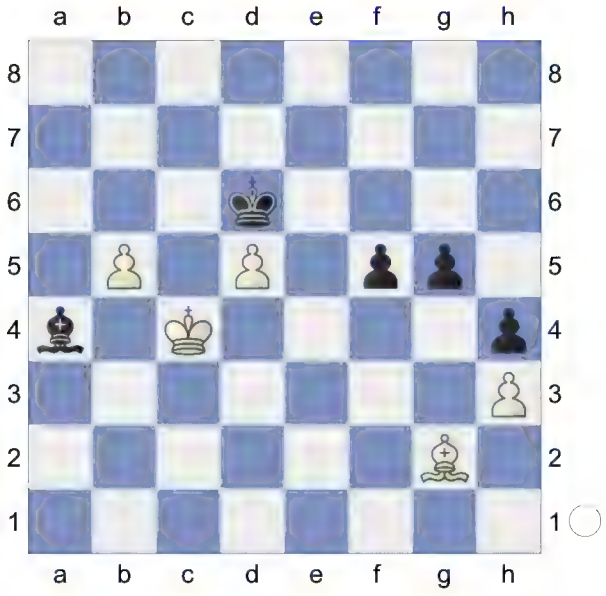


KB-KB **46.Kd4**

(Diagram)

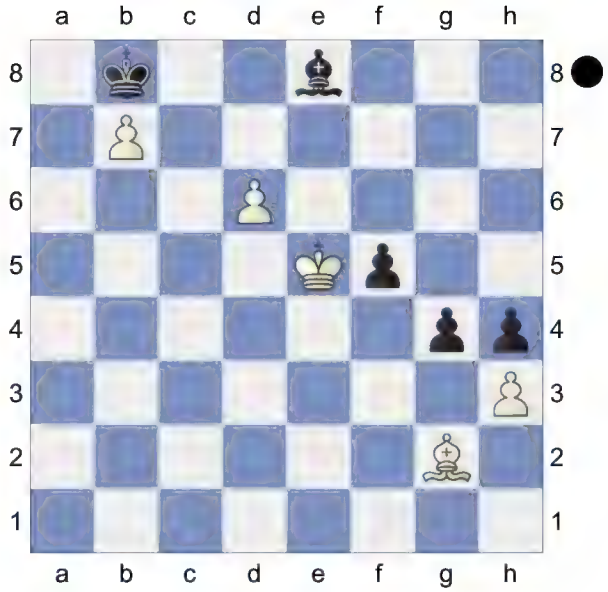


And now Bg2 would win. **46...Bf5**
47.Bg2 Threatens to win with c4.
47...Bc2 1.40/22
[47...g4= -0.07/25 48.hxg4 Bxg4]
48.c4± Bxb3? 5.17/28
[Better is 48...b4!± 0.50/23]
49.cxb5+- Ba4 50.Kc4 0.00/30
[50.b6+- 4.43/35 Hoping for b7. Bd7 51.b7]
50...f5? 7.85/22
[50...Bd1= 0.00/30]

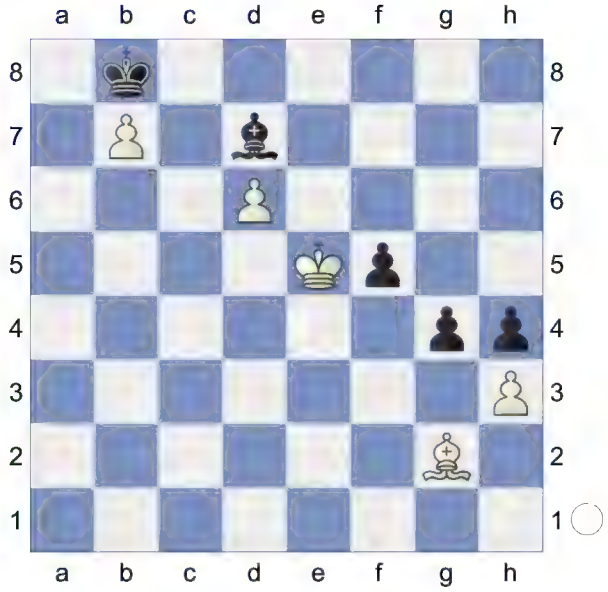


51.b6 g4 52.b7 Kc7 53.d6+! Kb8

54.Kd4 Be8 55.Ke5

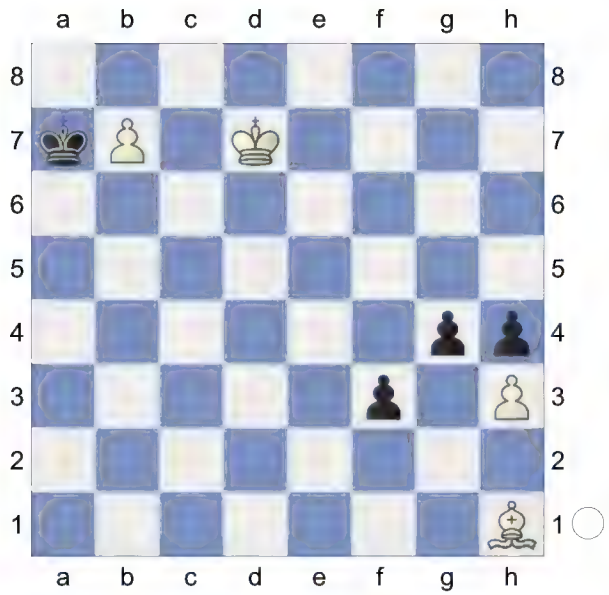


aiming for Ke6. **55...Bd7**

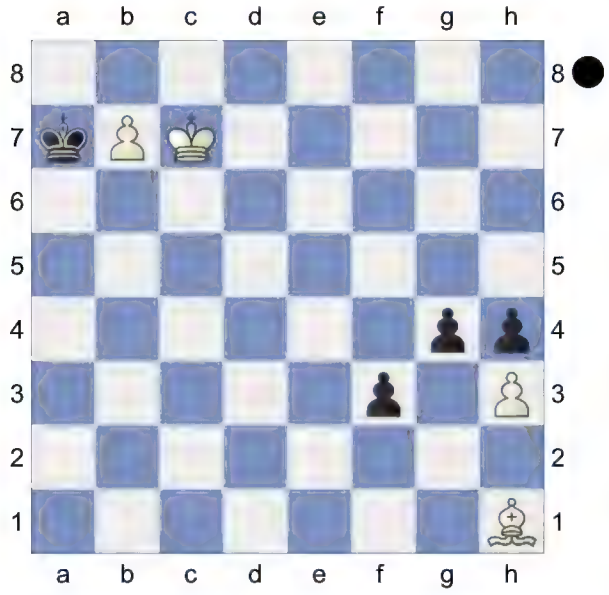


56.Bh1 Strongly threatening Kf6.
56...Ka7 57.Kf6 Black must now prevent Ke7. **57...f4 58.Ke7 Bf5 59.d7** White mates. **59...Bxd7 60.Kxd7 f3**

(Diagram)



61.Kc7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.38

1-0

55 **A20**

□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2796**

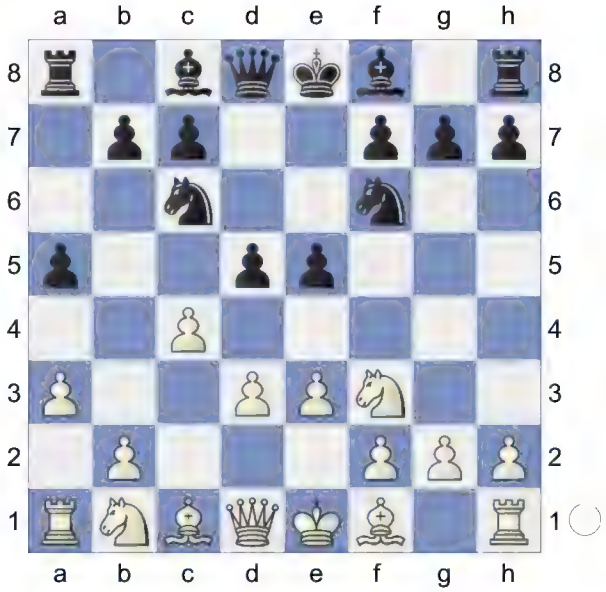
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**

Superbet Classic TB 2024 (1.1) 05.07.24

[TA]

A20: English Opening: 1...e5

1.c4 e5 2.d3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.a3 a5 5.e3 d5



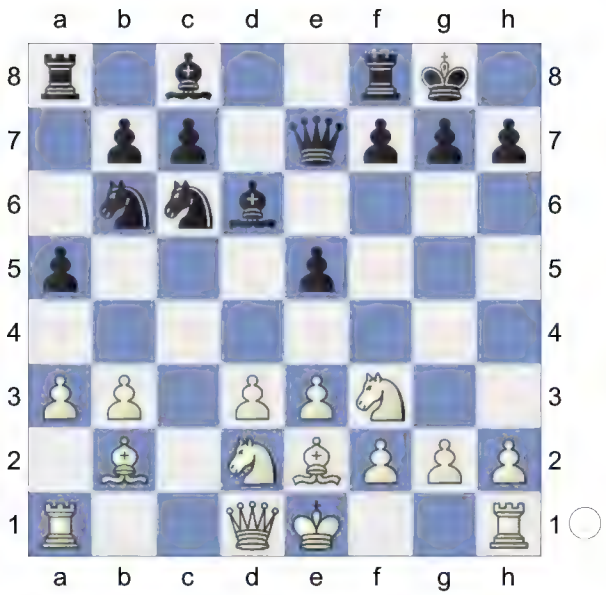
6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.b3 Bd6 0.08/27

[⌓7...g5 -0.25/23]

8.Bb2= The position is equal. **8...0-0**

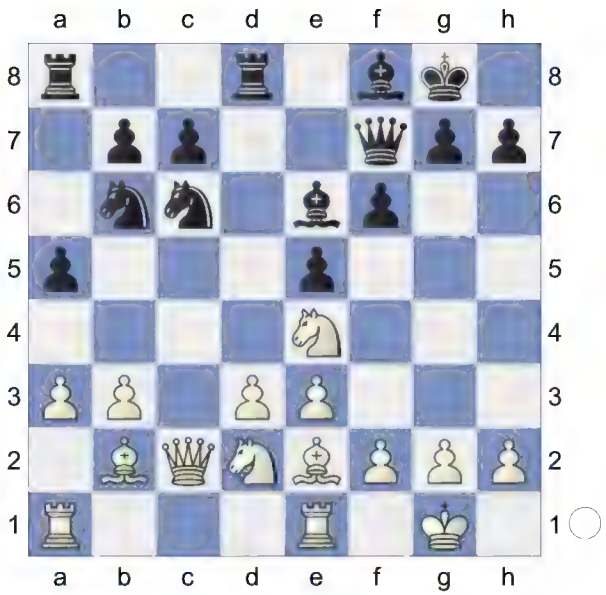
9.Nbd2 Qe7 10.Be2 Nb6

(Diagram)

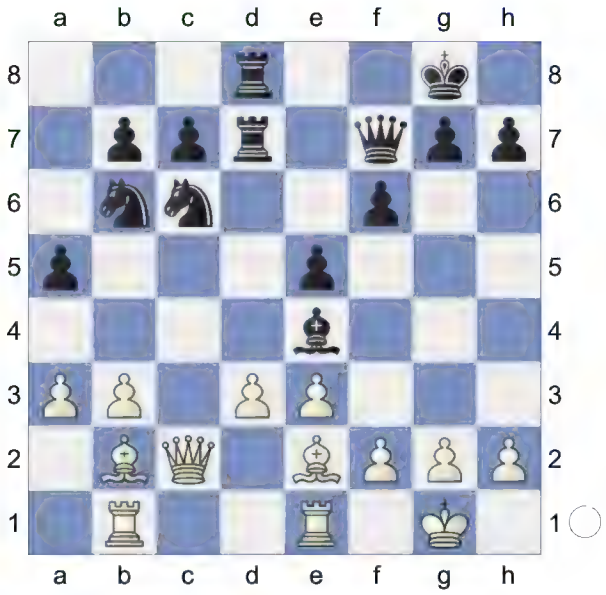


11.0-0 Be6N
[11...f5 12.Qc2 Bd7 13.Rfe1 Rae8 14.e4 *(14.g3 Qf7 15.Bf1 h6 16.Bg2 Be6 17.Rac1 Bd5* 2. Reversed Sicilian with 2.d-4.a3 and 6.e3: #9*)* 14...fxe4 15.Nxe4 *(15.dxe4 g5 16.h3 h5 17.Nh2 Qf7 18.Rf1 Nd4* 2. Reversed Sicilian with 2.d-4.a3 and 6.e3: #10 *)* 15...Kh8 16.Nfd2 Nd5 17.g3 Nf6 18.Bf1 Be6 19.Bg2 Nxe4 20.Nxe4 h6 2. Reversed Sicilian with 2.d-4.a3 and 6.e3: #11]
12.Qc2
[12.Nc4 with more complications. a4 13.b4 e4 14.Nfd2]
12...Rfd8 13.Rfe1 f6 14.Ne4 Qf7 15.Nfd2 Bf8

(Diagram)

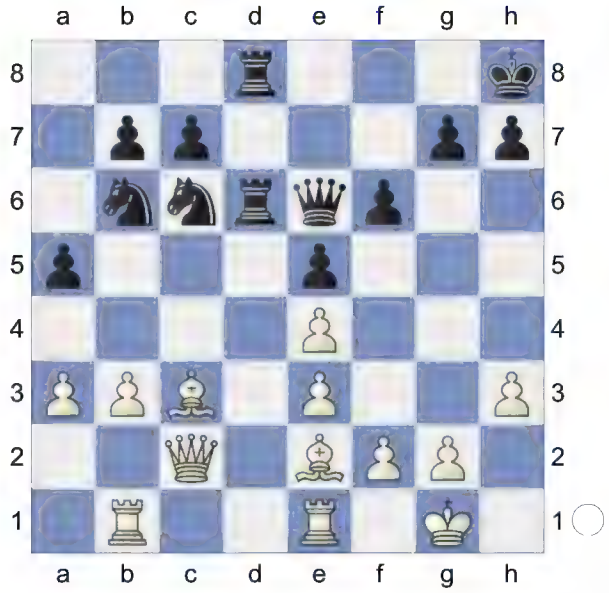


16.Rab1 Rd7 0.34/20
[16...Rd5= 0.00/22 deserves consideration.]
17.Nc5!± Bxc5 18.Qxc5 Rad8 19.Qc2 Bf5 0.71/25
[19...Na7± 0.33/24]
20.Ne4!± Bxe4 1.02/20
[20...Rb8± 0.63/21 should be considered.]

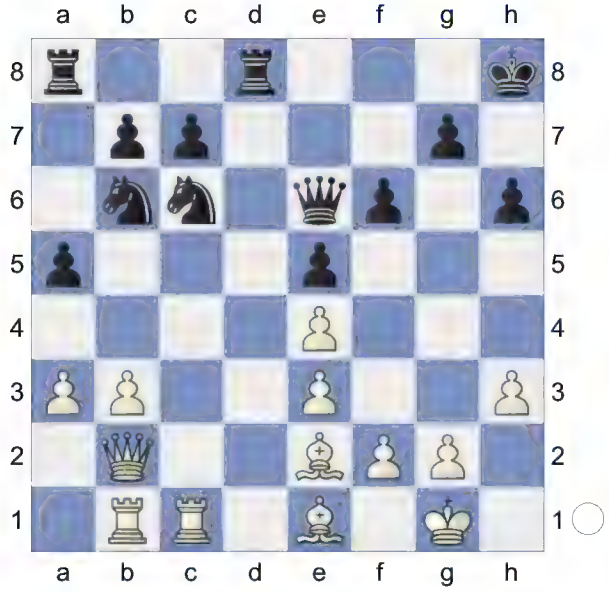


21.dxe4 Rd2 22.Qc1 R2d6 1.32/19
[Not 22...Qxb3 23.Bc3 Qc2 24.Bxd2 Rxd2 25.Qxc2 Rxc2 26.Rbc1+-]

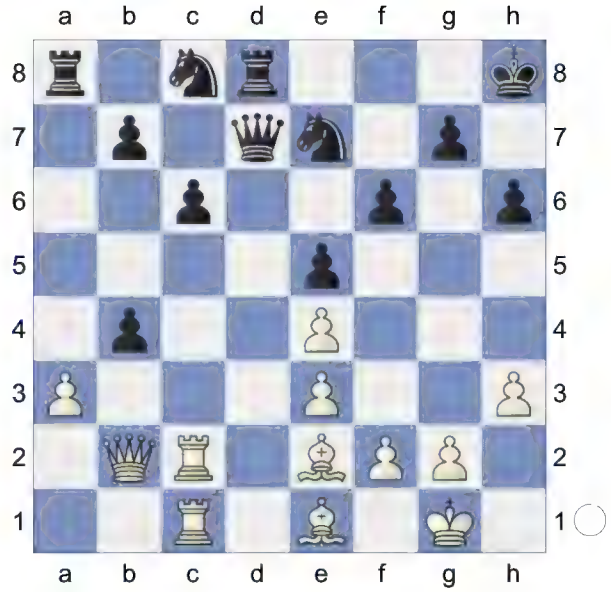
[⌓22...Kh8 0.93/21]
23.Bc3 Kh8 24.h3 Qe7 1.53/21
[⌓24...Ra8 1.22/23]
25.Qc2 Qe6



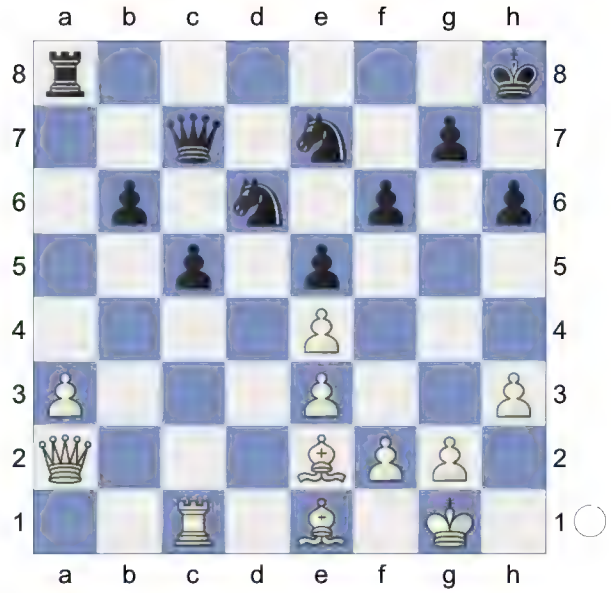
26.Rec1 Ra8 27.Be1 Threatens to win with b4. **27...Rdd8 28.Qc5 Nd7 29.Qc2 Nb6 30.Qb2** 1.47/19
[30.b4+- 1.94/20 aiming for bxa5. axb4 31.axb4]
30...h6



31.Rc2 Nc8 32.Bc4 1.35/24
[32.b4+- 1.83/23]
32...Qd7 33.Rbc1 N6e7 34.Be2 c6 35.b4 axb4

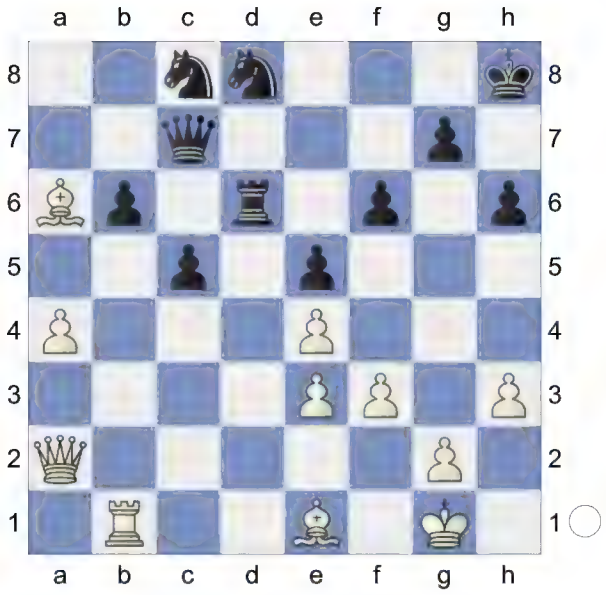


36.Bxb4 Rd2 is the strong threat.
36...Qc7 37.Rd2 Rxd2 38.Qxd2 b6 39.Qa2 0.54/19
[39.f4± 0.88/23]
39...c5!≛ 40.Be1 Nd6

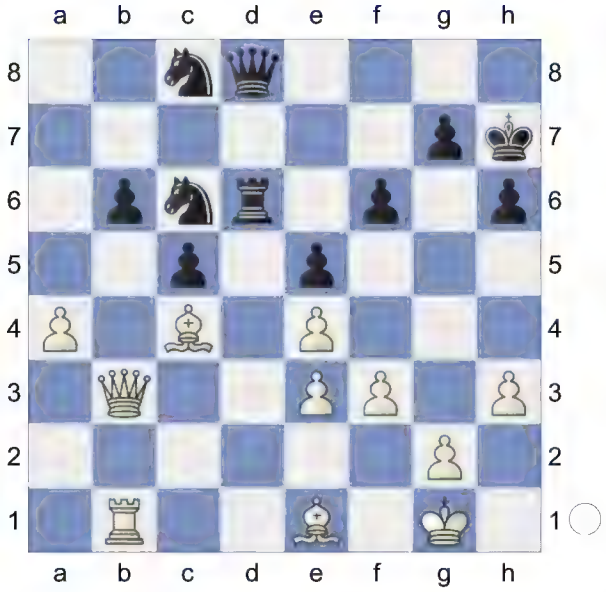


41.Rd1 Rd8 42.f3 Nb7 43.Rb1 Nc8 44.a4 Rd6 1.11/23
[44...Nbd6≛ 0.66/21]
45.Ba6 Nd8

(Diagram)

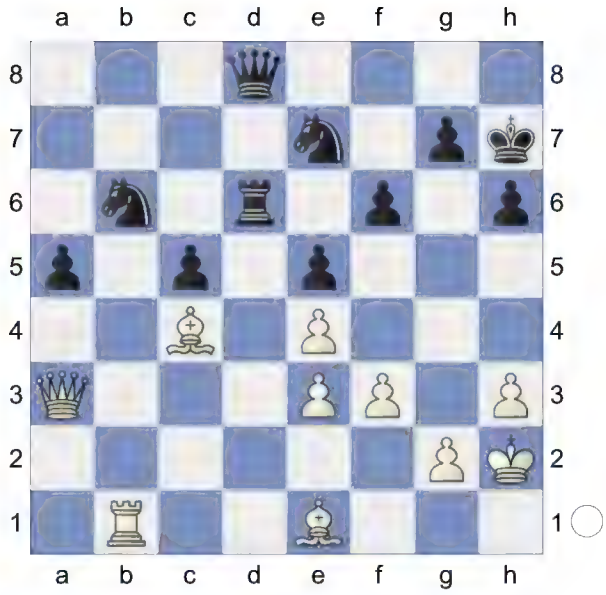


46.Qb3 Kh7 47.Bc4 A strong pair of Bishops. **47...Nc6 48.Bd5 N6e7 49.Be6 Qd8 50.Bc4** 0x0.002fd1a72e1ddp-1022s more active pieces. **50...Nc6**

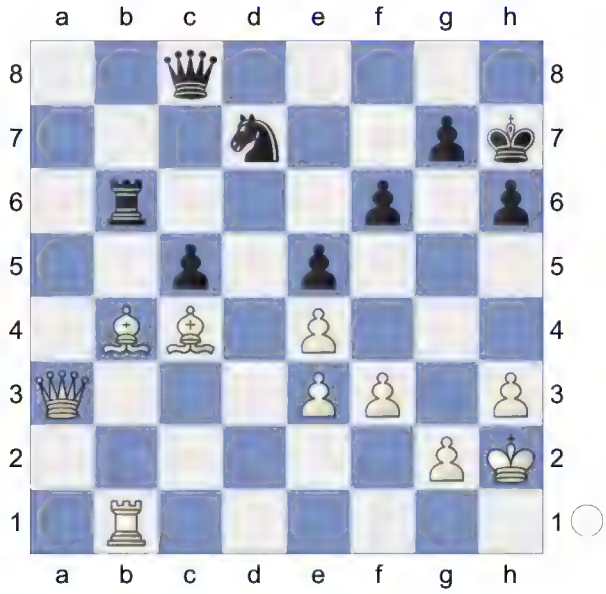


51.Qc2 N8e7 52.Kh2 Nc8 53.Qb3 N6e7 54.a5 0.79/18
[⌓54.h4 1.24/21]
54...bxa5± 55.Qa3! Nb6 1.03/20
[55...a4± 0.66/19]

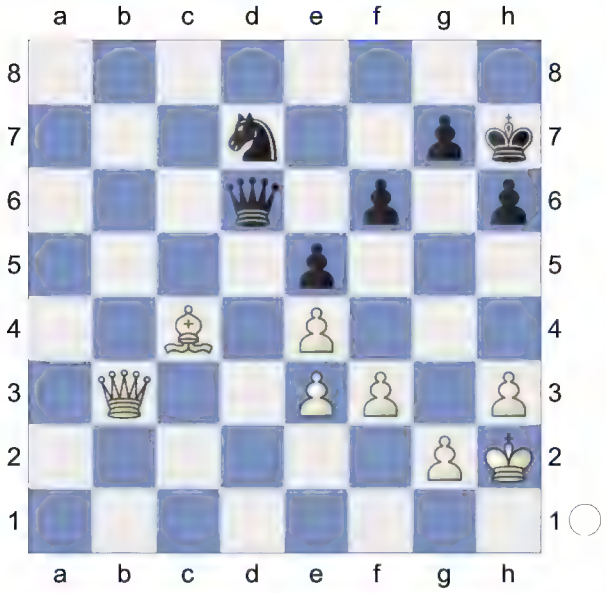
(Diagram)



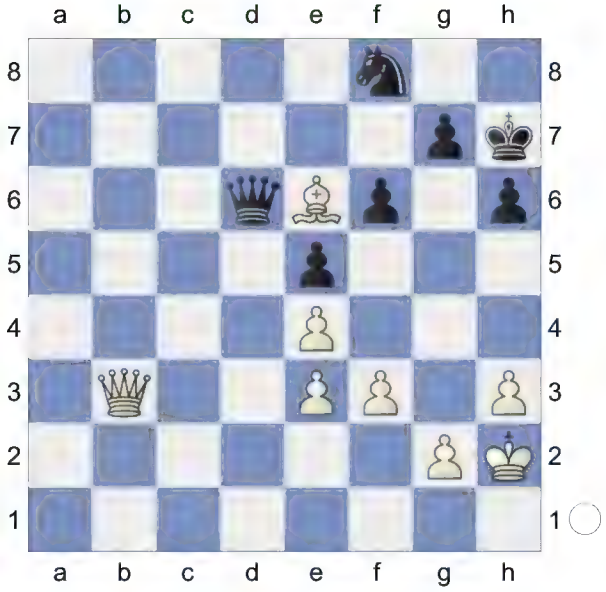
56.Be2 0.63/20
[Avoid the trap 56.Bxa5? Nxc4! 57.Bxd8 Nxa3-+]
[56.Bf7± 1.03/20]
56...Nd7 1.14/19
[Better is 56...a4± 0.63/20]
57.Bxa5 Qc8 58.Be1 Nc6 1.51/19
[Black should try 58...Qc7 1.00/19]
59.Bc4 1.18/17
[⌓59.Rb5 1.51/19]
59...Nb4 60.Bxb4 0.63/22
[60.Rc1± 1.26/19]
60...Rb6±



Pin **61.Rb3 cxb4 62.Rxb4 Rxb4 63.Qxb4 Qc5 64.Qb3 Qd6?** 1.90/23
[64...Nf8!± 0.33/23]

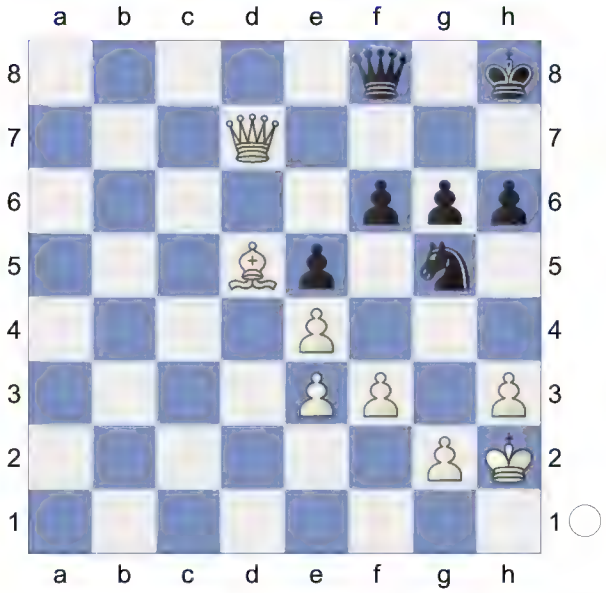


White leaves nothing to chance now.
65.Be6 0.43/25
[65.Qb7!+- 1.90/23]
65...Nf8? 2.72/23
[Black should play 65...Qe7!± 0.43/25]

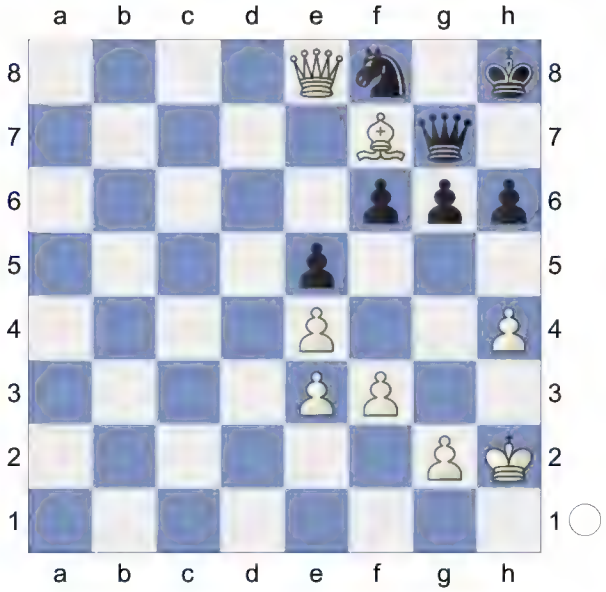


66.Bf5++- Kh8 67.Qf7 Inhibits g6. And now Qe8 would win. **67...Nh7?** 4.86/26
[67...Qd8 2.07/29 68.h4 Nh7]

68.Be6 2.16/27
[⌓68.Qe8+ 4.86/26 Qf8 69.Qc6]
68...Qf8 69.Qd7 Ng5 70.Bd5 g6? 5.72/27
[70...Qb8 2.20/27 is more resistant. 71.h4 Nh7]

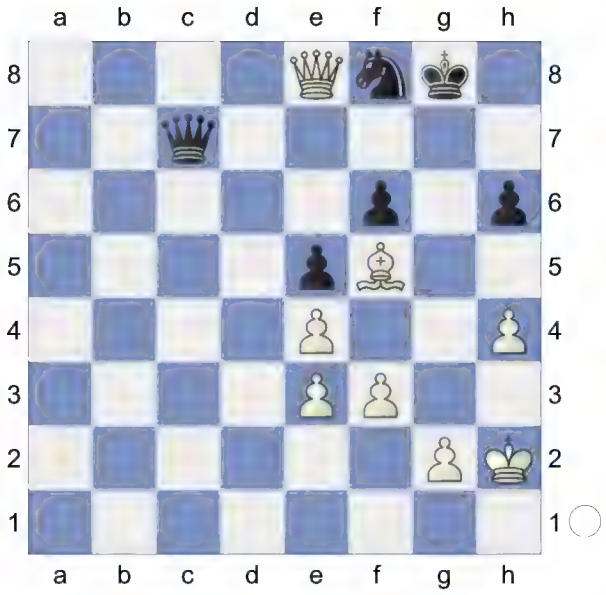


71.h4 Nh7 72.Bf7 Qg7 73.Qe8+ Nf8

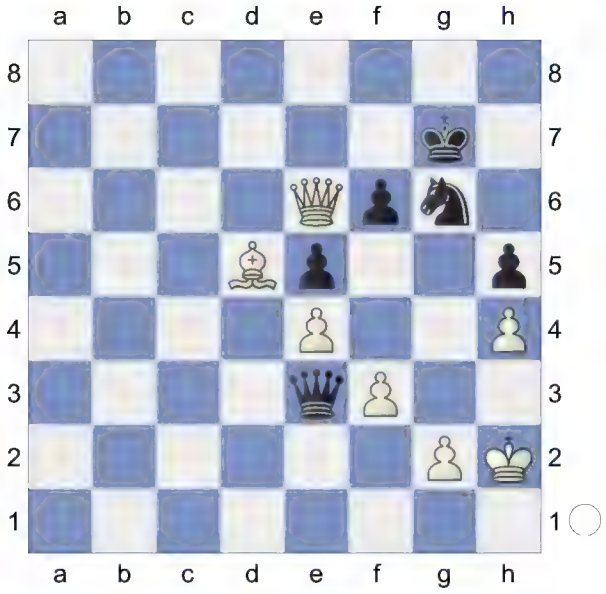


74.Bxg6! Kg8 75.Bf5 Qc7

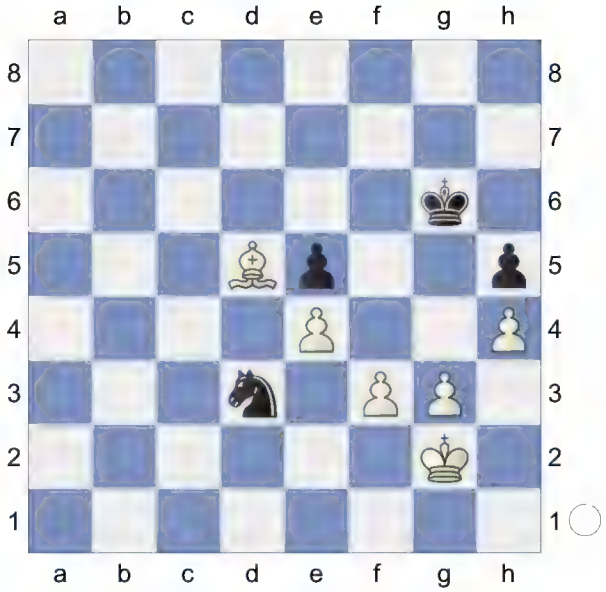
(Diagram)



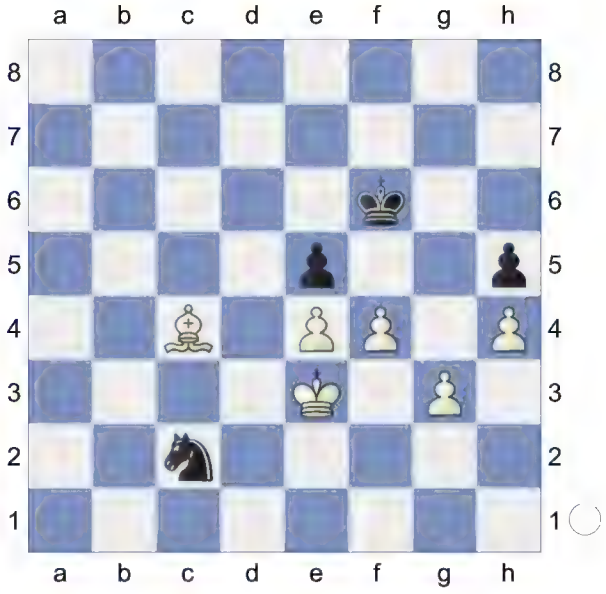
76.Be6+ Kg7 77.Bd5 Qa7 7.18/24
[⌓77...Qd7 4.47/23 78.Qb8 h5]
78.Qd8 Strongly threatening Kg3.
78...h5? 7.65/23
[78...Qd7 3.60/21 79.Qa8 h5]
79.Qe8 White is clearly winning.
79...Ng6 80.Qe6 Qxe3



81.Qf7+ 8.11/23
[⌓81.Qg8+ 75.86/28 Kh6 82.Bf7 Qf4+ 83.g3 Qd2+ 84.Kh3 Qd7+ 85.g4 hxg4+ 86.Kg3]
81...Kh6 82.Qxf6 Qf4+ 83.Qxf4+ Nxf4
Endgame KB-KN **84.g3 Nd3 85.Kg2 Kg6**

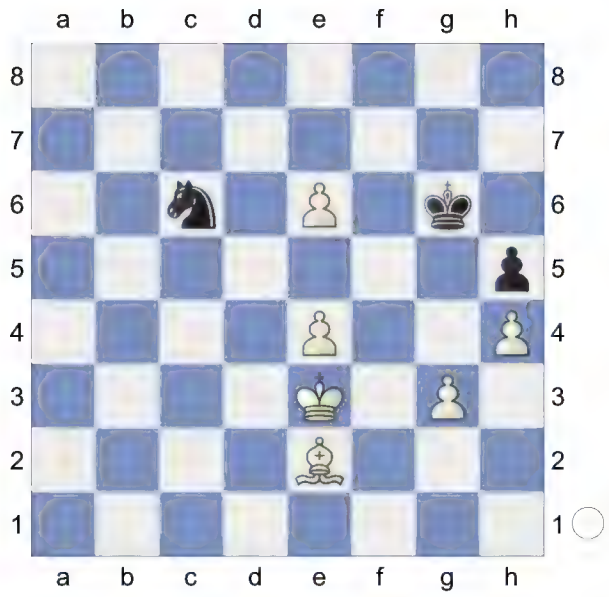


86.Kf1 Nb4 87.Ke2 Nc2 88.f4 Kf6 89.Bc4 Nd4+ 90.Ke3 Nc2+

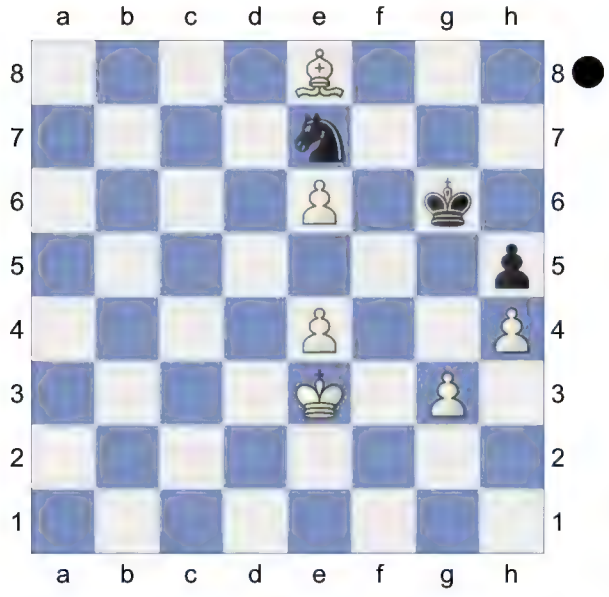


91.Kf2 Nd4 92.Be2 Kg6 93.fxe5 Nc6 94.e6 Ne7 95.Ke3 Nc6

(Diagram)



96.Bb5 Ne7 97.Be8+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
1-0

56 **C50**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2805**
Superbet ROM Classic 2024 (7.5) 3.7.24
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 d6 5.a4N

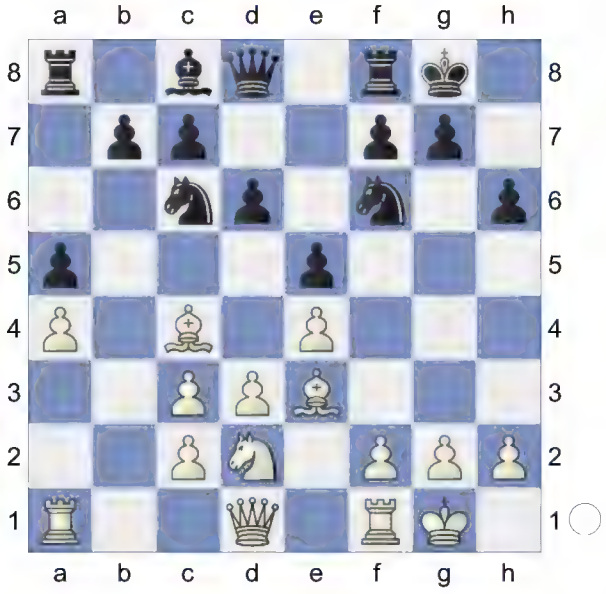
[5.Be3 Bb6 *(5...Bxe3 6.fxe3 Nh6 7.0-0 Na5 8.Nbd2 Nxc4 9.Nxc4 0-0 10.d4 b5 11.Ncd2 Re8 12.d5 g5 13.Qe1 Kh8 14.Qg3 Rg8 15.Rae1 Ng4 16.h3 Nh6 17.Nh2 f5 18.exf5 Nxf5 19.Qf2 Bd7 20.e4* 0-1 Loyd,S-Arnous de Riviere,J Paris Congres International 1867*)* 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Qd2 Bg4 8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.Bxd5 0-0 10.c3 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Qf6 12.f4 Bxe3 13.fxe3 Ne7 14.Bb3 a5 15.0-0 a4 16.Bc2 a3 17.b4 c5 18.fxe5 Qxe5 19.bxc5 Qxc5 0-1 Machate,G-Bogoljubow,E Bad Elster Olympia Trainingsturnier 1936 (1)]

[5.h3 h6 6.c3 Qf6 7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bb3 Be6 9.0-0 Nge7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Nf1 Bb6 12.Be3 d5 13.Bxb6 cxb6 14.Ng3 Rfd8 15.Qc2 Rac8 16.Qb1 Bxh3 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.d4 N5g6 19.gxh3 Qh4 76: Black]

5...a5

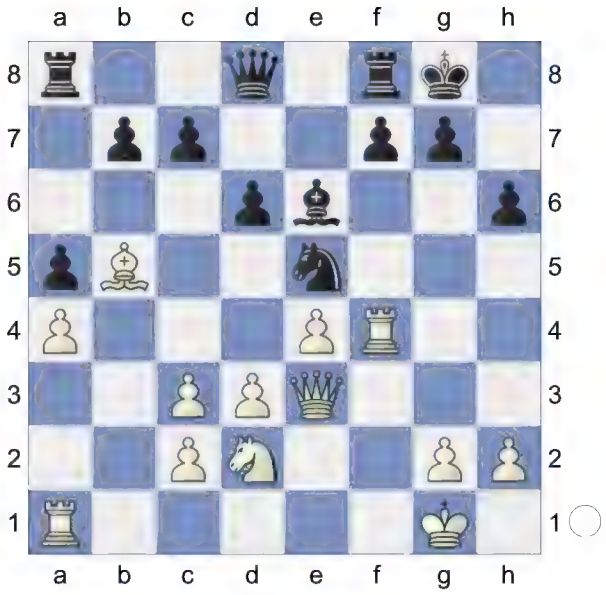
(Diagram)

6.Nc3 h6 7.Be3 Bb4 8.0-0 White is slightly better. **8...Bxc3 9.bxc3 Nf6 10.Nd2 0-0**

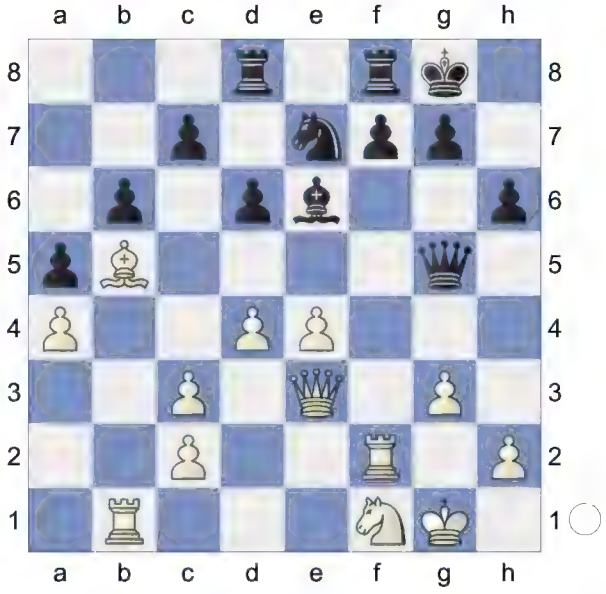


11.f4 Be6 12.Bb5 next f4-f5 is good for White. **12...Ng4 13.Qe1 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 exf4 15.Rxf4 Ne5**

(Diagram)



16.d4 Ng6 17.Rf2 Qg5 18.Nf1 Rad8 19.Rb1 b6 20.g3 Ne7

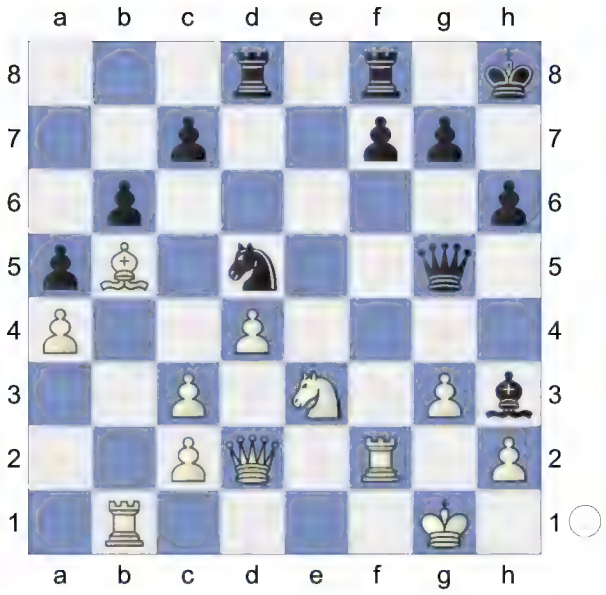


21.Qe2 Bg4 22.Qd3 Kh8 23.Ne3 Bh3 24.Qd2 d5 25.exd5 -0.29/23

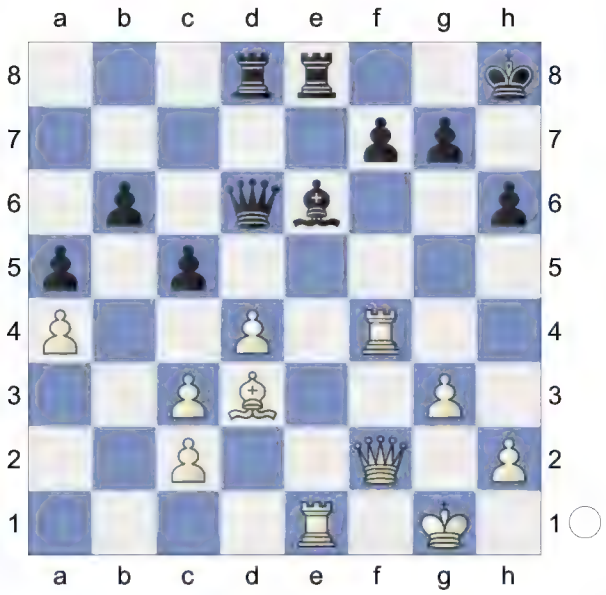
[White should try 25.Nxd5 0.30/21 Nxd5 26.Qxg5 hxg5 27.exd5 Rxd5 28.Re1]

25...Nxd5=

(Diagram)

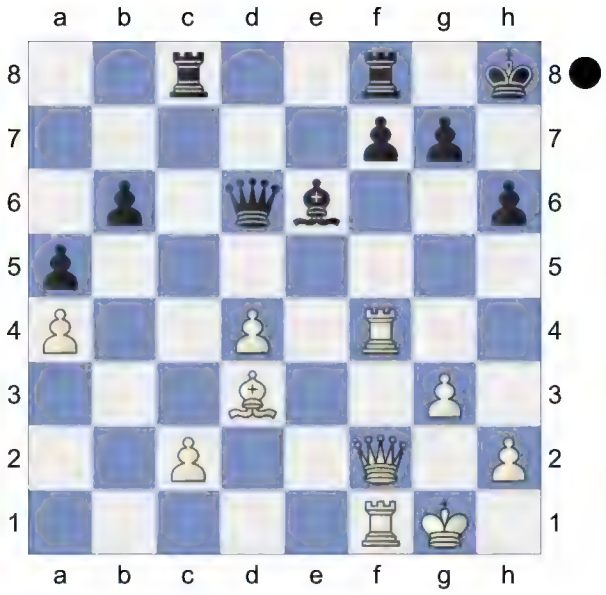


26.Re1 c5 27.Nxd5 Qxd5 28.Rf4 Qd6 29.Qf2 Be6 30.Bd3 Rfe8

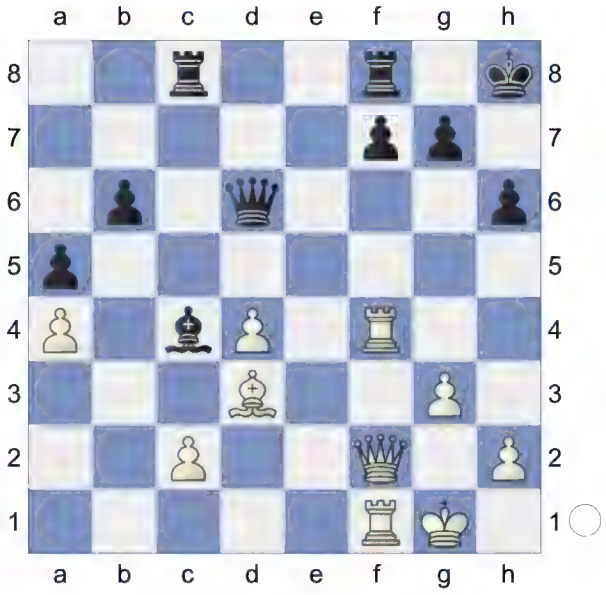


31.Rfe4 Rf8 32.Rf4 Rde8 33.Rb1 Rc8 34.Rf1 cxd4 35.cxd4

(Diagram)



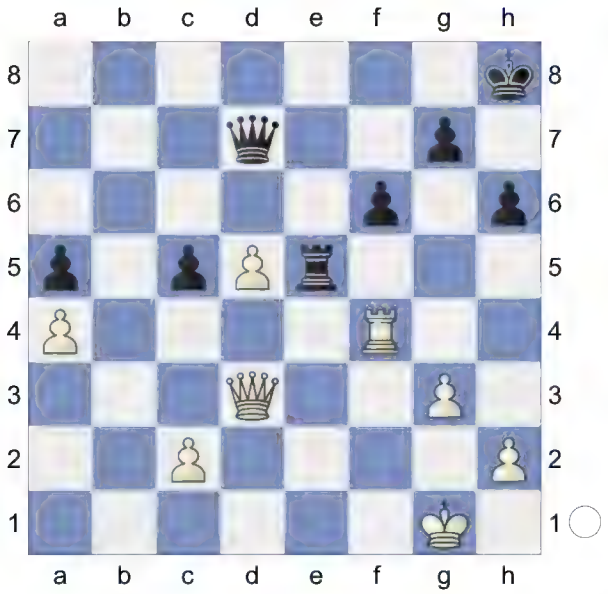
Bc4!



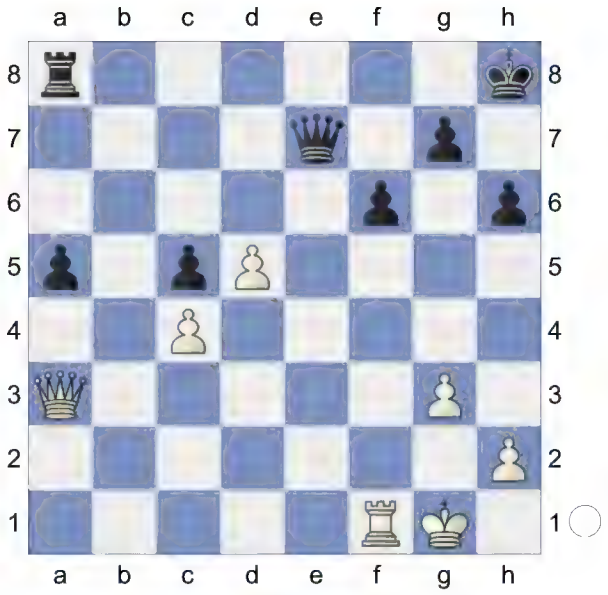
36.Qe3 -0.98/22
[36.Qf3∓ -0.58/21 is more appropriate.]
36...f6 -0.52/22
[36...Rfe8∓ -0.98/22 37.Qd2 Re7]
37.Rb1∓ Bxd3 -0.04/22
[37...Rfd8∓ -0.48/21 should be considered.]
38.Qxd3= Qc6 39.d5 Qc5+ 40.Rf2 Rfe8

(Diagram)

41.Rb5 Qd6 42.Qd4
[42.c4 feels hotter. Re1+ 43.Kg2 Rce8 44.Qd4]
42...Rc5
[42...Re1+ is interesting. 43.Kg2 Rc5 44.c4 Rxb5 45.cxb5 Kg8]
43.Rxc5 bxc5 Endgame. KQR-KQR
44.Qd3 Qd7 45.Rf4 Re5

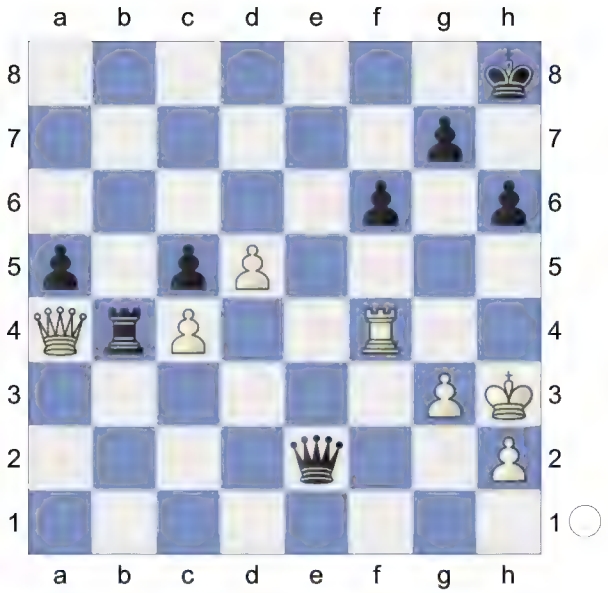


46.c4 Qxa4 47.Rf1 Qd7 48.Rb1 Re8
49.Qa3 -0.98/23
[49.Rb6∓ -0.45/21]
49...Qe7 Threatens to win with ...Qe7-e4. **50.Rf1 Ra8**

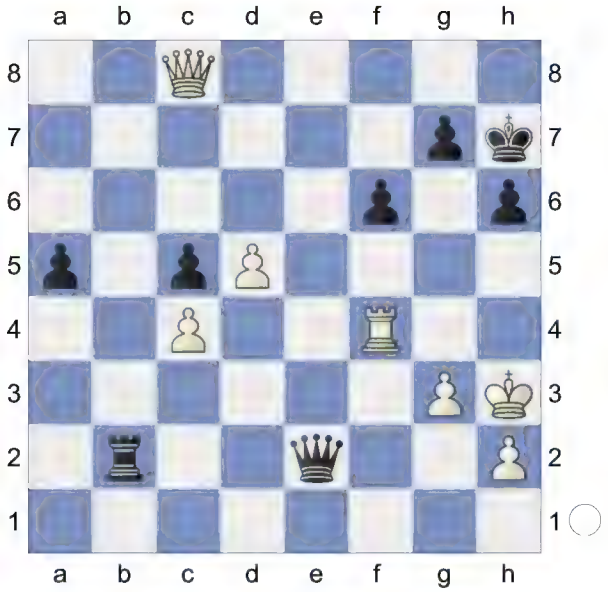


51.Qa4 -1.91/24
[51.Qd3∓ -0.74/22 might work better.]
51...Qe3+ 52.Kg2 -2.03/25
[52.Rf2∓ -1.53/26 was called for.]
52...Rb8 53.Rf2 Prevents Rb8-b2
53...Qe4+ 54.Kh3 Rb4 -0.59/25
[54...Kg8∓ -1.37/22 55.Qc6 h5 *(55...Qxc4 56.Qe6+ Kh8 57.Rxf6=)*]
55.Rf4 -1.05/25
[55.Qc6∓ -0.59/25]
55...Qe2 -0.64/25
[55...Qe5∓ -1.05/25 56.Qd7 Rb2]

(Diagram)

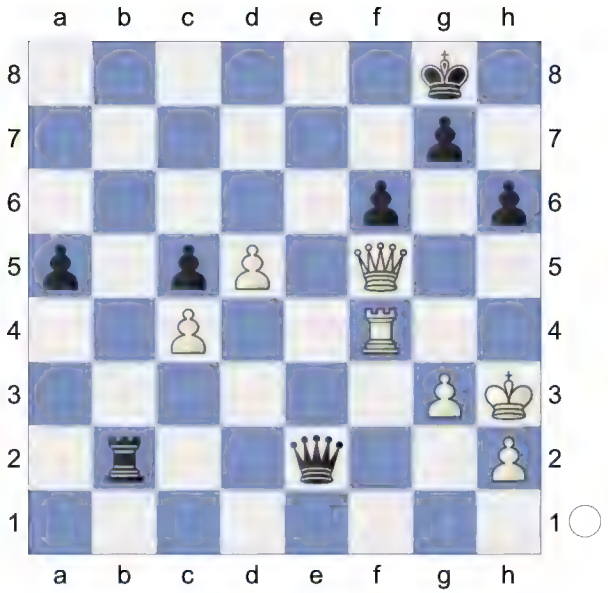


56.Qd7 Rb2 0.01/23
[Of course not 56...Rxc4 57.Qc8+ Kh7 58.Qf5+ Kh8 59.Qc8+ Kh7 60.Qf5+ Kh8 61.Qc8+=]
[56...Rb8!∓ -0.50/25 57.d6 a4]
57.Qc8+ The position is equal. **57...Kh7**
58.Qf5+ Kg8 59.Qc8+ Kh7⇄

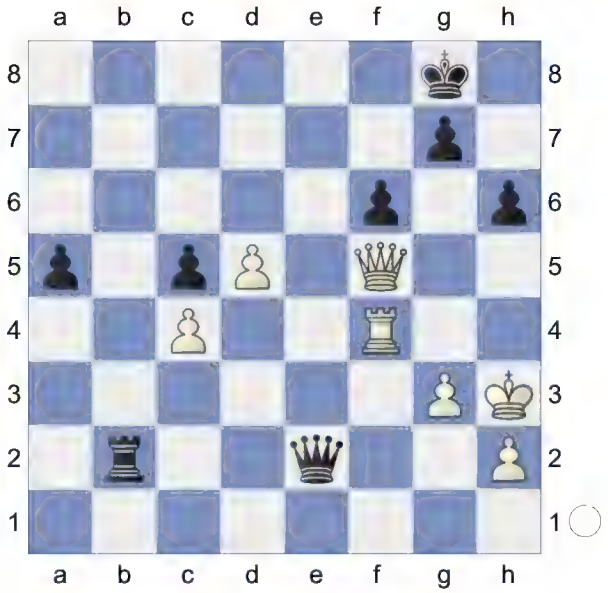


(-> ...h6-h5). Black is not holding back
60.Qf5+ Kg8

(Diagram)



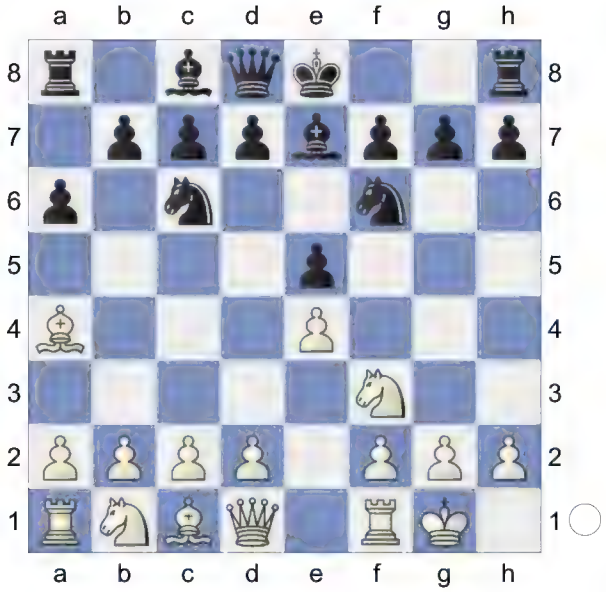
61.Qc8+ Kh7=
[61...Kf7 62.Qc7+ Ke8 63.Qc8+ *(63.Qxc5* is a self mate. *Qh5+* Skewer *64.Rh4 Qf5+ 65.Rg4 Qf1+* Deflection *66.Kh4 Rxh2#)* 63...Kf7=]
62.Qf5+ Kg8



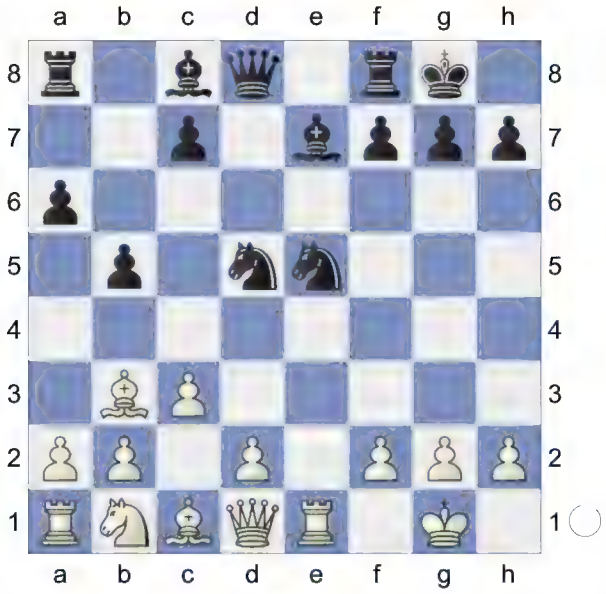
Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
½-½

57 **C89**
□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2732**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
Superbet ROM Classic 2024 (6.4) 2.7.24
[Kitty Kat]

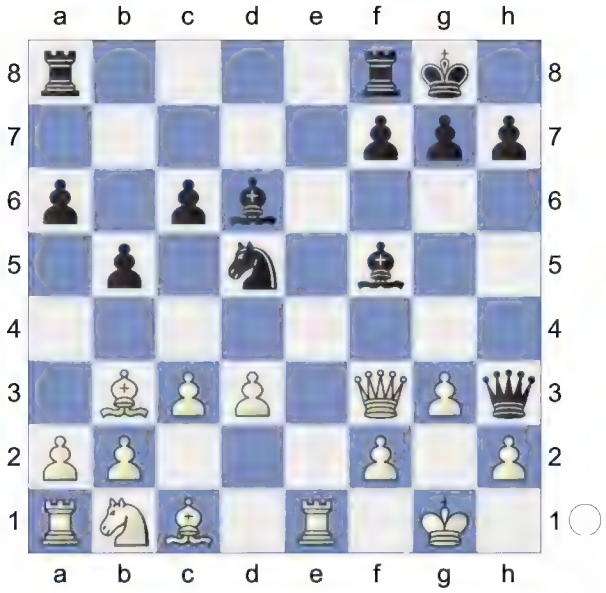
C89: Closed Ruy Lopez: Marshall Attack
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7



6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5



11.Rxe5 c6 12.Re1 Bd6 13.d3 Bf5
14.Qf3 Qh4 15.g3
[15.Bxd5 Bxh2+ *(15...Bg4 16.g3∓)* 16.Kf1 Bg4∓]
15...Qh3



16.Be3 Bxd3 White has an edge.
17.Nd2 Qf5 The old main line.
The old main line. **18.a4 Rfe8 19.Bd4 Bf8N** 0.78/22
[19...h6± 0.40/20
A) 20.Kg2 Kf8 *(20...Qxf3+ 21.Nxf3 Rac8 22.axb5 axb5 23.Ra6 Rxe1 24.Nxe1 Nc7 25.Rb6 Bf5 26.Bc2 Be6 27.Be4 Nd5 28.Ra6 b4 29.c4 Nf6 30.Bf3 Bxc4 31.Rxc6 Rxc6 32.Bxc6 Kf8 33.Nc2 Nd5 34.Kf3 g6 35.Ne3* ½-½ Vachier Lagrave,M (2796)-Aronian,L (2785) Sharjah Grand Prix 2017 (5.2)*; 20...Rxe1 21.Rxe1 Kf8 22.Qxf5 Bxf5 23.Ne4 Bxe4+ 24.Rxe4 Rb8 25.axb5 axb5 26.Re1 Nb6 27.Rd1 Be7 28.Bc2 Nc4 29.b4 Rd8 30.Be4 Nd6 31.Bb6 Rc8 32.Bd3 Ne8 33.Bf5 Rb8 34.Be3 Nf6 35.Bd4* Coll Sola,J (2706)-Deslandes,P (2811) USSR (ch) 37/418 1984*)*
21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.axb5 axb5

23.Qxf5 Bxf5 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.Ra6 Be7 26.Nf1 b4 27.Ne3 Bd3 28.Ra5 bxc3 29.bxc3 Bd8 30.Ra8 f6 31.f3 Be7 32.Ra7 Bd6 33.Rd7 Ba3 34.Rxd5 Kg8 0-1 Caruana,F (2835)-Carlsen,M (2863) Clutch-ch June rapid 2020 (3.7);

B) 20.h4 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Qxf3 22.Nxf3 Bg6 23.Be5 Bc5 24.Nd4 Nb6 25.Nxc6 bxa4 26.Ba2 Re8 27.Ra1 Be4 28.Bd4 Bxc6 29.Bxc5 Nd7 30.Bd4 Ne5 31.Bxe5 Rxe5 32.Bc4 Bb5 33.Bf1 Kf8 34.f3 Re8 \ -\ 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4 (2795)-C 06/32 (2793) RLPF-ch U13 Wolfstein 1994 (5)]

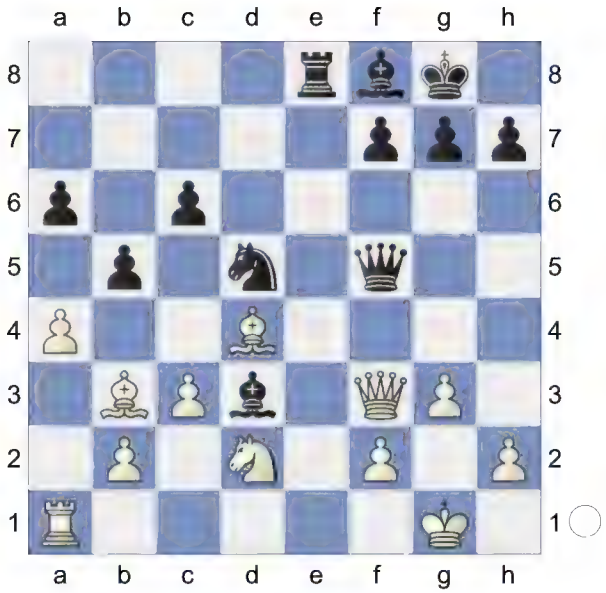
[19...Rxe1+ 20.Rxe1 Rd8 21.Qxf5 Bxf5 22.Ne4 Bxe4 23.Rxe4 Bf8 24.c4 Nb4 25.Bb6 Rb8 26.a5 Nd3 27.cxb5 cxb5 28.Bd5 Nxb2 29.Rf4 Na4 30.Bc7 Rc8 31.Rxf7 Kh8 32.Bb7 Kg8 33.Rf3 1-0 13.♕c2 ♘e5 14.♗e5 (2583)-Auvray,P (2446) FIDE World CH 1996 (4)]

20.Rxe8 0.35/23

[20.axb5± 0.78/22 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 axb5 22.Qd1]

20...Rxe8±

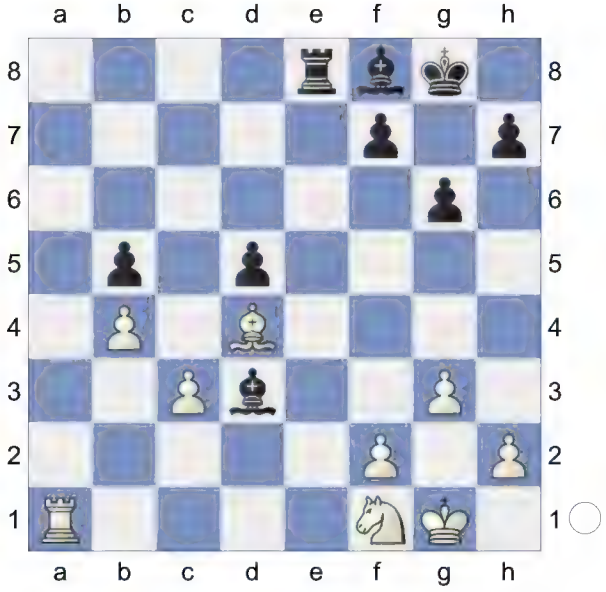
(Diagram)



21.Qxf5 Bxf5 22.axb5 axb5 23.Bxd5N

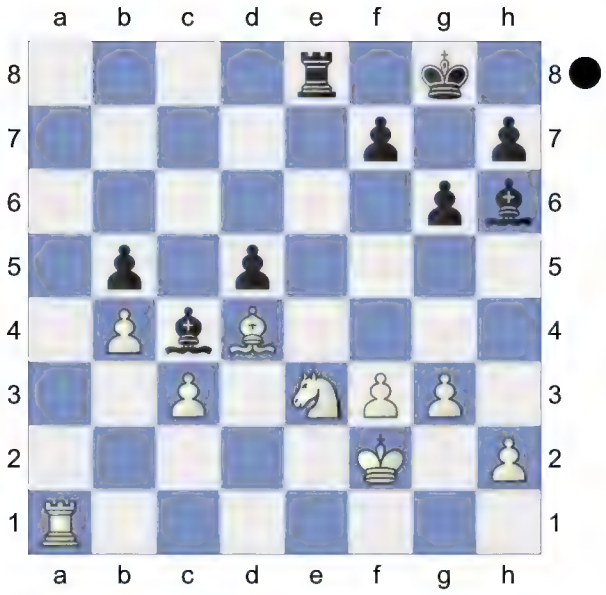
[Vorgänger: 23.Nf3 Be6 24.Ng5 Bf5 25.Ra6 Rc8! 26.Nf3 Be6 27.Be3 c5 Dodges Nf3-d4 28.Ng5 c4 29.Bc2 ½-½ Schulz,G (2410)-Pecka,J (2390) CZE Beroun08 email 2017]

23...cxd5 24.b4 Bd3 25.Nf1 g6

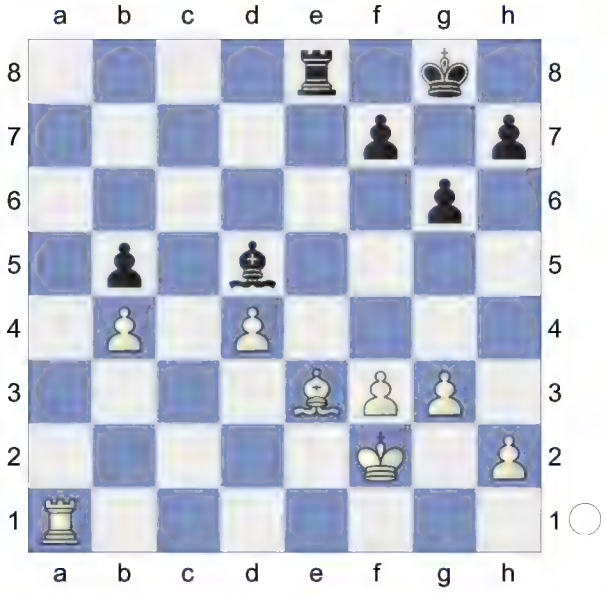


26.Ne3 Bc4 27.f3 Bh6 28.Kf2

(Diagram)

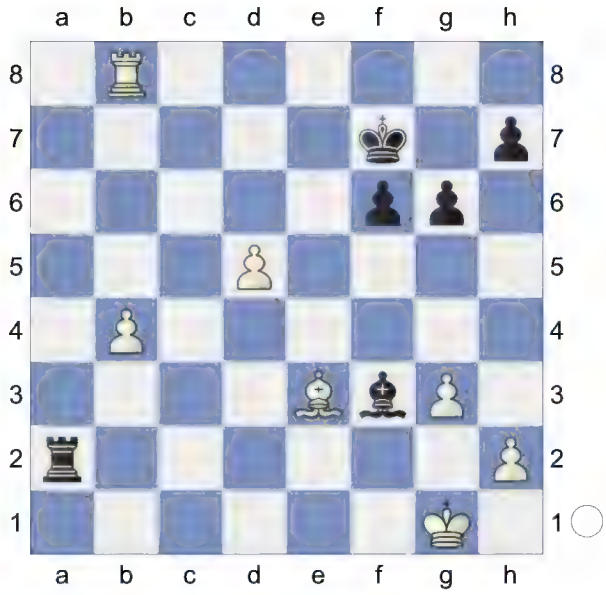


Black must now prevent Ne3xc4.
28...Bxe3+ 29.Bxe3± Endgame. KRB-KRB 29...d4 30.cxd4 Bd5

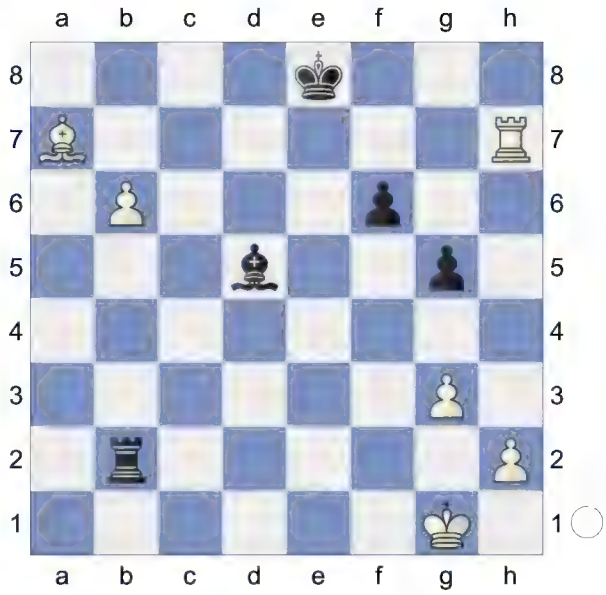


31.Ra5 Ra8 32.Rxb5 Ra2+ 33.Kg1 Bxf3 34.d5 f6 35.Rb8+ Kf7

(Diagram)

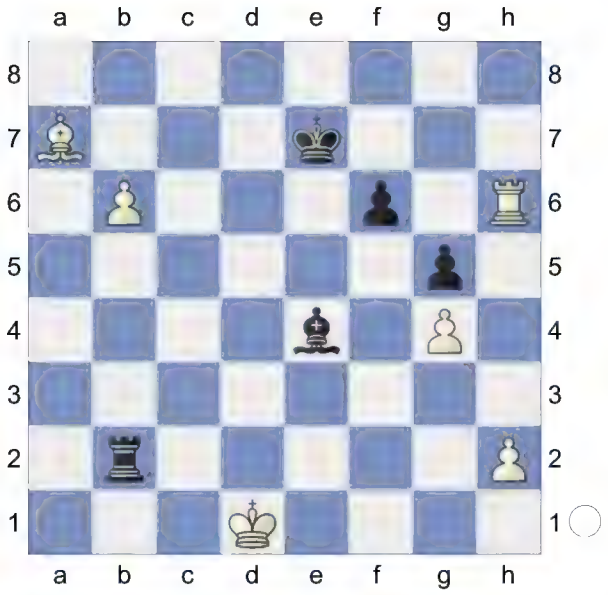


36.Rb7+ Ke8 37.Rxh7 Bxd5 38.b5 Re2 39.Ba7 Rb2 40.b6 g5



41.g4 Bf7 42.Kf1 Kf8 43.Rh6 Ke7
[43...Kg7!? 44.Rh3□ Be6±]
44.Ke1 Bd5 45.Kd1 Be4

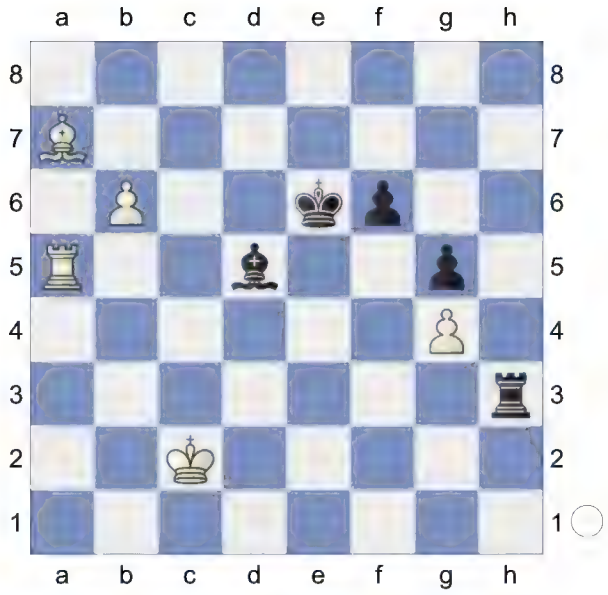
(Diagram)



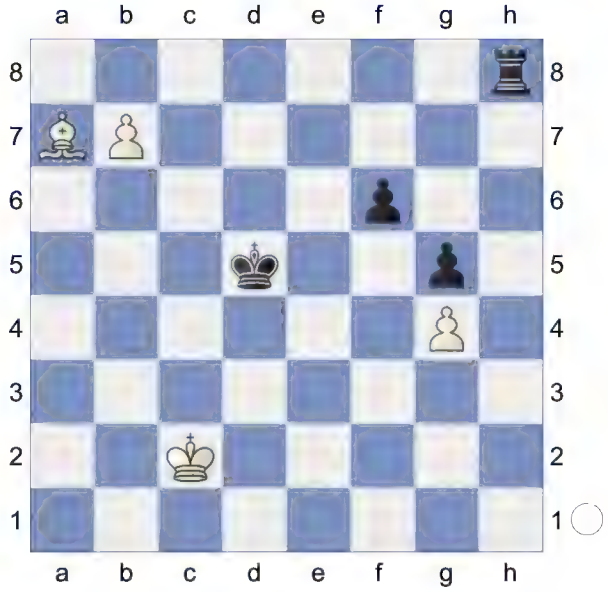
46.Rh3 Rh3-e3 would now be deadly.
46...Ke6 47.Rc3 Ke5 48.h3 Kd4
49.Rc1 b6-b7+ is the strong threat.
49...Ke5 50.Ra1 Rb3

51.Ra4 Bd5
[51...Rxh3 52.Bb8+ Kd5 53.Bc7]
52.Ra5 Ke6 53.Kc2 Strongly threatening Ra5xd5! **53...Rxh3**

(Diagram)

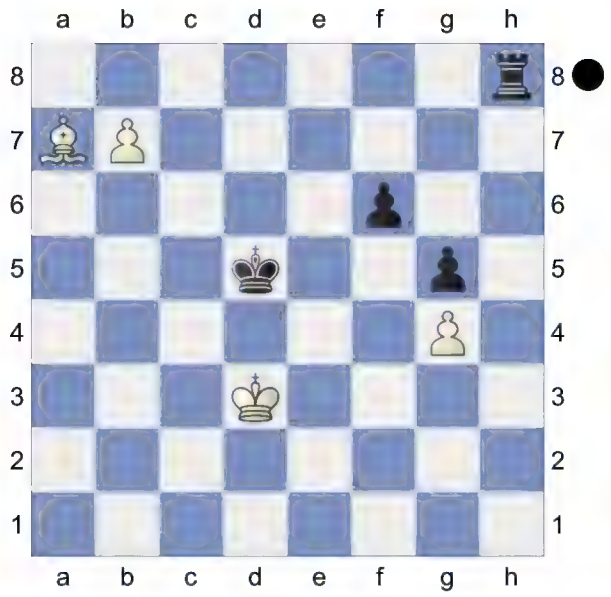


54.Rxd5! Remove Defender **54...Kxd5=** KR-KB **55.b7 Rh8**



56.Kd3! White has compensation.
56...Rh3+ 57.Be3 Rh8 58.Ba7
Against Rh8-b8 **58...Rh3+ 59.Be3 Rh8**
60.Ba7

(Diagram)

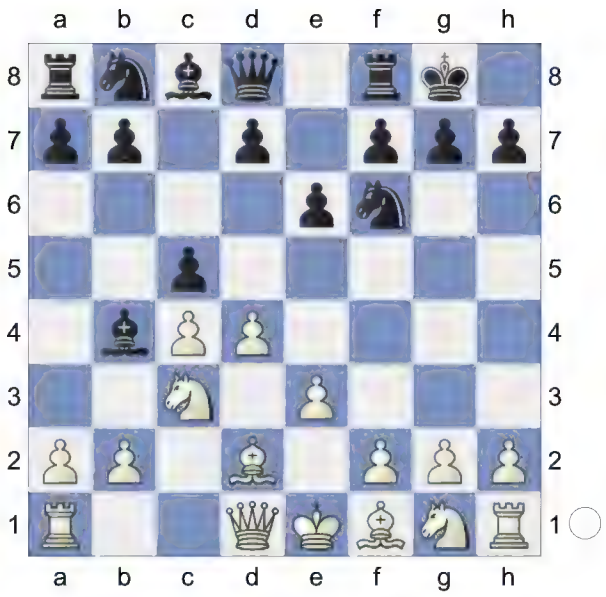


Prevents Rh8-b8.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

58 **E46**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2763**
■ **Deac,Bogdan Daniel** **2680**
Superbet ROM Classic 2024 (1.4)
[Kitty Kat]

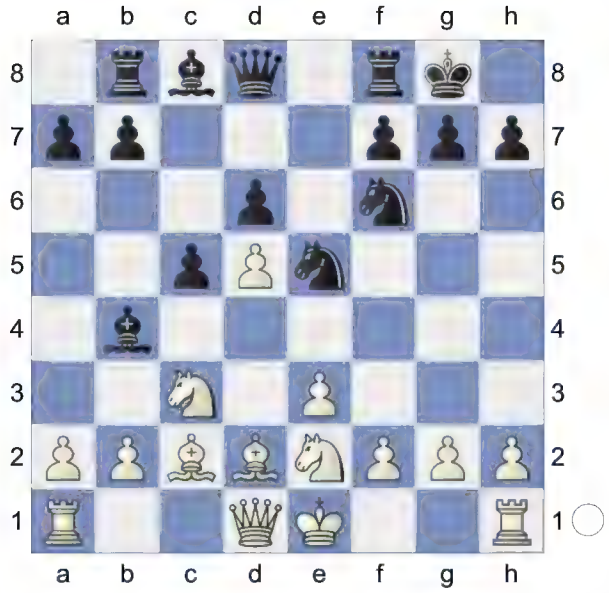
E46: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: 4 e3 0-0 5 Ne2 without early Bd3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd2 c5

(Diagram)

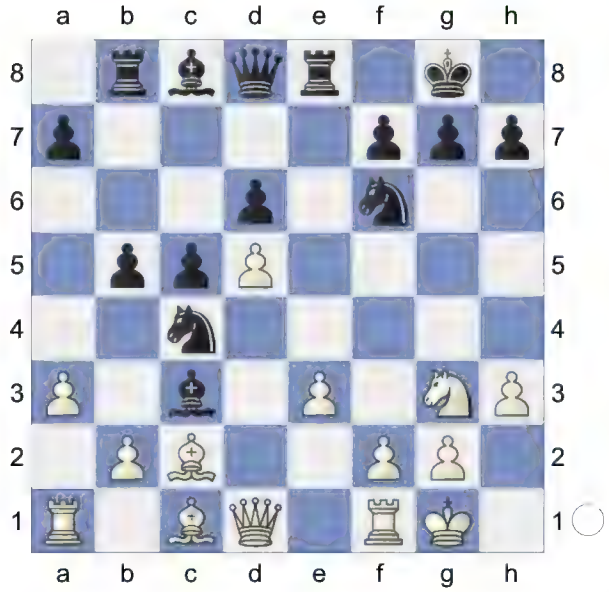


6.d5
[6.a3 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 Ne4 8.Bd3 *(8.Ne2 b6 9.d5 Bb7 10.f3 Nxc3 11.Nxc3 d6 12.e4 exd5 13.cxd5 f5 14.Bd3 f4 15.0-0 Nd7 16.b4 Ne5 17.bxc5 bxc5 18.Be2 Bc8 19.Rb1 Bd7 20.Qe1 Rb8 21.Rxb8 Qxb8 22.Qb1 g5* 0-1 (58) Grebnev,A (2486)-Drygalov,S (2547) St Petersburg Blitz 2023 (7) *)* 8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 d6 10.Ne2 Nd7 11.0-0 Nf6 12.f4 d5 13.Ng3 b6 14.Qe2 Ba6 15.Rad1 Rc8 16.f5 cxd4 17.exd4 Re8 18.fxe6 Rxe6 19.Qf3 Bxc4 20.Nf5 Bxd3 0-1 (36) Andreikin,D (2729)-Aronian,L (2785) Chess.com Rapid Wk10 KO 2022 (1.1)]
6...d6N
[6...exd5 7.cxd5 d6 8.Nge2 Re8 9.Nf4 Nbd7 10.Be2 a6 11.0-0 Ne5 12.a3 Ba5 13.Re1 Bd7 14.Na2 b5 15.Bxa5 Qxa5 16.Nh5 Nxh5 17.Bxh5 Qb6 18.Nc3 a5 19.Qc2 b4 20.Ne4 Bb5 21.Rad1 ½-½ (48) Goryachkina,A (2608)-Muzychuk,A (2534) 36th ECC Women 2021 (1.2)]
7.Bd3 -0.35/21
[7.Nge2= 0.13/19]

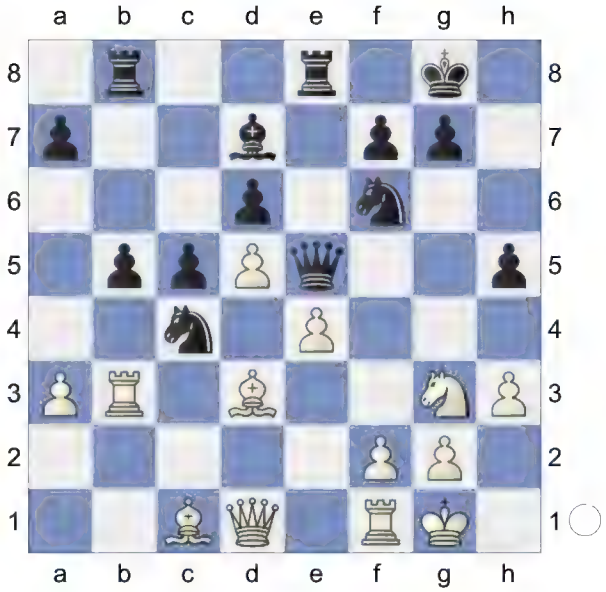
7...exd5 8.cxd5 The position is equal.
[8.Nxd5 is more complex. Nxd5 9.cxd5 Qg5 10.Bxb4 Qxg2 11.Qf3]
8...Nbd7 9.Nge2 Ne5 10.Bc2 Rb8



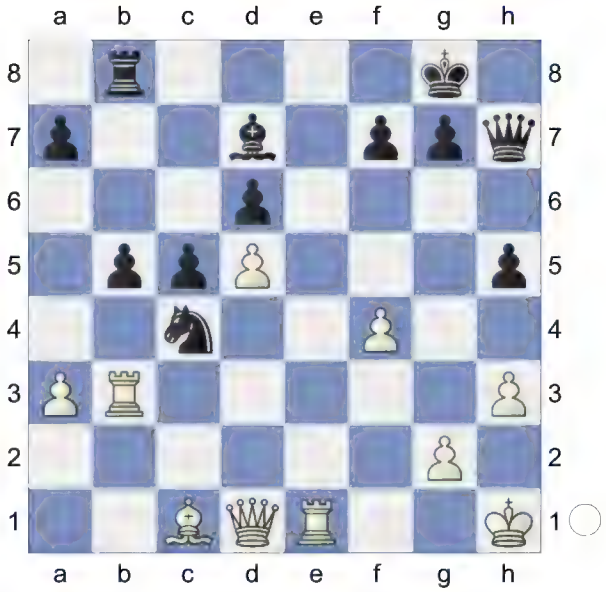
11.0-0 b5 12.a3 Ba5 13.h3 Re8 14.Ng3 -0.24/19
[14.b3 0.21/17 feels stronger.]
14...Nc4= 15.Bc1 Bxc3



16.bxc3 Qa5 17.Rb1 Qxc3 18.Rb3 Qe5 19.e4 -0.41/21
[19.Bd3!= -0.05/21 Qxd5 *(19...Nxd5? 20.Bxc4 Nc7 21.Bb2+-)* 20.e4]
19...h5∓ 20.Bd3! Bd7



White must now prevent ...h4. **21.f4 Qd4+ 22.Kh1 Nxe4 23.Bxe4** -1.12/23
[23.Nxe4= -0.09/21 Rxe4 24.Bxe4 Qxe4 25.Qxh5]
23...Rxe4 -0.52/22
[23...Qxd1!∓ -1.12/23 24.Rxd1 b4 *(24...h4 25.Bf5±)*]
24.Nxe4 Qxe4 25.Re1 Qh7

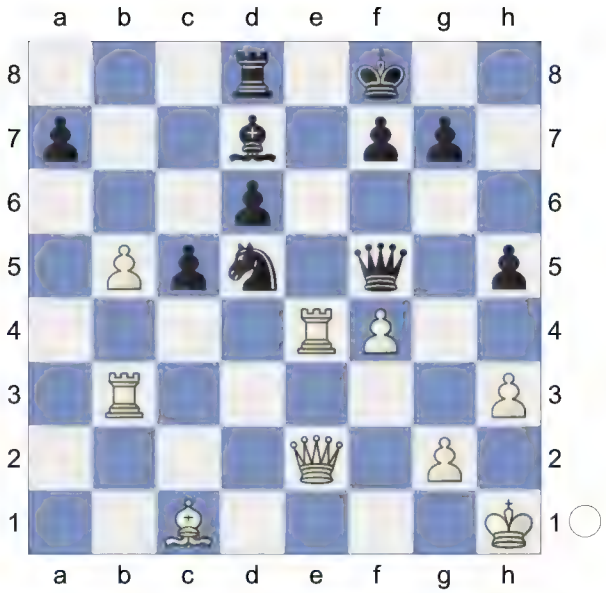


26.Re7 -0.84/22
[26.f5∓ -0.40/21]
26...Rd8 0.26/21
[26...Qf5!∓ -0.84/22 27.Rg3 Re8]

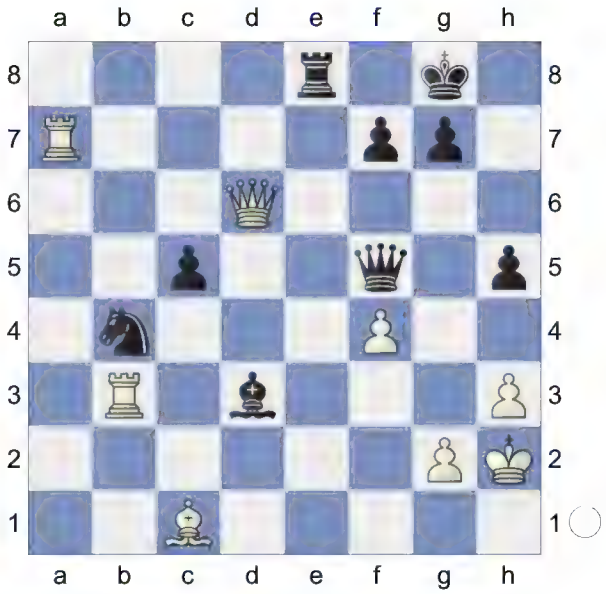
27.a4! Kf8
[27...b4 28.Rxd7]
28.Qe2 Nb6 29.axb5 -0.72/21
[29.f5!= -0.01/23 remains equal.]
29...Nxd5∓ 30.Re4

Qf5 0.37/19
[Better is 30...Bxb5!∓ -0.78/22 31.Qe1 *(31.Rxb5? Nc3-+)* 31...Bc6]

(Diagram)



31.Ra4!± Re8 32.Qd1 Nb4? 2.29/23
[32...Kg8± 0.42/21]
33.Rxa7+-
[33.Qxd6+?! Kg8±]
33...Bxb5 34.Qxd6+ Kg8 35.Kh2 Bd3 2.89/24
[35...Qc2 36.Rg3 Qf2 *(36...Qxc1 37.Qf6)* 37.f5 Qxf5 38.Bh6+-]
[35...Nc6± 1.53/19]



36.Rc3 1.20/22
[36.Ra5+- 2.89/24 Be4 37.Rxc5 *(37.Rxb4 Bxg2* Decoy *38.Kxg2*

Qc2+ 39.Bd2 cxb4±)]

36...Rc8 2.98/25

[36...Qg6± 1.20/22 37.Qxg6 *(37.Qxc5 Re2±)* 37...Bxg6 38.Rxc5 Nd3]

37.Be3 1.33/28

[37.Rc7+- 2.98/25 is more deadly. Rxc7 38.Qxc7]

37...Nd5 38.Rxc5 Rxc5 39.Qxc5

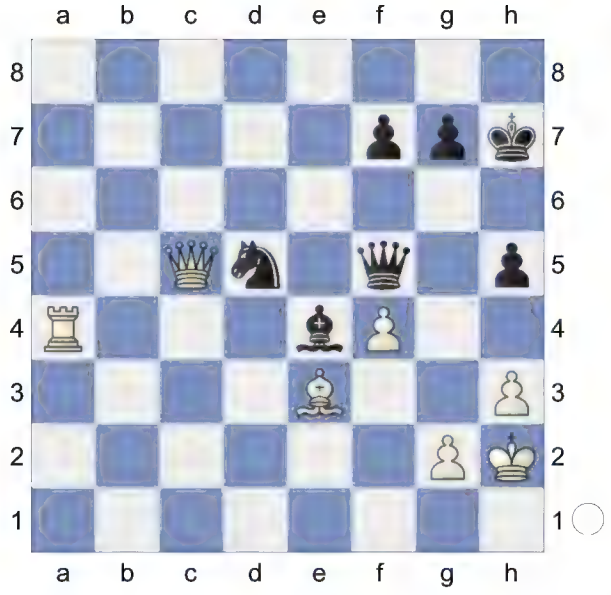
[But not 39.Bxc5?! Qxf4+ 40.Qxf4 Nxf4±]

39...Be4 40.Ra4 0.00/24

[40.Ra8+± 1.39/22 Kh7 41.Ra2]

40...Kh7 1.36/22

[40...Bxg2= 0.00/24 41.Ra8+ Kh7 42.Kxg2 Nxf4+ 43.Kf3 Nd5+ 44.Ke2 Nf4+ 45.Kd2 Qd3+ 46.Kc1 Qf1+ 47.Kc2 Qg2+ 48.Kc3 Qxa8 49.Bxf4 Qf3+ 50.Qe3 Qxe3+ 51.Bxe3 Kg6]



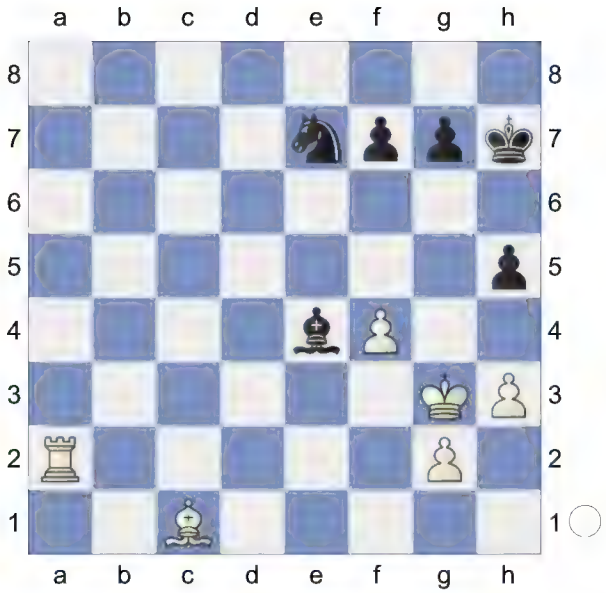
41.Ra2!± Qg6 42.Bc1 Nf6 43.Qf2 Ra3 is the strong threat. **43...Nd5** 1.98/22

[43...Ng8± 1.15/19 44.Qg3 Qxg3+ 45.Kxg3 Nh6]

44.Qg3+- Qxg3+ 45.Kxg3 KRB-KBN

45...Ne7

(Diagram)



46.Kh4 Bd5 3.54/24

[46...f6 2.09/25 is a better defense. 47.Kxh5 Nf5]

47.Rd2 g6? 5.80/22

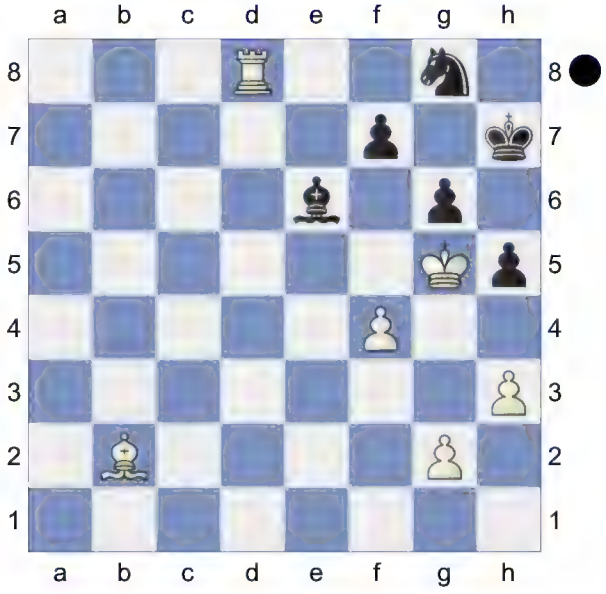
[47...Nf5+ 3.51/20 48.Kxh5 Ng3+ 49.Kg4 Ne4]

48.Kg5 White is clearly winning.

48...Be6 49.Bb2 Ng8

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.46

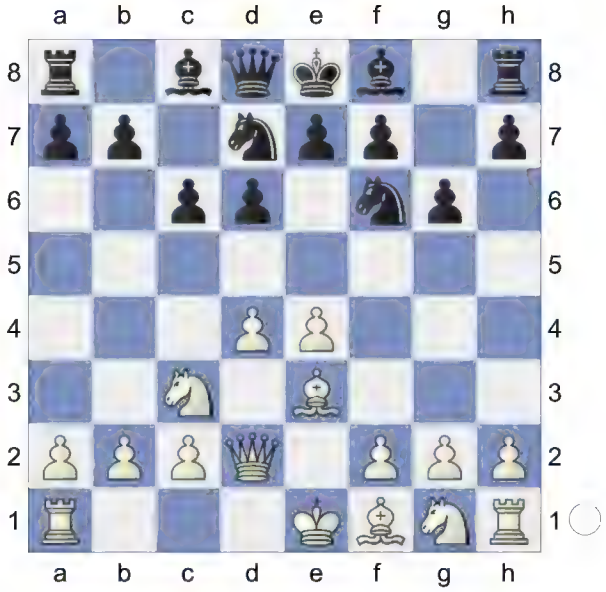
50.Rd8



1-0

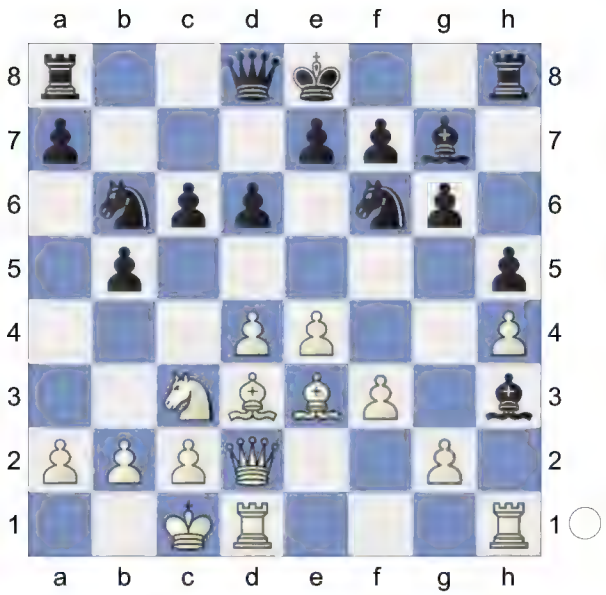
59 **B07**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2830**
Superbet POL Blitz 2024 (16.3) 12.05.24
[Kitty Kat]

B07: Pirc Defence: Miscellaneous Systems
I initially didn't include this line in the course because I've only gotten it over the board (OTB) against advanced players who know me and prepared beforehand. However, I figured it cannot hurt for you to get some exposure to it.
1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Be3 Nf6 5.Qd2 Nbd7N
[5...b5 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.0-0 Bg7 9.Bh6 0-0
A) 10.Ne2
A1) 10...c5 11.c3 Rb8 *(11...a6 12.Ng3 Re8 13.Rfe1 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 e5 15.Rad1 exd4 16.cxd4 Bb7 17.Ng5 c4 18.Bc2 Nf8 19.f4 Ng4 20.Qh4 h5 21.f5 Rad8 22.h3 Nf6 23.Rf1 N6h7 24.Nxh5 gxh5 25.Nxh7 Nxh7 26.f6* 1-0 (33) Kaufmann,W (2240)-Jameson,N (1890) corr playchess 2011*)* 12.Ng3 e5 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Qg5 Ng8 15.Nf5+ Kh8 16.Ne3 h6 17.Qg3 Ngf6 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.Nd5 Qd6 4.Be3-150 Atta Attack 5.Qd2 6.Bd3 - I Play the Power Pirc 2023;
A2) 10...a5 11.Ng3 e5 12.c3 a4 13.Nh4 Bxh6 14.Qxh6 Kh8 15.Nf3 Ng8 16.Qd2 Bb7 17.c4 bxc4 18.Bxc4 d5 19.Bd3 dxe4 20.Nxe4 f5 21.Neg5 e4 22.Ne6 Qd6 23.Nxf8 Rxf8 24.Be2 exf3 0-1 (56) 7.♘g5 e6 8.♘f3 ed5 71702 (2594)-Andrews,N (2538) 65/298 110692 1996;
B) 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.Ne2 *(11.a4 b4 12.Ne2 c5 13.dxc5 dxc5 14.c3 c4 15.Bb1 Nc5 16.e5 Nfd7 17.Ned4 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Qxe5 19.cxb4 Rd8 20.Nc6 Rxd2 21.Nxe5 Nb3 22.Be4 Rb8 23.Nc6 Nxa1 24.Nxb8 Nb3 25.Re1 Rxb2* (36) 2) Pirc vs. Opposite-Castle A-Example Santiago Casares Vs*)* 11...c5 12.c3 Rb8 13.b4 e6 14.Ng3 a6 15.Rfe1 Bb7 16.Rac1 Rbc8 17.bxc5 dxc5 18.e5 Ng8 19.Ng5 Qb6 20.Qf4 1-0 (29) Domont,A-Gallagher,J SUI-ch Silvaplana SUI 2003]



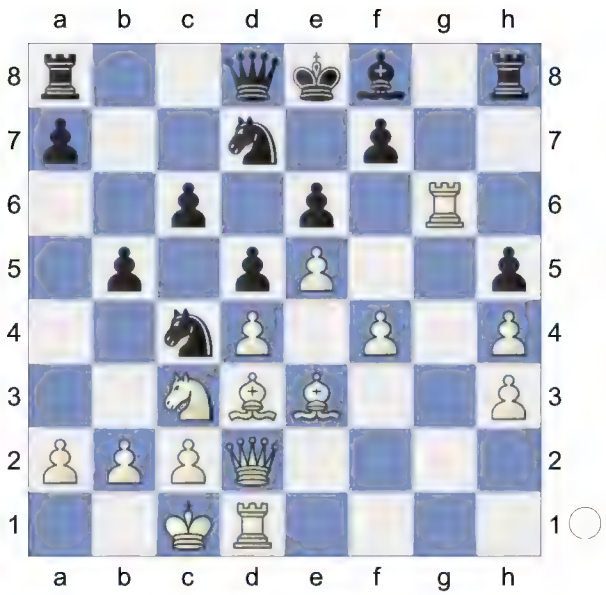
6.f3 b5 7.h4 Nb6 8.Bd3 h5 9.0-0-0 -0.09/20
[9.b3± 0.59/19]
9...Bg7 The position is equal. **10.Nh3 Bxh3** 0.46/19
[10...Qc7= 0.04/19]

(Diagram)



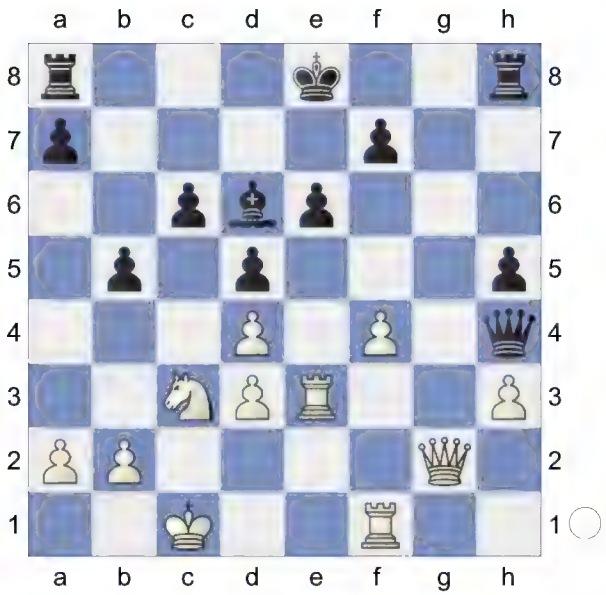
11.gxh3± e6 0.36/17
[11...Nc4!= -0.13/17 feels stronger. 12.Bxc4 bxc4]
12.f4 -0.21/20
[12.Qg2± 0.36/17]
12...d5!= 13.e5 Nfd7 14.Rhg1 Bf8 0.39/19
[14...Nc4∓ -0.56/19 15.Qf2 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Qxh4]
15.Rxg6!± Nc4 1.04/20
[15...fxg6 16.Bxg6+ Ke7 17.f5+-]
[15...Nxe5!= 0.17/19 16.dxe5 *(16.fxe5 fxg6 17.Bxg6+ Kd7±)* 16...fxg6]

(Diagram)



16.Qg2? -1.29/22
[16.Bxc4± 1.04/20 is necessary to keep the advantage. Bd3! is the strong threat. fxg6 17.Bd3]
16...Ndxe5∓
[16...fxg6 17.Qxg6+ *(17.Bxg6+ Ke7+-)* 17...Ke7 18.f5+-]
[16...Nxe3?! 17.Rxe6+ fxe6 18.Bg6+ Ke7 19.Qg5+=]
17.Rg3
[17.fxe5? Nxe3 *(17...fxg6 18.Qxg6+ Kd7 19.Bxc4=)* 18.Qg3 Nxd1-+]
17...Nxd3+ 18.cxd3 Nxe3 19.Rxe3 Qxh4 20.Rf1 Bd6

(Diagram)



21.Kb1 -1.78/19

[21.Qg7∓ -1.34/19 keeps fighting. Ke7 22.Qg3 Qxg3 23.Rxg3]

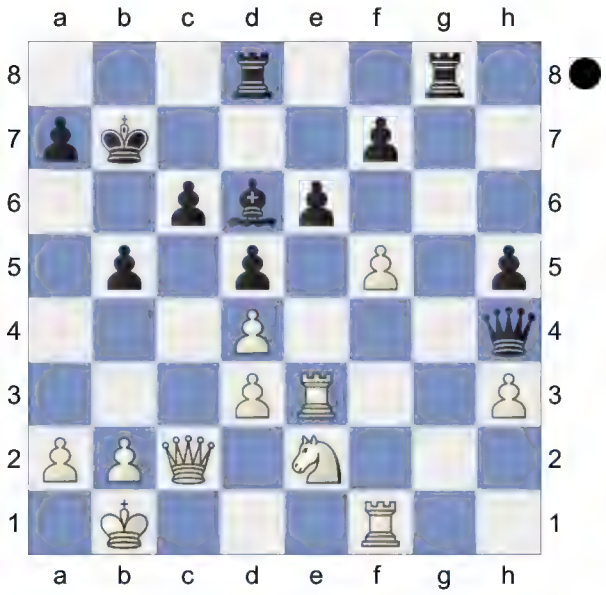
21...0-0-0

[21...Bxf4 22.Ref3 Qg5 23.Qc2+-]

22.Qc2 Kb7!

[22...Bxf4? 23.Nxb5 Kb8 *(23...Bxe3 24.Qxc6+ Kb8 25.Qc7+ Ka8 26.Qxa7#)* 24.Qxc6+-]

23.Ne2 Rhg8 24.f5

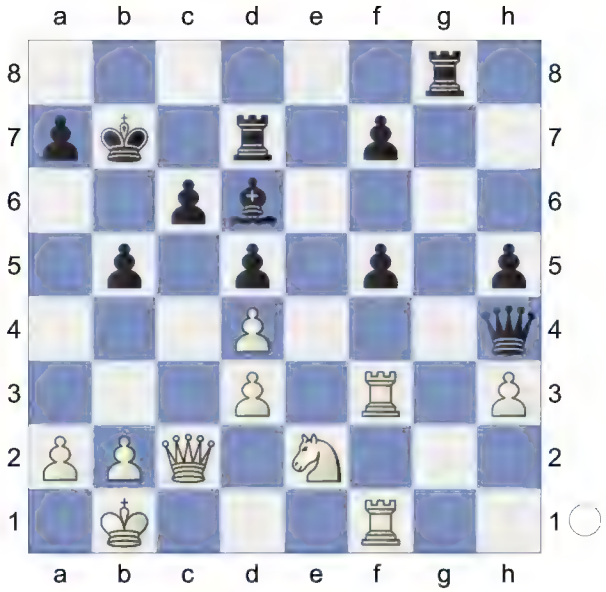


exf5 -1.06/20

[Black should try 24...Qf6!-+ -1.68/20 and ...Rg2 would now be decisive

25.Qd1 exf5]

25.Ref3 Rd7

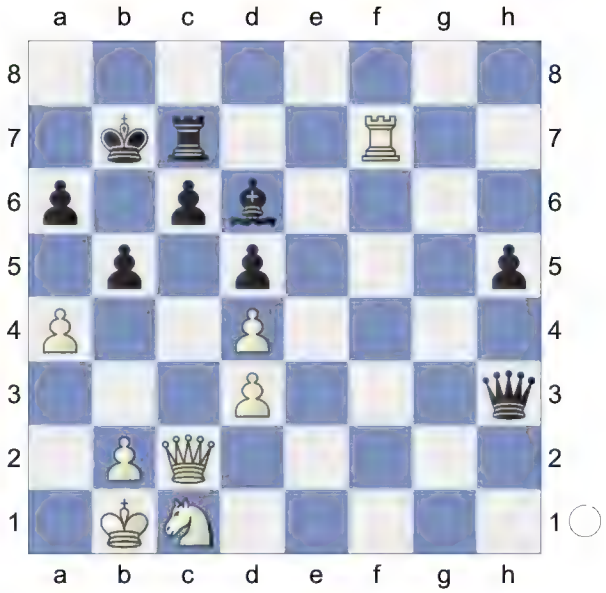


26.a4 a6 27.Rxf5 Qxh3 28.Rxf7 Rc8

Black is more active. **29.Nc1** -1.45/16

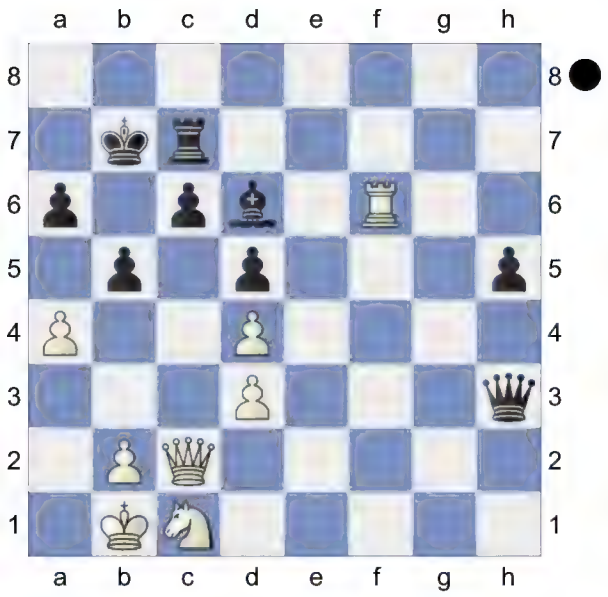
[⌓29.R7f6 -1.05/18]

29...Rxf7 30.Rxf7+ Rc7

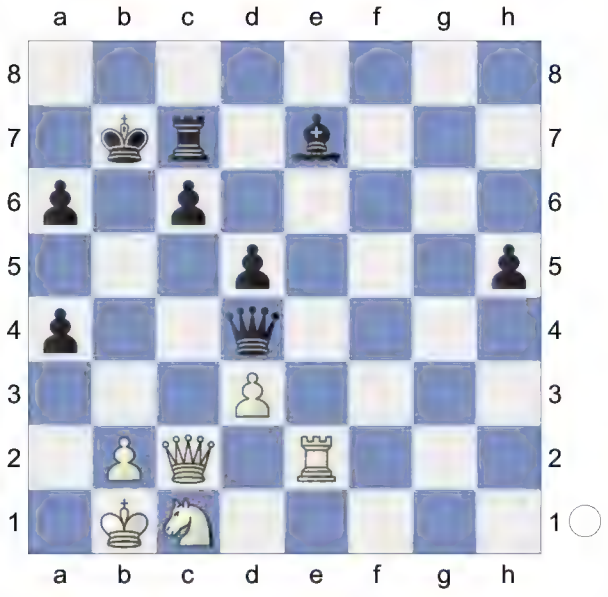


31.Rf6

(Diagram)

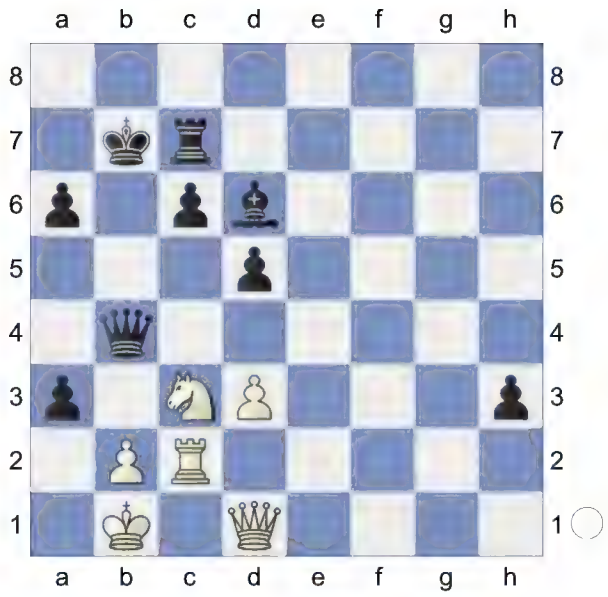


Be7 32.Rf2 -2.47/18
[⌓32.Rg6 -1.96/19]
32...Qe3-+ 33.Nb3 bxa4 34.Re2? -4.38/20
[34.Nc5+ -1.61/16 Bxc5 35.dxc5]
34...Qg1+ 35.Nc1 Qxd4

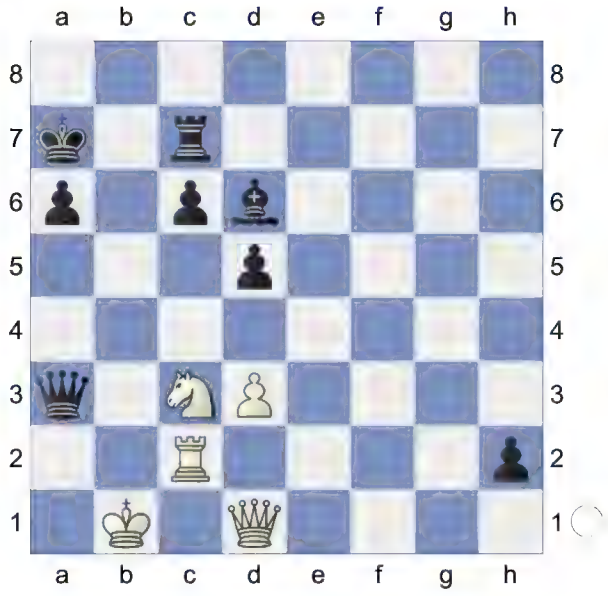


36.Rh2 h4 Black is clearly winning.
37.Ne2 Qb4 38.Nc3 a3 39.Qd1 -7.70/18
[⌓39.Qf2 -5.01/17]
39...Bd6 40.Rc2 h3

(Diagram)



41.Ka2 h2 42.bxa3 Qxa3+ 43.Kb1
Weighted Error Value: White=0.68/ Black=0.19 (very precise)
43...Ka7

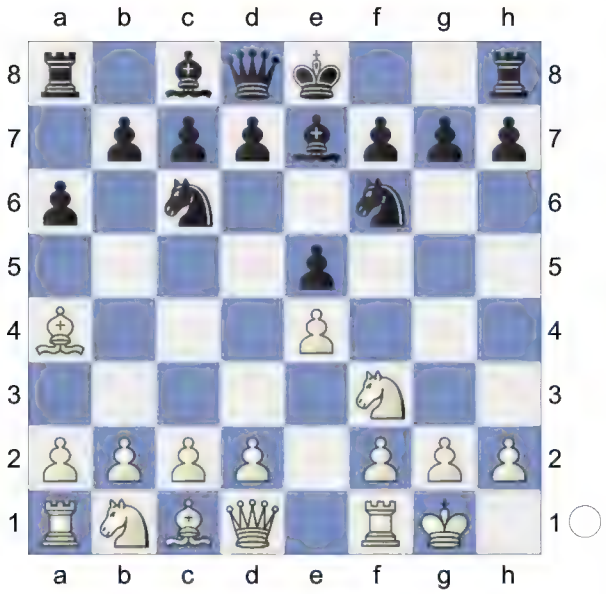


0-1

60 **C84**
□ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2747**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
Superbet POL Blitz 2024 (15.5) 12.05.24
[Kitty Kat]

C90: Closed Ruy Lopez with 7...d6: Early deviations

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7

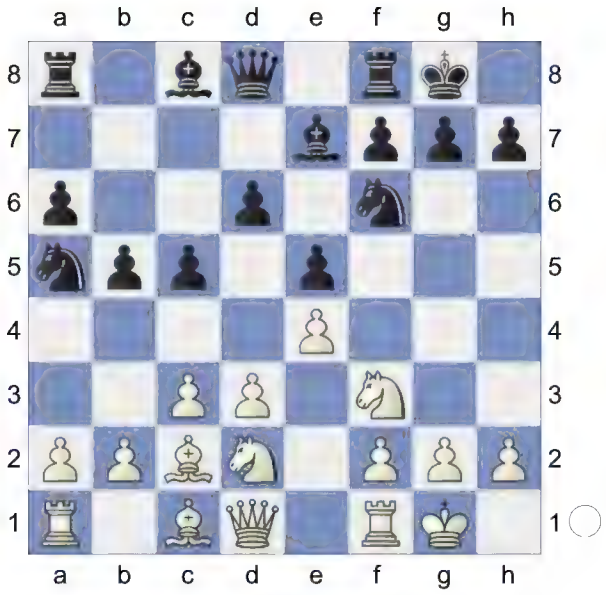


6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.Nbd2 Na5

[9...d5 10.Re1 dxe4 11.dxe4 Bb7 12.Qe2 h6 13.Rd1 Bd6 14.h3 Qe7 15.Nh4 Bc8 16.Nf1 Nh7 17.Nf3 Na5 18.Bd5 c6 19.Bb3 Nxb3 20.axb3 f5 21.Nh4 Qxh4 22.Rxd6 Bb7 23.Qd2 Qxe4 0-1 Nogueira,M-Bueno,M (1466) Florianopolis op 11th 2025 (3)]

10.Bc2 c5

(Diagram)



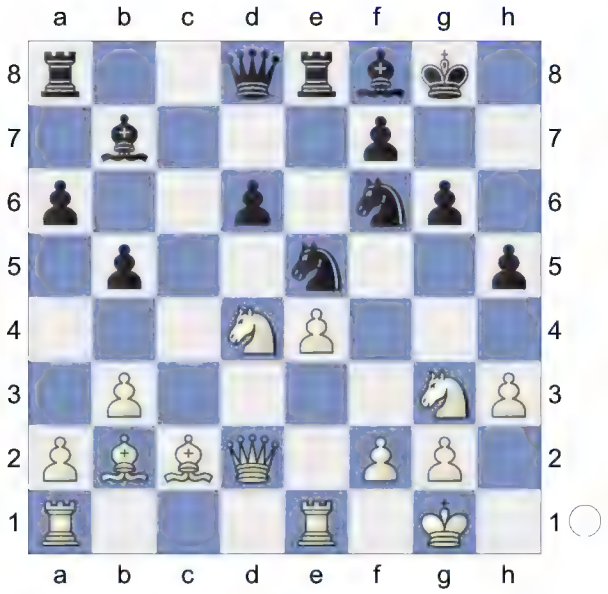
11.Re1N

[11.d4 Qc7 12.d5 Bd7 13.b3 g6 14.Re1 Nh5 15.Nf1 Nb7 16.Bh6 Ng7 17.a4 Rfb8 18.Qd2 Nd8 19.b4 f6 20.bxc5 dxc5 21.axb5 axb5 22.c4 b4 23.Qe2 Nf7 24.Be3 Rxa1 25.Rxa1 f5 ½-½ Carlsen,M (269 (2690)-Kramnik,V (2766) (blindfold) Monaco 2007 (9)]

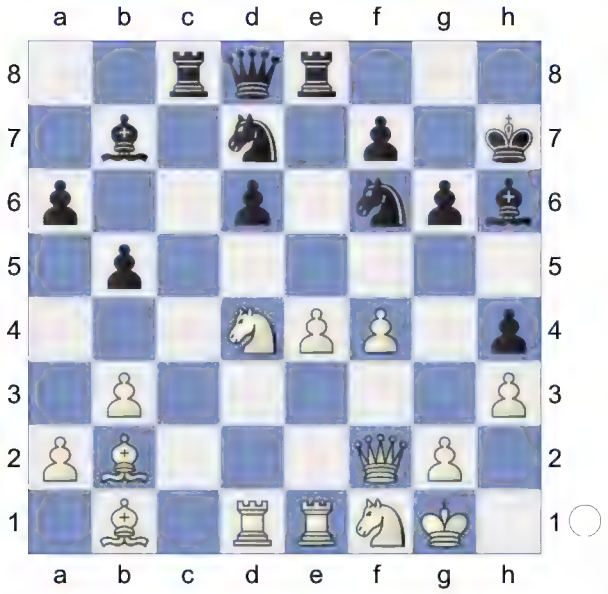
11...Re8 12.Nf1 h6 13.d4 cxd4 14.cxd4 exd4 15.Nxd4 Bf8

16.b3 Bb7 White is slightly better.
17.Ng3 Nc6 18.Bb2 Ne5 19.Qd2 h5

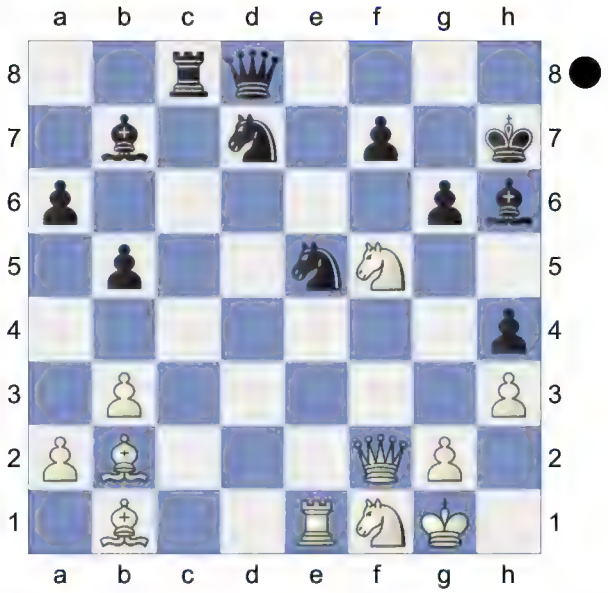
20.h3 0.00/22
[20.Rad1± 0.45/22]
20...g6 0.49/20
[20...h4= 0.00/22 was preferable. 21.Ngf5 d5]



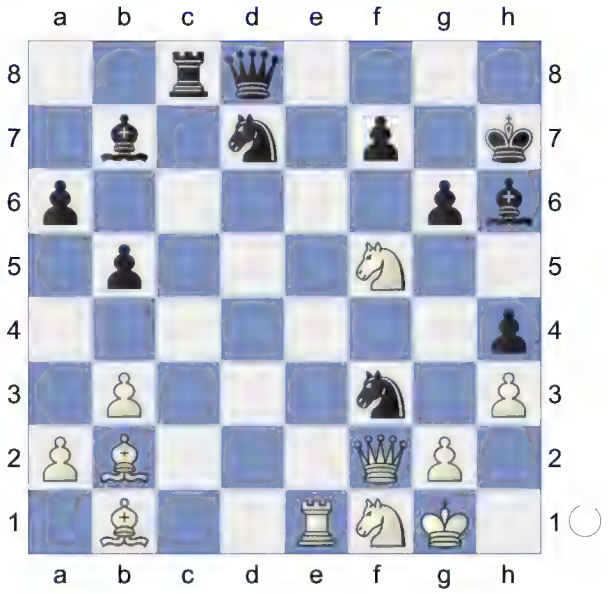
21.Rad1!± Rc8 22.Bb1 h4! 23.Nf1 Kh7? 2.04/22
[23...Bg7± 0.41/19]
24.f4+- Bh6 25.Qf2↑ Black is under strong pressure. **25...Ned7**



26.e5 0.71/19
[26.Qxh4 Nxe4 27.Qxd8 Rcxd8=]
[26.f5!+- 1.69/21 is more deadly.]
26...dxe5± 27.fxe5
[27.Nf5 keeps more tension. Bxf4 28.Qxh4+ Kg8 29.Nd6]
27...Rxe5 28.Rxe5 Nxe5 29.Re1 Nfd7 0.51/23
[29...Ned7!= -0.04/22]
30.Nf5±

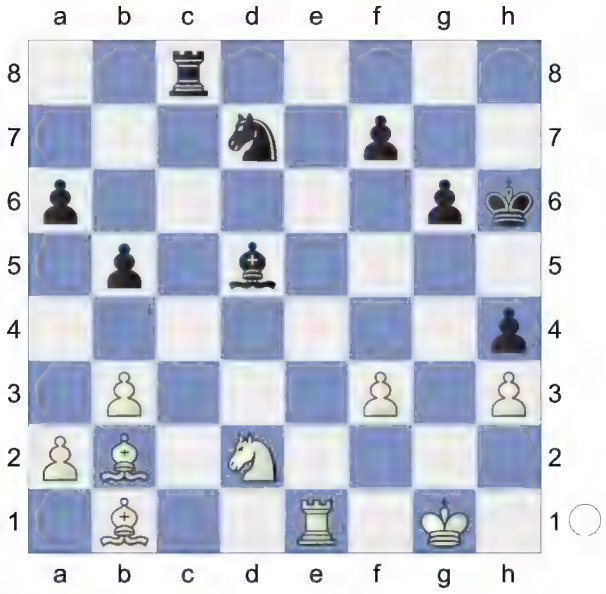


and Nxh6 should not be overlooked White stays focused until the end.
30...Nf3+? 2.22/20

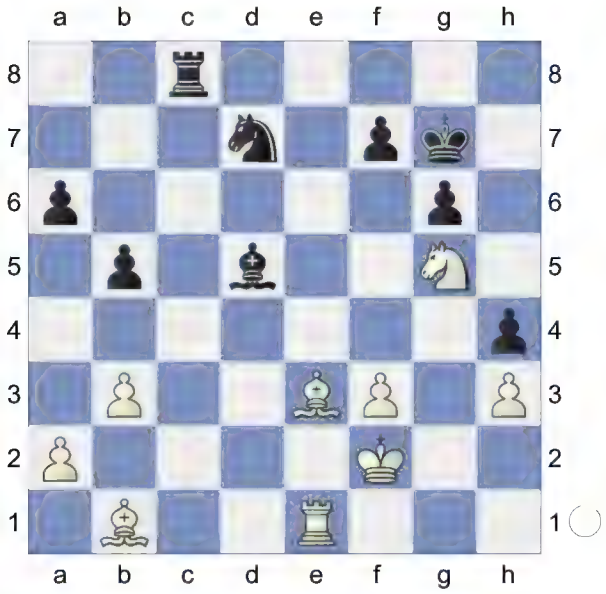


31.gxf3+- Qg5+ 32.Qg2 Qf4 5.19/21
[32...Qxg2+± 1.50/23 33.Kxg2 gxf5]

33.Nxh6 Kxh6 34.Qd2 Qxd2 35.Nxd2 Bd5

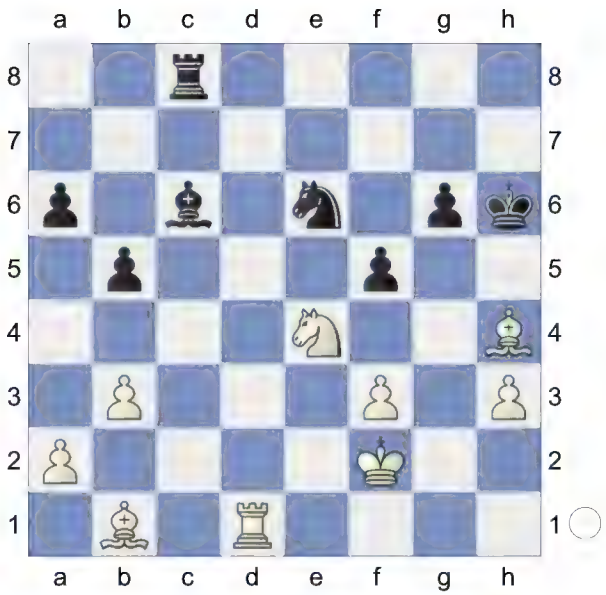


36.Kf2 Be6 37.Ne4 Nb6 38.Bc1+ Kg7 39.Ng5 Bd5 40.Be3 Nd7



41.Rd1 Bc6 42.Ne4 Nf8 43.Bd4+ Kh6 44.Bf6 Ne6 45.Bxh4 f5

(Diagram)

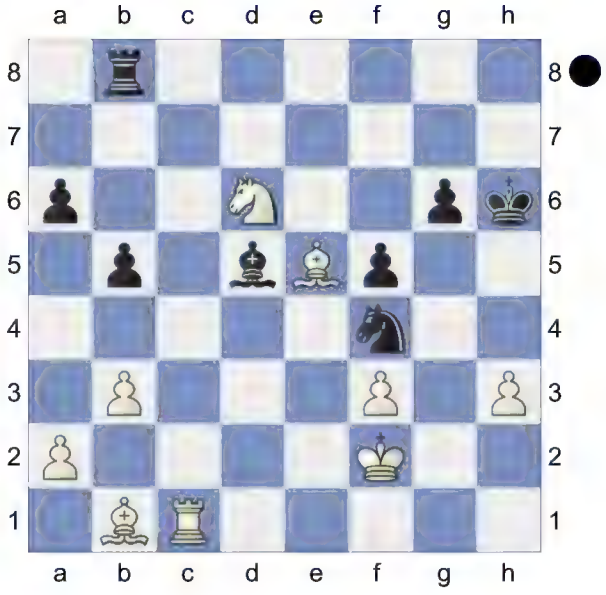


46.Nd6 White is clearly winning.

46...Rb8 47.Rc1 Bd5 48.Bf6 Nf4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.55

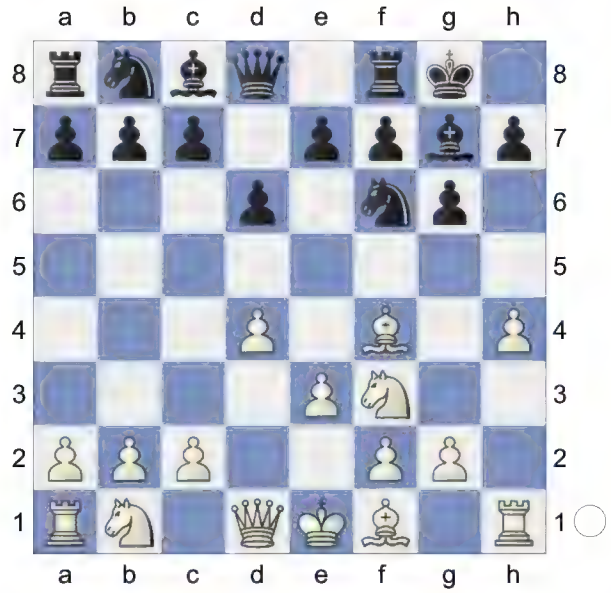
49.Be5



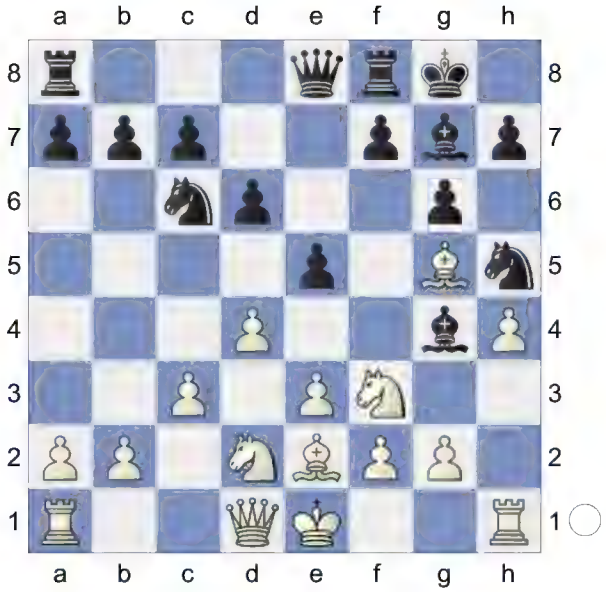
1-0

61 **A45**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2755**
Superbet POL Blitz 2024 (10.1) 12.05.24
[Kitty Kat]

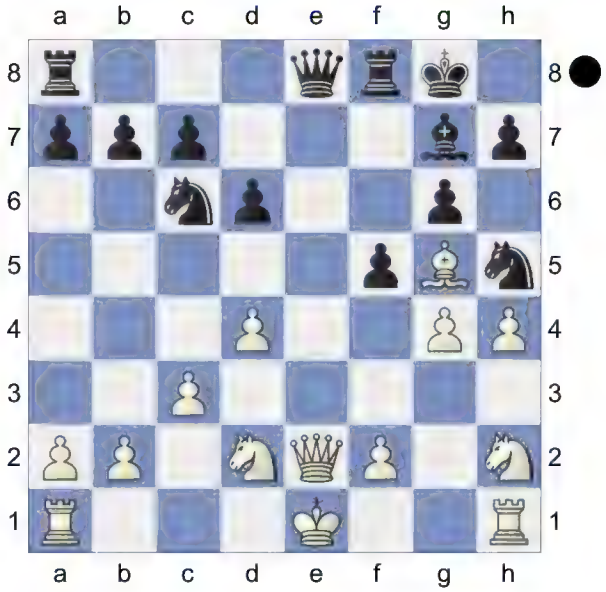
A48: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6: Torre, London and Colle Systems
A48: Est-indienne (sans c2-c4)
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0N
[4...c5 5.c3 Qb6 6.Qb3 Qxb3 7.axb3 d6 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Bxb8 Rxb8 10.Bb5+ Nd7 11.Rxa7 0-0 12.Nbd2 Nb6 13.Ke2 Be6 14.Nc4 Nc8 15.Raa1 Nd6 16.Nxd6 exd6 17.Bc4 d5 18.Bb5 h6 19.Ra7 0-1 (43) Dreev, A (2698)-Bologan,V (2669) Russie (coupe federation blitz) 2004 (10)]
5.h4 d6



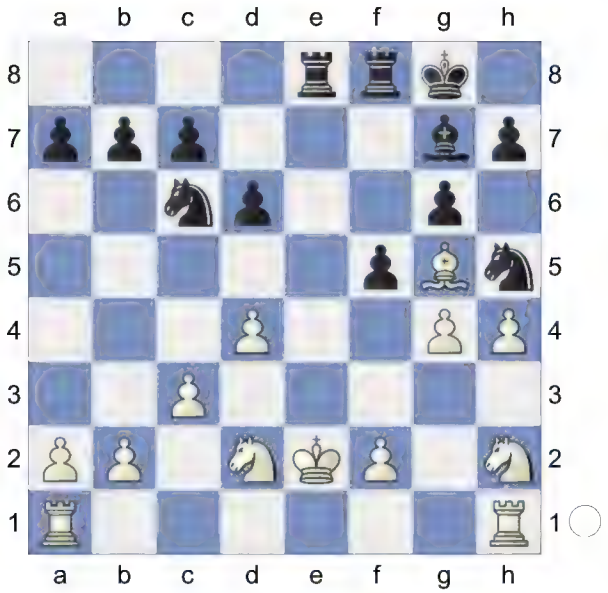
6.Nbd2 Nc6 7.c3 Qe8 8.Bc4
Black is slightly better. **8...e5 9.Bg5 Bg4** -0.34/21
[9...Nh5∓ -0.78/20 10.dxe5 dxe5]
10.Be2 -0.82/22
[10.Bxf6∓ -0.34/21 might be stronger. Bxf6 11.d5]
10...Nh5



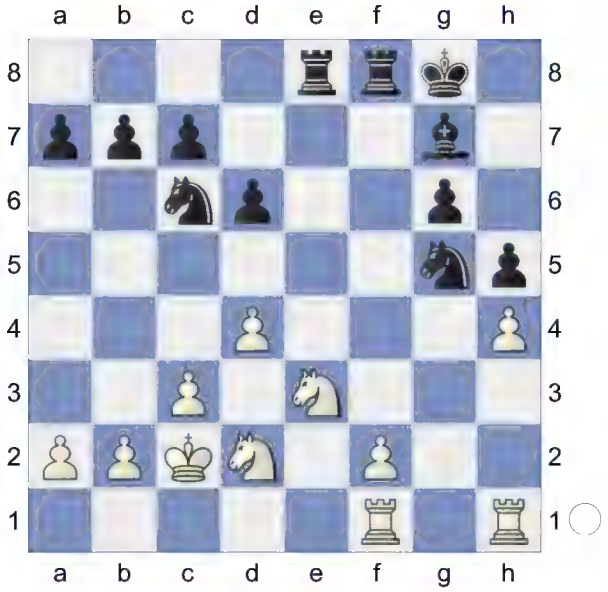
11.Nh2 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 exd4 13.exd4 f5
[13...f6 simplifies 14.Be3 f5 15.Ndf3 Na5]
14.g4 -1.84/23
[14.Nb3∓ -0.79/18]



14...Qxe2+ -0.76/5
[14...fxg4!-+ -1.84/23 Threatens to win with ...g3. 15.Rg1 Qf7]
15.Kxe2∓ Rae8+
(Diagram)

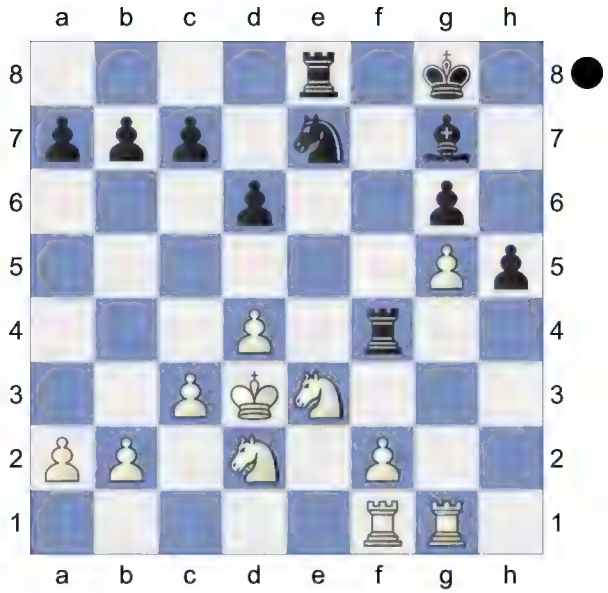


16.Kd3 fxg4 17.Nxg4 Nf4+ 18.Kc2 h5 19.Ne3 Ne6 Black is more active.
20.Raf1 Nxg5

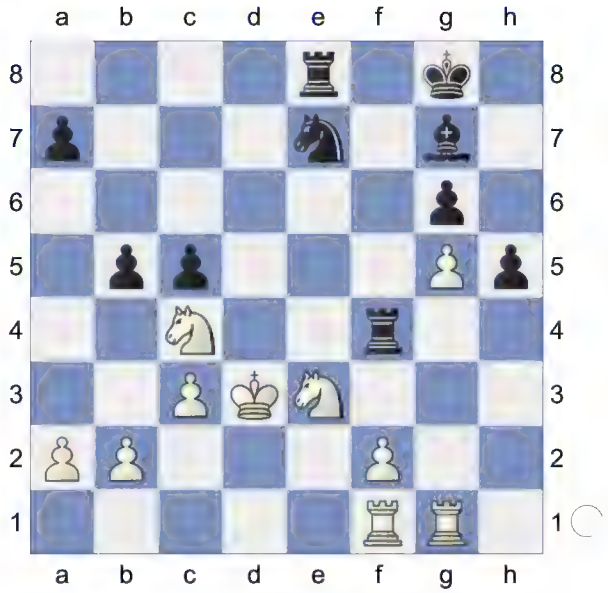


21.hxg5 Rf4 0.38/3
[21...Ne7= -0.16/18]
22.Rhg1 -0.60/5
[White should try 22.Nd5± 0.38/3 Rf5 *(22...Rf7 23.f4=)* 23.Ne3 *(23.Nxc7? Re7-+)* 23...Rxg5 24.Re1]
22...Ne7!↑ Black has the initiative.
23.Kd3

(Diagram)

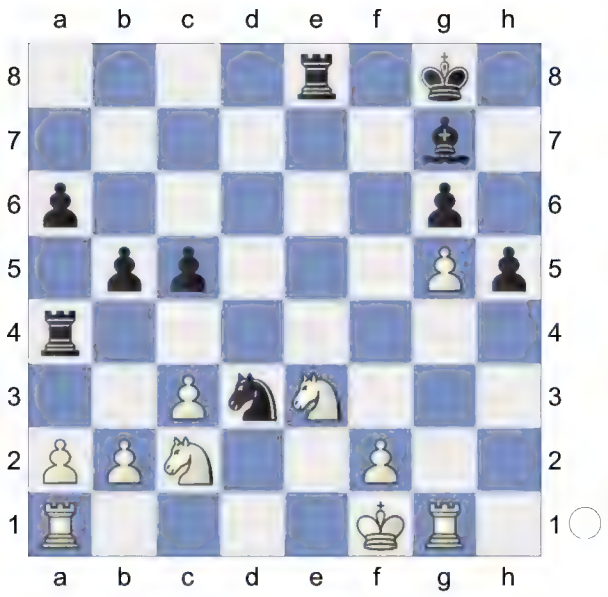


And now Ng2 would win. **23...c5**
24.dxc5 dxc5 25.Ndc4 -1.23/6
[25.f3∓ -0.51/10]
25...b5∓

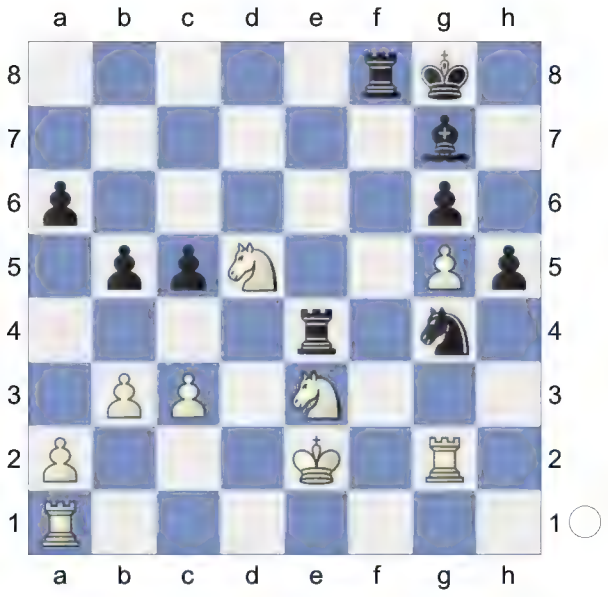


26.Na3 -1.92/14
[26.Nd2∓ -1.45/3 was necessary.]
26...a6 27.Ke2 Ra4 28.Ra1 -3.01/19
[⌓28.Kd3 -1.87/15]
28...Nd5 29.Nac2 Nf4+ 30.Kf1 Nd3

(Diagram)

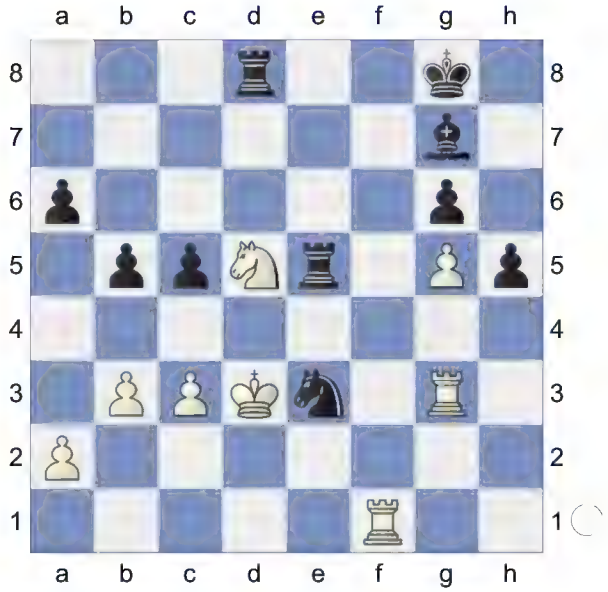


31.b3 Rf4 32.Rg2 Ref8
[But not 32...Bxc3 33.Rd1 Nb4 34.Nxb4 Bxb4 35.Nc2-+ *(35.Nd5? Rd4-+)*]
33.Ke2 Nxf2
[Worse is 33...Rxf2+ 34.Kxd3 c4+ 35.bxc4 bxc4+ 36.Ke4 *(36.Kxc4 Rc8+ 37.Kd5 Rxg2±)* 36...Rxg2 37.Nxg2±]
34.Nd5 Re4+ 35.Nce3 Ng4



36.Kd3 Re5 37.Rg3 Rd8 38.Rf1
-7.27/20
[⌓38.Kc2 -4.21/15]

Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.14 (very precise)
38...Nxe3



Remove Defender
0-1

62 **A07**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2830**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
Superbet POL Blitz 2024 (7.3) 11.05.24
[Kitty Kat]

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4
1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nc6 3.d4
[3.Bg2 e5 4.d3 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.c4 0-0 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.a3 Be6 9.b4 Bf6 10.Bb2 e4 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.dxe4 Ne3 13.fxe3 Qxa1 14.b5 Ne5 15.Qc2 Nc4 16.Qc1 Rad8 17.Kf2 Rd7 ½-½ (45) Hodgson,J (2570)-Short,N (2660) ENG-ch m England 1991 (1)]
3...Bf5 4.Nh4N
[4.Bg2 Nb4 5.Na3 e6 6.Nh4 Bg4 7.c3 Nc6 8.Qb3 Rb8 9.e4 dxe4

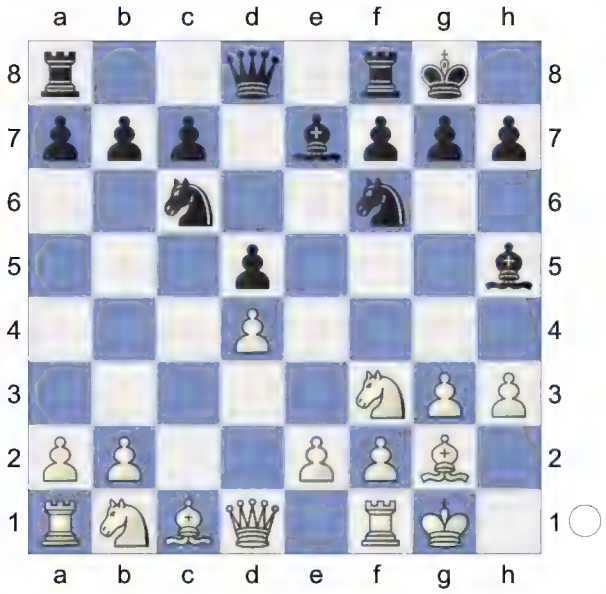
10.Bxe4 Be7 11.Nc4 Bxh4 12.gxh4 Nge7 13.Bg5 f6 14.Bd2 Bh5 15.Ne3 Qd7 16.Qb5 f5 17.Bg2 a6 18.Qb3 f4 0-1 (36) Iermito,S (2517)-Godena,M (2419) 83rd ch-ITA 2024 (10.4)]

4...Bg4 5.Bg2 e6

6.0-0 -0.04/19

[6.c4± 0.34/20]

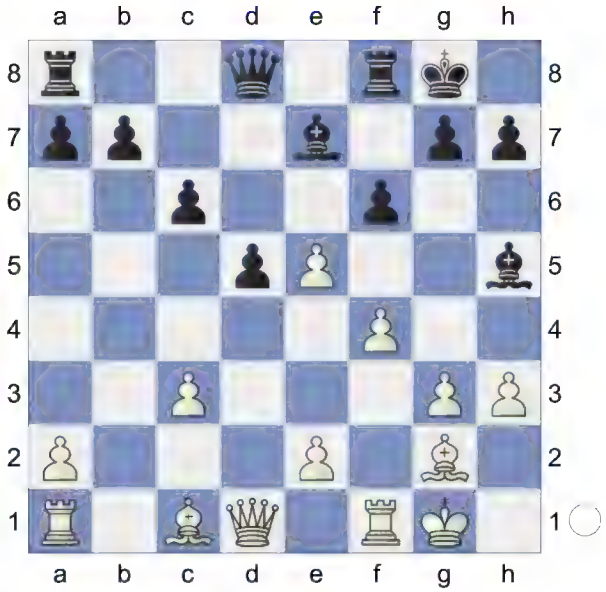
6...Be7= 7.h3 Bh5 8.Nf3 The position is equal. **8...Nf6 9.c4 0-0 10.cxd5 exd5**



11.Nc3 Ne4 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nxc3 14.bxc3 c6 15.f4 -0.75/19

[15.g4!± 0.52/19 Bg6 16.Qb3]

15...f6∓



16.g4 Bf7 17.exf6 Bc5+

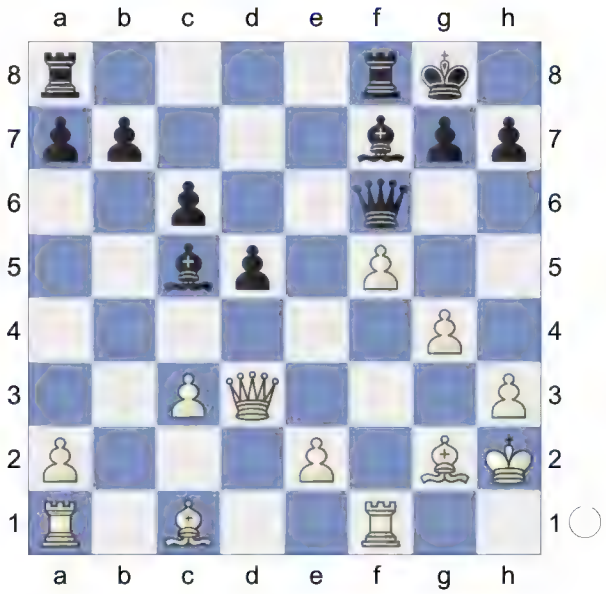
[17...Bxf6 18.Qd3∓]

[17...gxf6?! 18.Be3=]

18.Kh2 Qxf6 19.Qd3 Bg6 -0.46/20

[19...Rfe8∓ -1.35/18 20.Bd2 a6]

20.f5∓ Bf7



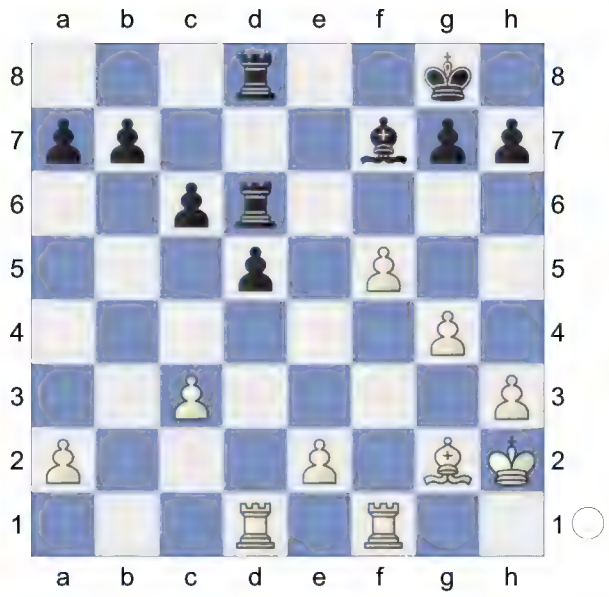
21.Bf4 Bd6 0.00/19

[21...h6∓ -0.40/22]

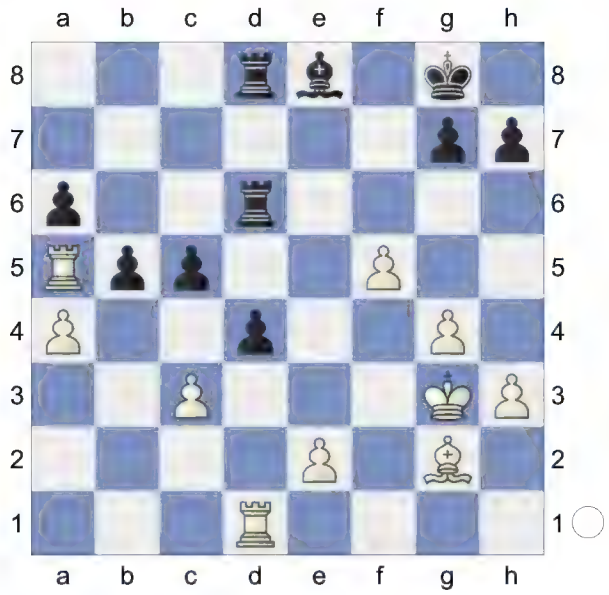
22.Bxd6 Qxd6+ 23.Qg3 Rad8 0.19/19

[⌓23...Qe7 -0.21/21]

24.Qxd6= Rxd6 25.Rad1 Rfd8

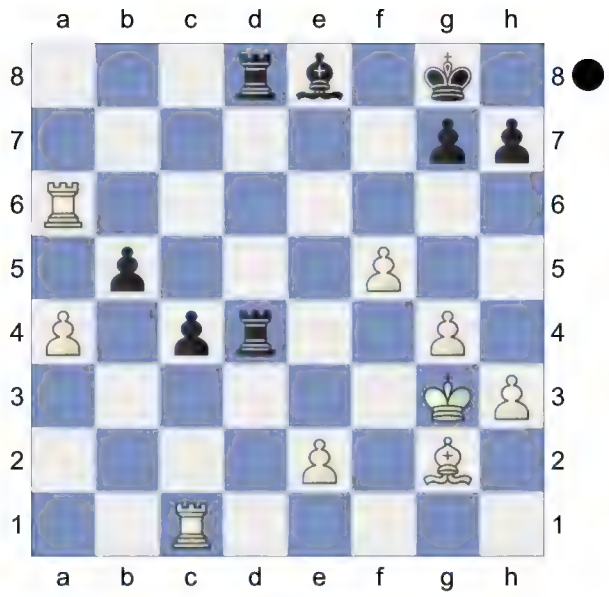


26.Rf4 c5 27.Ra4 a6 28.Ra5 b5 29.a4 Be8 30.Kg3 d4

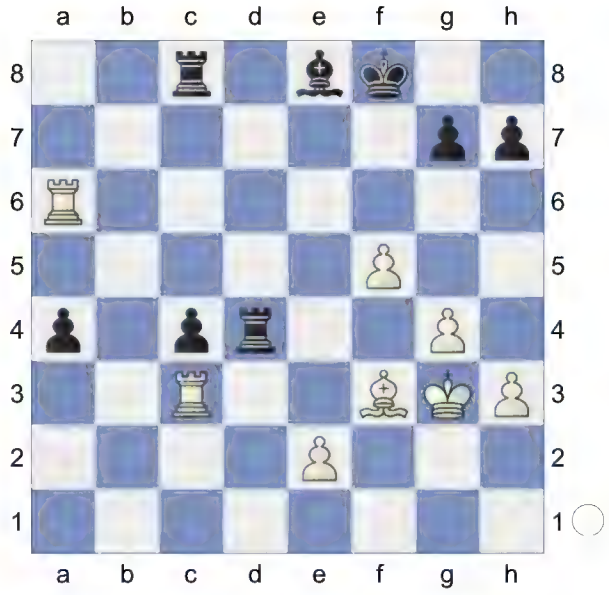


31.cxd4 Rxd4 32.Rc1 c4 33.Rxa6

(Diagram)

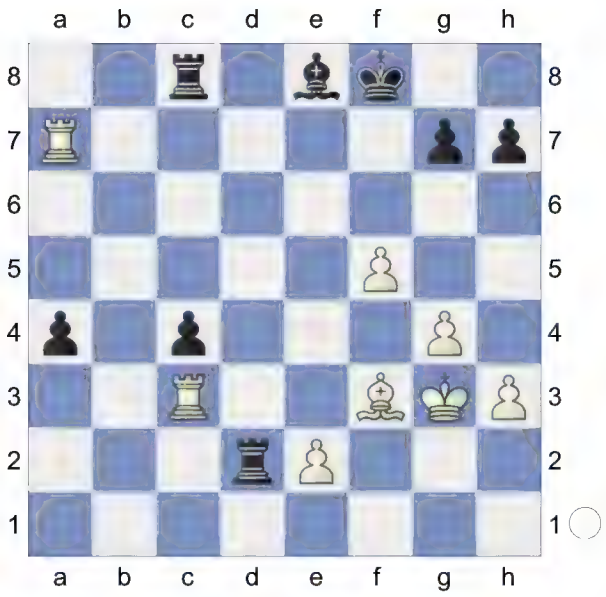


bxa4 34.Bf3 Rc8 35.Rc3 Kf8

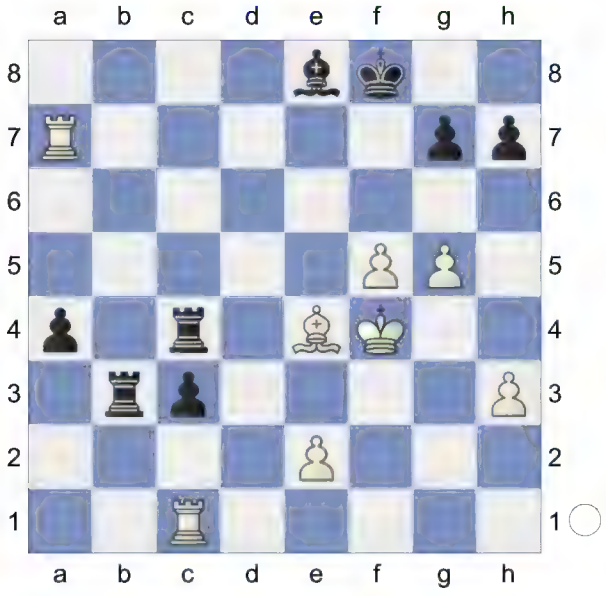


36.Ra7 Rd2 0.79/20
[36...Rb8= 0.09/20]

(Diagram)

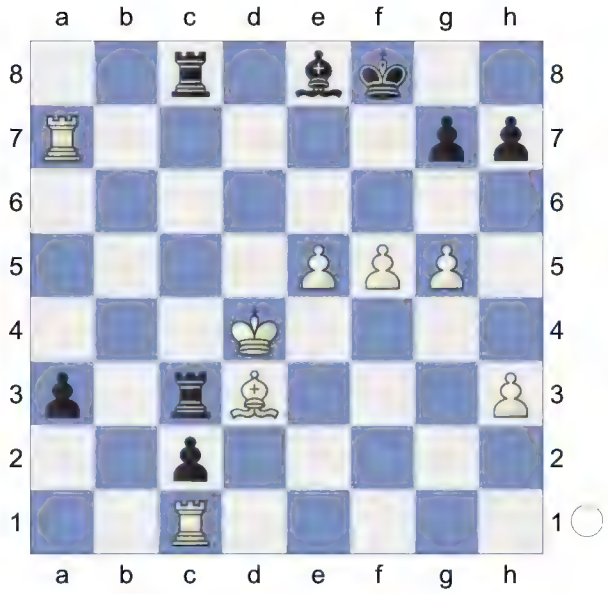


37.Kf4 0.12/19
[37.Kf2!± 0.79/20]
37...Rb2! **38.g5** **Rb3** **39.Rc1** next Bd5 is good for White. **39...c3** **40.Be4** -0.12/22 Wards off c2
[40.Bd5 0.24/22 is more appropriate.]
40...Rc4



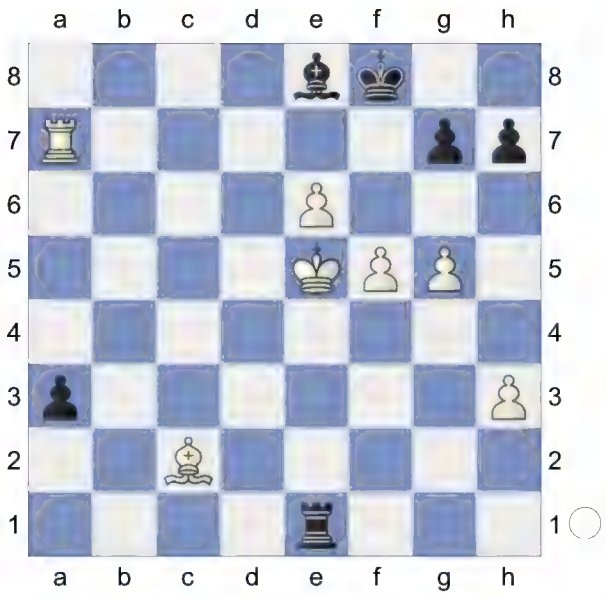
White must now prevent ...Bc6. **41.Ke3↑** White is more active. **41...c2+** **42.Bd3** **Rc5** 0.88/19
[42...a3= 0.06/22]
43.Kd4 0.05/19
[White should try 43.Kd2± 0.88/19]

43...Rbc3 **44.e4** **a3** **45.e5** Dancing on a razor blade. **45...Rc8** 1.15/19
[45...Rc7= 0.00/18 keeps the balance. 46.Ra5 *(46.Rxc7 Rxc7 47.Bc4 Ba4=)* 46...Rb3]



46.e6± **R3c6** 1.96/19
[46...a2± 1.15/19 was called for.]
47.Be4? 0.14/18
[47.Rxa3+- 1.96/19 Threatens to win with h4. Bh5 48.Ke5]
47...Rd6+= **48.Ke5** 0.55/17
[White must play 48.Ke3+- 1.69/19 Rc3+ 49.Kf4]
48...Rd1? 4.83/17
[48...Rd2± 0.55/17]
49.Rxc2+- White is clearly winning.
49...Rxc2 13.65/21
[⌓49...Rb8 4.31/18 50.Rxa3 Rb5+ 51.Kf4 Rf1+ 52.Rf3 Re1]
50.Bxc2 White threatens e7+ and mate.
50...Re1+

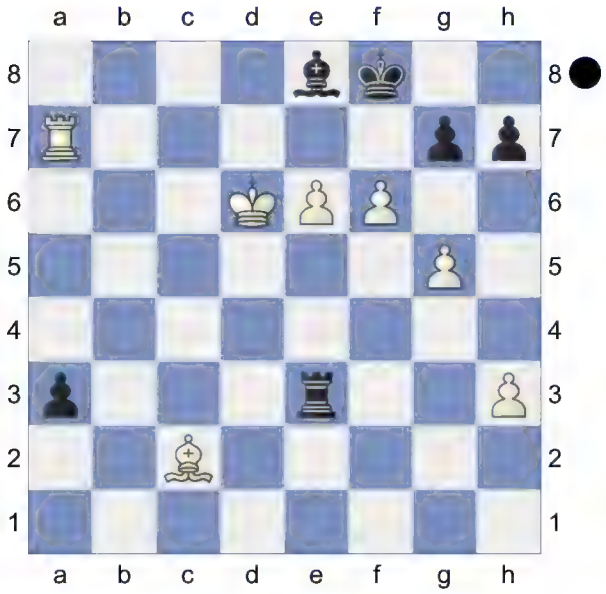
(Diagram)



51.Kd6 Re3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.37

52.f6



1-0

63 **B22**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**

■ **Wei,Yi** **2755**

Superbet POL Rapid 2024 (8.3) 10.05.24

[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3

Black uses an unusual move order to throw his opponent on his own resources. White still manages to fight for an edge, but when he overlooks a tactic the initiative passes to Black. **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bc4 Nb6**

6.e6

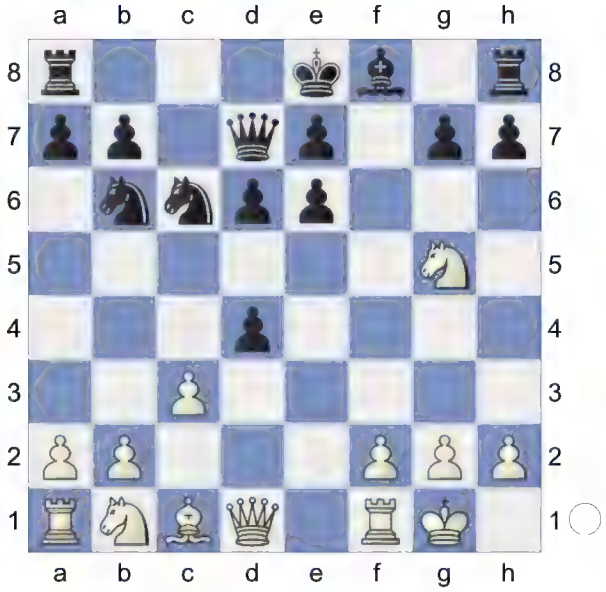
[6.Bb3 d5 *(6...Nc6 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.0-0 Be6 9.Bxe6 Qxe6 10.a4 Rd8 11.a5 Nd5 12.a6 b5 13.d4 cxd4 14.cxd4 b4 15.Re1 Qd7 16.Nbd2 Nb6 17.Nb3 e6 18.Bg5 Be7 19.Nc5 Qd5 20.Bxe7 Kxe7 21.Rc1* 1-0 (37) Ding,Y (2422)-Lu,M (2176) CHN-chT DivA 2023 (2.2)) 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nc6 9.Bf4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 e6 11.h4 Bd7 12.h5 Rc8 13.Nd2 Bc5 14.Qd3 f5 15.Be3 0-0 16.f4 Bb5 17.Qxb5 Bxe3 18.g3 Bxd2+ 19.Kxd2 Nc4+ 20.Kc2 Rf7 0-1 (35) Howell,D

(2614)-Miroshnichenko,E (2696) 37th Greek Teams 2009 (9)]

6...Bxe6N

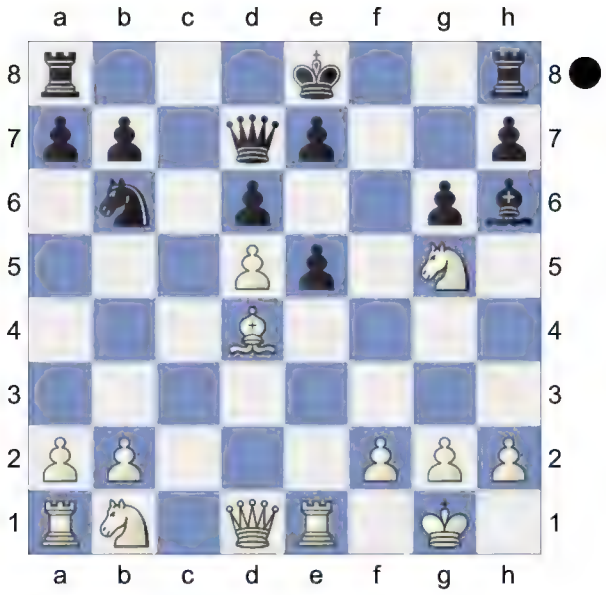
[6...Nxc4 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.exf7+ Kxf7 9.Qxc4+ d5 10.Qf4+ Kg8 11.d4 e6 12.0-0 Bd6 13.Qe3 Qe7 14.Na3 cxd4 15.cxd4 a6 16.Re1 Bd7 17.Nc2 Rf8 18.b3 Rf5 19.a4 Qf6 20.Ba3 Bb8 21.Rad1 0-1 (33) Grandelius,N (2647)-Antipov,M (2588) 135/48 Stockholm 2018 h5 22.Nb4 Rh6 23.Nxc6 Bxc6 24.Rd3 Rg6 25.Qe2 Rf4 26.Re3 Re4 27.Bb2 Bf4 28.Rxe4 dxe4 29.Ne5 Qh4 30.g3 Bxe5 31.dxe5 e3 32.Bc1 Rxg3+ 33.fxg3 Qe4 Chapter B00-Games Chapter B00 Game 14]

7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.d4 White is slightly better. **8...cxd4 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Ng5 Qd7**



11.cxd4 g6 12.Re1 e5 13.d5 Nd4 14.Be3 Bh6 15.Bxd4

(Diagram)

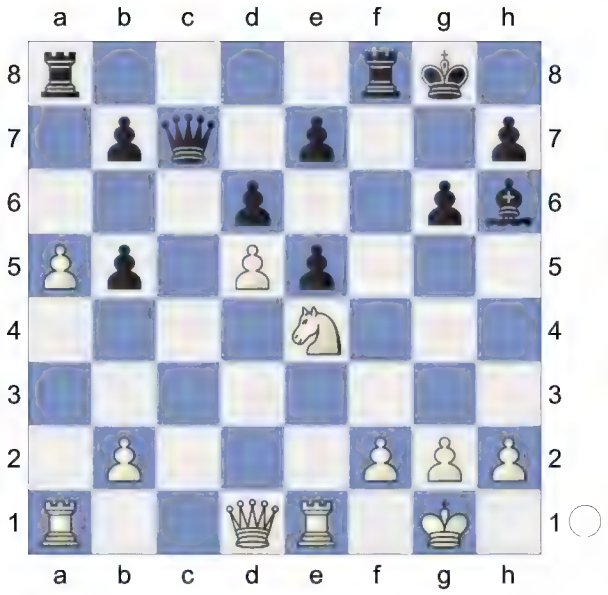


aiming for Be3. **15...Bxg5**

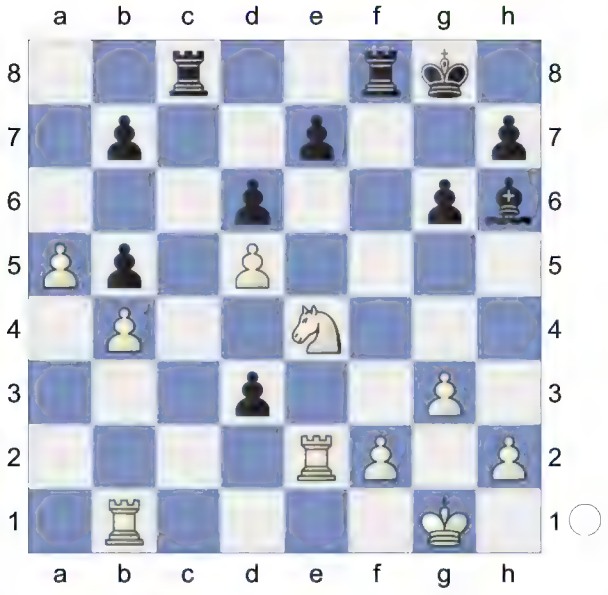
16.Bxb6 axb6 17.Nc3 Prevents Ra4 **17...0-0 18.Ne4 Bh6 19.a4** -0.91/21 [19.Nc3= -0.26/17 keeps the balance.]

19...b5∓ 20.a5 Qc7

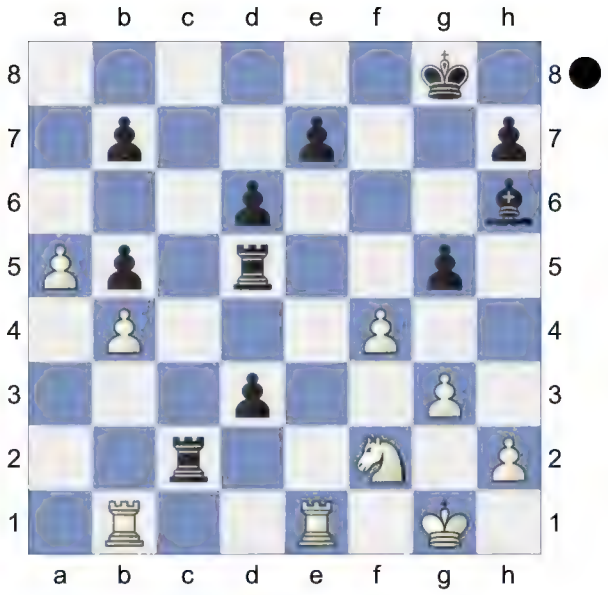
(Diagram)



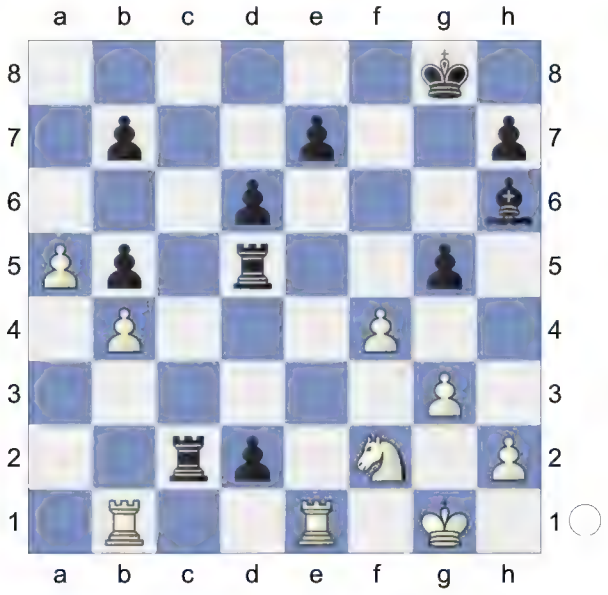
21.b4 Qc4 22.Rb1 -1.26/21
[⩲22.g3 -0.79/19]
22...Rac8 Black is more active. **23.Re2** -1.93/22
[23.Qg4∓ -0.98/20]
23...Qd4-+ 24.Qxd4 exd4 25.g3 -3.15/22
[25.Rd1 -2.05/21 keeps fighting.]
25...d3



26.Ree1 Rf5 27.f4 Rxd5 28.Rec1 Rc2 29.Nf2 g5 30.Re1? -7.15/23
[30.Rd1 -3.59/21]



30...d2

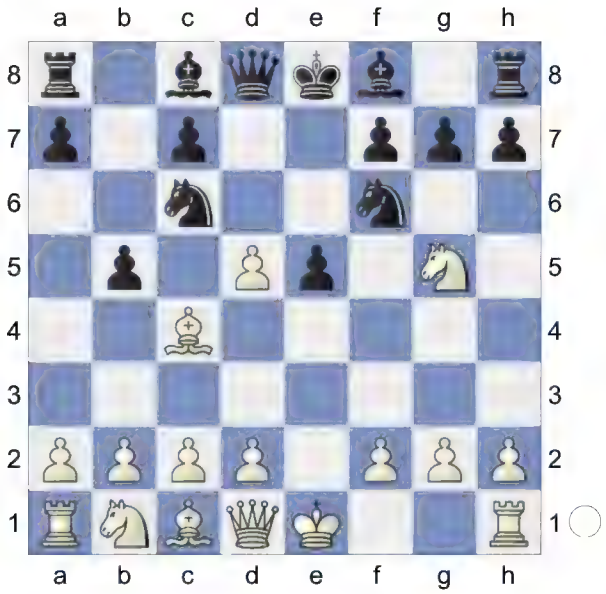


Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.05 (flawless)
0-1

64 **C57**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2830**
Superbet POL Rapid 2024 (6.4) 09.05.24
[Kitty Kat]

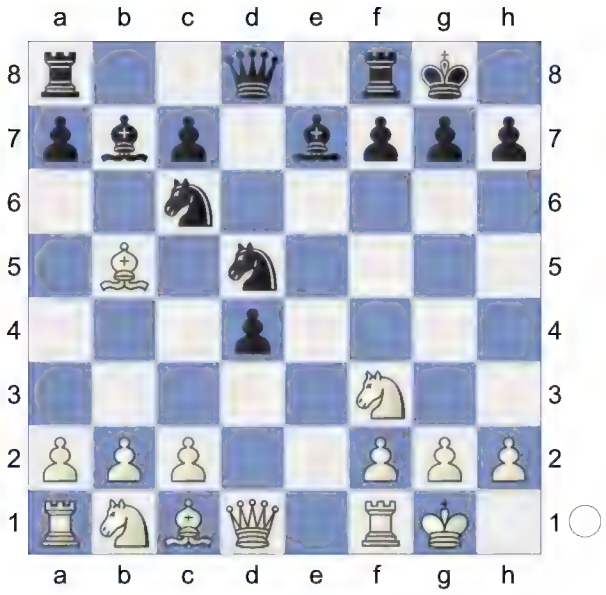
C57: Two Knights: Wilkes-Barre/Traxler and 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5, unusual Black 5th moves

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 b5

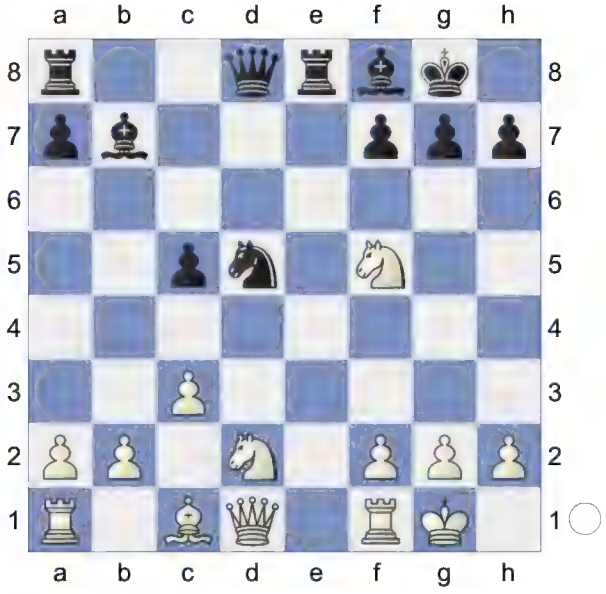


6.Bf1 Nxd5 7.Bxb5 Bb7 8.d4! exd4 9.0-0! Black must now prevent Qd1-f3! White is slightly better. **9...Be7! 10.Nf3** 0.15/19 White is more active.
[10.Qh5± 0.89/18 g6 11.Qh6]
10...0-0=

(Diagram)

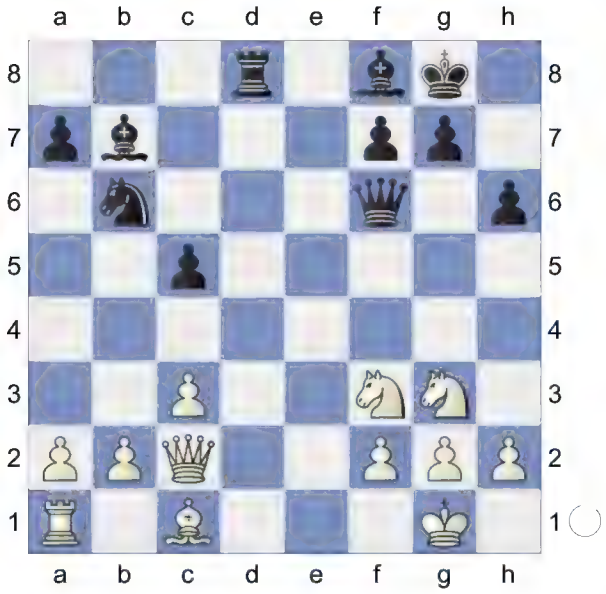


11.Bxc6
[11.Nxd4 looks sharper. Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Bd6 13.Rd1]
11...Bxc6 12.Nxd4 Bb7 13.Nd2 -0.49/20
[13.Nf5= 0.13/17]
13...Re8 ...Nd5-f4 is the strong threat. Black has compensation.
[13...Nf4!? 14.N2f3 Bd6= *(14...Nxg2 15.Nf5∓)*]
14.c3 c5 15.Nf5 Bf8!

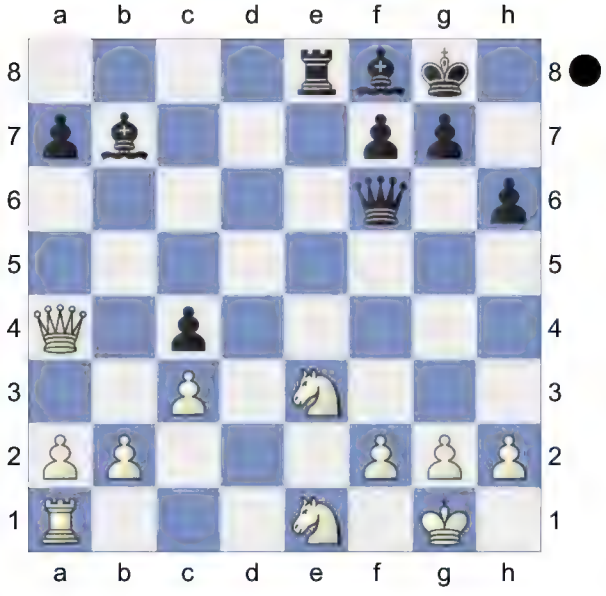


16.Nf3 -1.14/20
[16.Qg4!∓ -0.52/19 g6 17.Ng3]

16...Qf6!∓ 17.Ng3 h6 -0.32/20
[17...Nb6∓ -1.02/21]
18.Qc2 -1.03/20
[White should play 18.Re1∓ -0.32/20]
18...Rad8 -0.31/21
[18...Ne7!∓ -1.03/20 19.Nh5 Qa6]
19.Rd1∓ Nb6 20.Rxd8 Rxd8

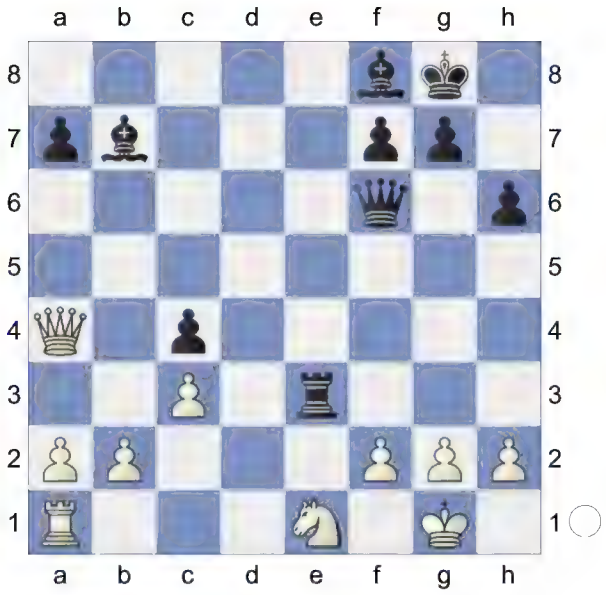


21.Ne1 Re8 22.Be3 Nc4 23.Nf1 Nxe3 0.01/21
[23...a5∓ -0.41/19]
24.Nxe3= c4 25.Qa4

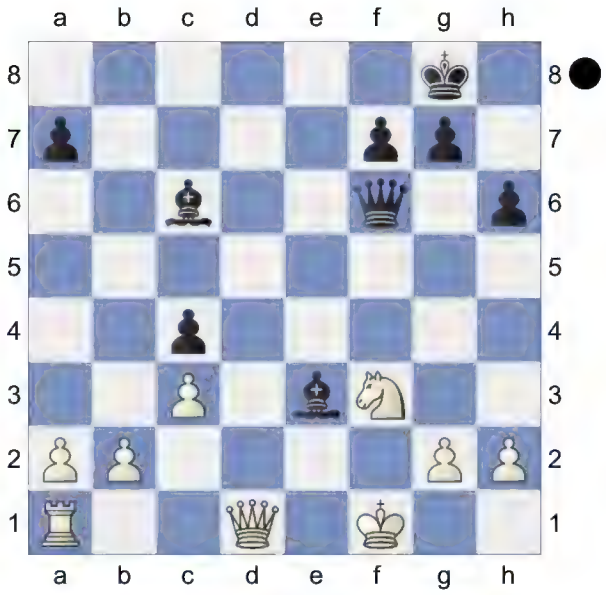


Rxe3

(Diagram)

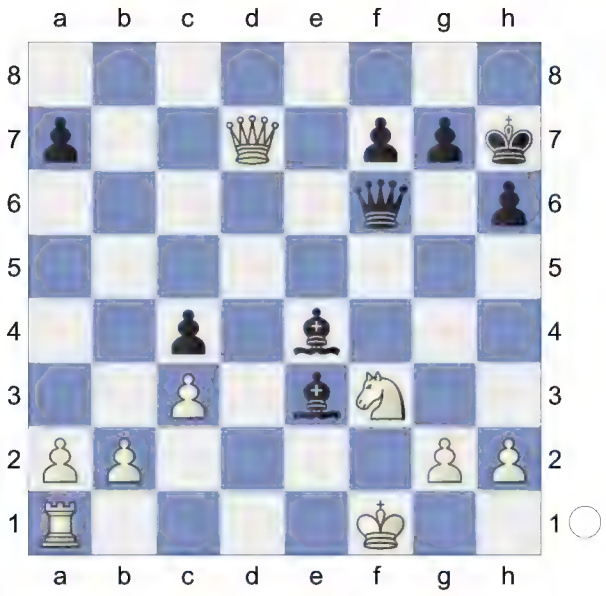


26.fxe3 Bc5 27.Nf3? -3.96/26
[27.Qxc4? too greedy. Ba6-+]
[27.Qe8+= -0.01/28 and White stays safe. Kh7 28.Nf3 Bxf3 29.gxf3 Qxf3 30.Re1]
27...Bxe3+-+ 28.Kf1 Bc6 29.Qd1
[29.Qxc4? Bxf3 30.Ke1 Bh5-+ *(30...Bxg2? 31.Qe2-+; 30...Bxg2? 31.Qe2-+)*]

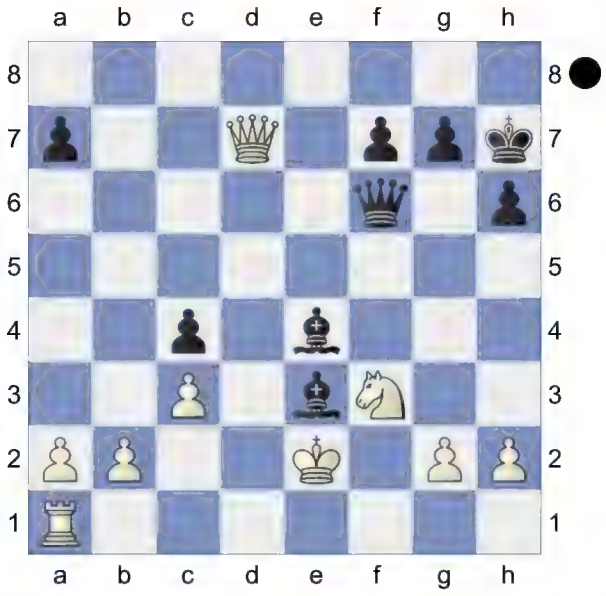


29...Be4! 30.Qd7 And now Qd7-e8+ would win. **30...Kh7** -0.63/23
[30...Bd3+-+ -2.06/23 31.Ke1 Qb6

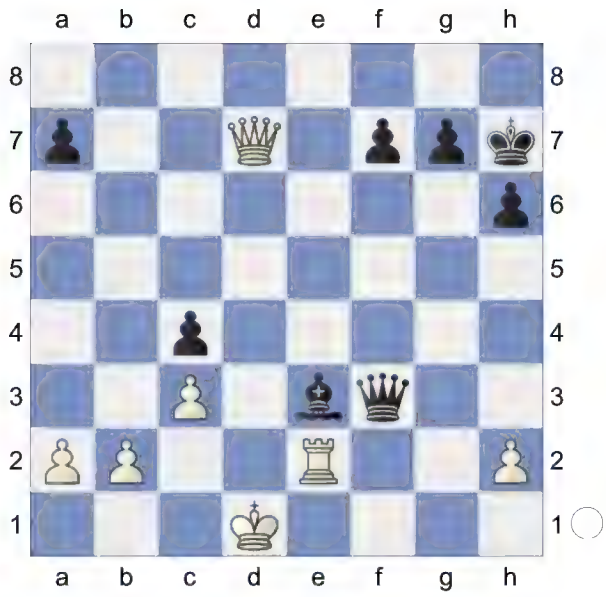
32.Qe8+ Kh7]



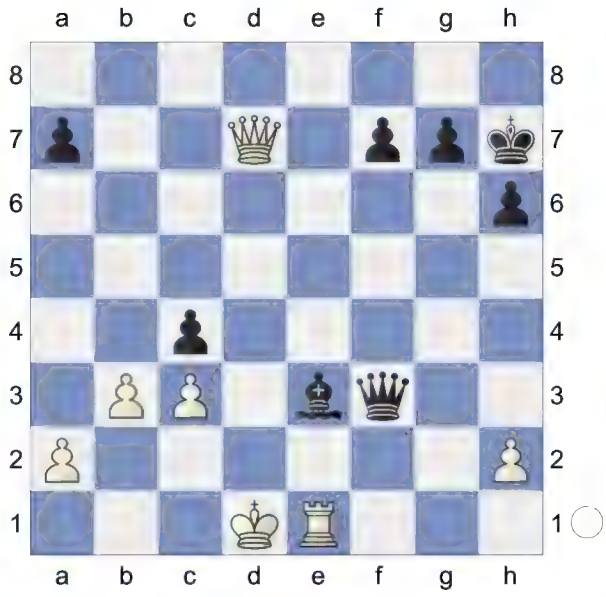
31.Ke2!∓



Bb6 0.01/23 This pair of bishops is nice.
[Better is 31...Bc5!∓ -0.86/24 aiming for ...Be4-d3+. 32.Re1 Qb6]
32.Re1!= The position is equal.
32...Qg6!⇄ Black has counterplay
33.Kd1 Qxg2
[33...Bf2 simplifies 34.Rxe4 Qxe4 35.Nd2 Qxg2 36.Qxf7 Qxh2 37.Qf5+ Kh8]
34.Rxe4 Qxf3+ KQR-KQB **35.Re2 Be3**



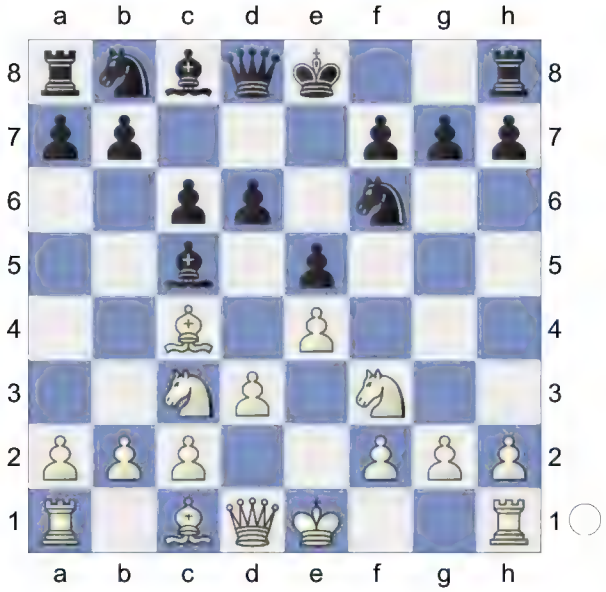
Prevents Qd7-d2. **36.b3 Qf1+ 37.Re1 Qf3+ 38.Re2 Qf1+ 39.Re1 Qf3+**



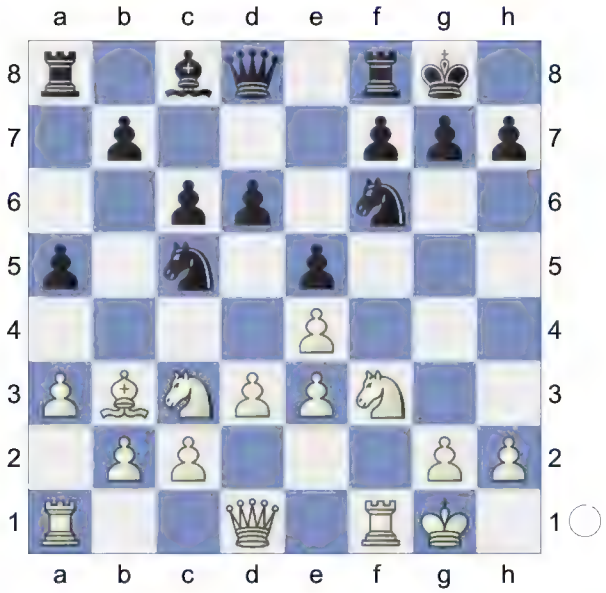
Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
½-½

65 **C26**
□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2766**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2764**
Superbet POL Rapid 2024 (2.3) 08.05.24
[Kitty Kat]

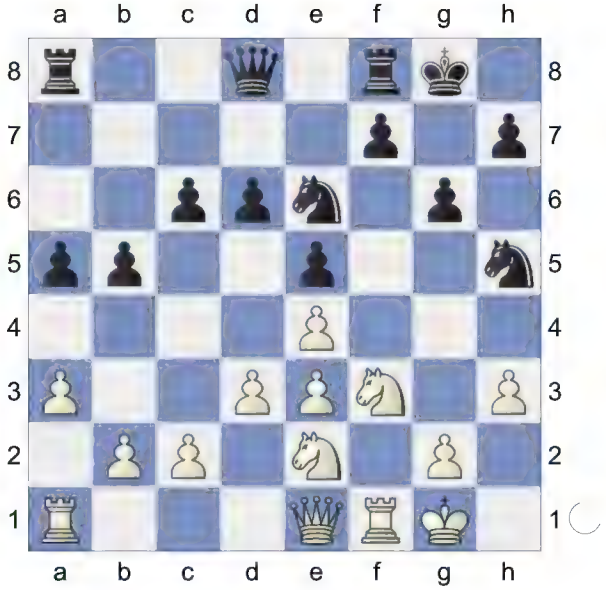
C27: Vienna Game: 2... Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.d3 c6 5.Nf3 d6



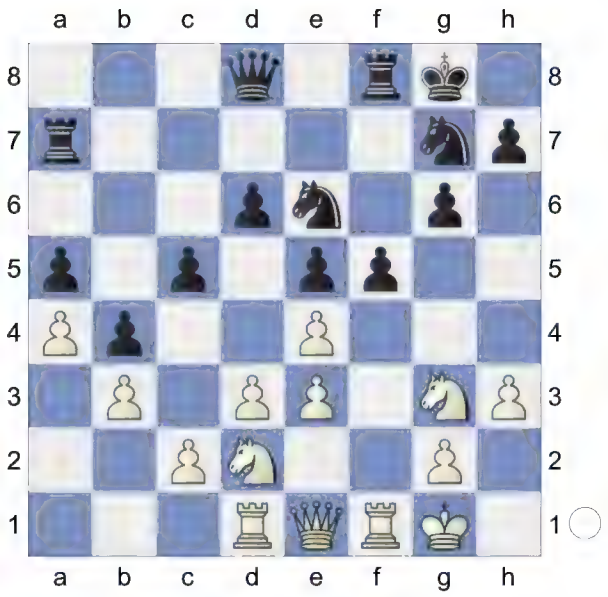
6.0-0 0-0 7.Bb3
[7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 Nbd7 9.d4 exd4 10.Nxd4 Ne5 11.Bb3 Re8 12.f3 Ng6 13.Bf2 Nh5 14.Nde2 Qg5 15.Bxc5 dxc5 16.Kh1 b5 17.a3 c4 18.Ba2 Ngf4 19.Nxf4 Nxf4 20.g3 Bh3 21.Rf2 Rad8 Safarli,E (2608)-Antipov,M (2581) chess.com (Int. -m/3-rapid) 155/102 2023 0-1]
7...a5N
[7...Nbd7 8.Ne2 Bb6 9.c3 Nc5 10.Bc2 Bg4 C 24/03 2000]
[7...Bb6 8.Be3 Nbd7 9.Qd2 Nc5 10.Bxc5 Bxc5 11.Na4 Bb6 12.Nxb6 axb6 13.Rfe1 Bg4 14.Qe3 Nd7 15.Nd2 Nc5 16.d4 Nxb3 17.Nxb3 Be6 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.Rad1 Qc7 20.a3 Rad8 21.Nc1 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Hermansson,E (2044)-12.Bb3 Bd7 13.Ne5 Bc6 (2174) GBR-ch 103rd 2016 (5.1) 1/2-1/2]
8.Be3 Bxe3 Black has an edge. **9.fxe3 Nbd7 10.a3 Nc5**



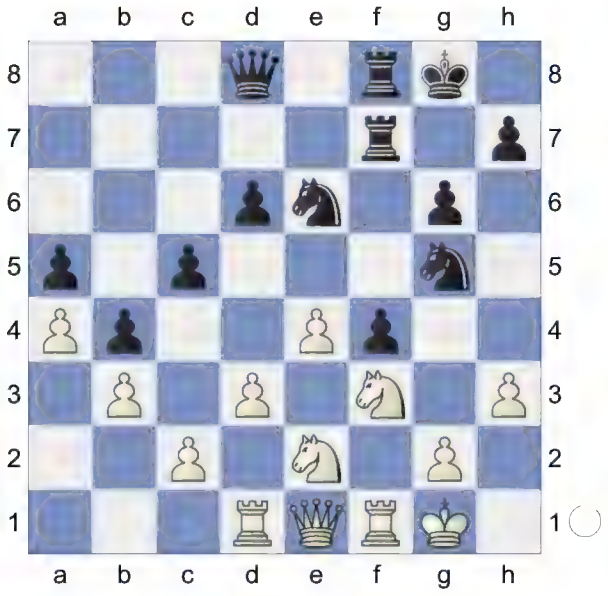
11.Ba2 b5 12.Qe1 Be6 13.Bxe6 Nxe6 14.Ne2 g6 15.h3 Nh5



16.a4 b4 17.b3 Ra7 18.Ng3 Threatens to win with Ng3xh5.
18...Nhg7 19.Rd1 c5 20.Nd2 -0.70/20
[Better is 20.h4= -0.17/21]
20...f5!∓
(Diagram)

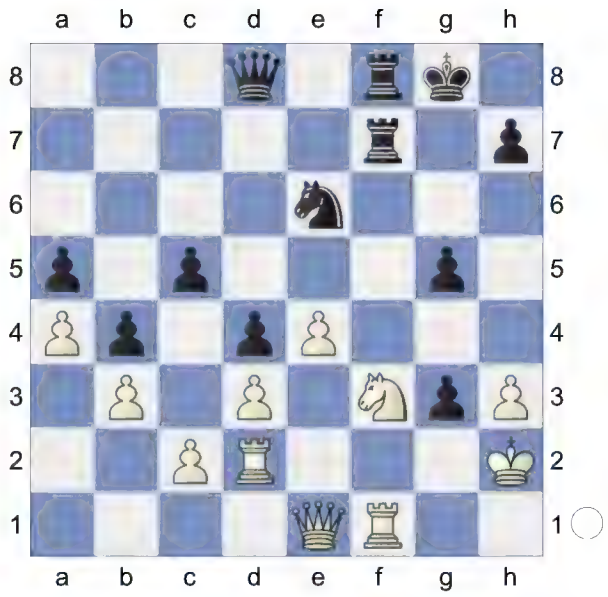


21.Nc4 -1.21/20
[21.Ne2∓ -0.61/20]
21...f4∓ 22.Ne2 Raf7 23.exf4 exf4 24.Nd2 Ng5 25.Nf3 N7e6

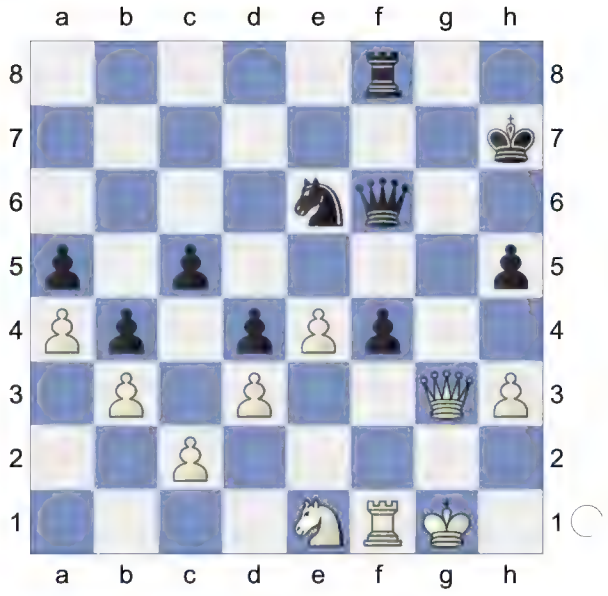


26.Kh2 d5 -0.19/17
[Black should play 26...Nxf3+∓ -1.19/19 27.Rxf3 h6]
27.Neg1!= Nxf3+ 28.Nxf3 d4 29.Rd2 g5 30.g4 fxg3+

(Diagram)

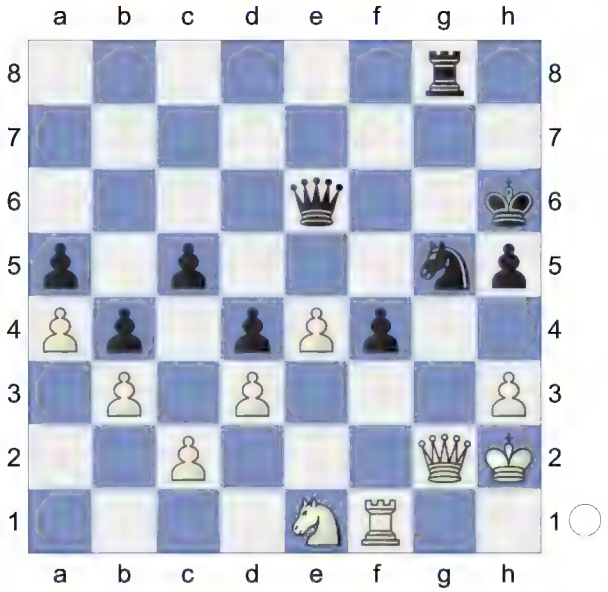


31.Qxg3 Rf4 32.Rdf2 Qf6
[32...Qc7 feels hotter. 33.Kg2 h5 34.Qh2 Qf7]
33.Kg1 h5 34.Ne1 Kh7 35.Rxf4 gxf4



36.Qf3 Kh6 Hoping for ...Ne6-g5.
37.Kh2 White is weak on the dark squares **37...Ng5 38.Qf2 Qe6!**
[38...f3?! 39.h4 Nf7 *(39...Qf4+ 40.Qg3±)* 40.Qd2+ *(40.Nxf3 Ne5=)* 40...Kg7 41.Rxf3 *(41.Nxf3 Ne5=)* 41...Qxh4+ 42.Rh3+-]
39.Qg2 Strongly threatening h3-h4.
39...Rg8? 2.85/29

[39...h4= 0.17/25]



White stays focused until the end.

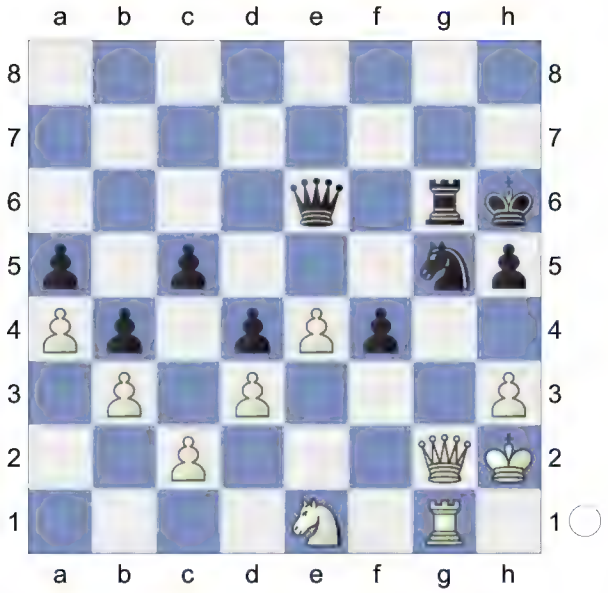
40.Rg1? 0.00/29

[40.Rxf4 Qd6 41.Qg3 Nxe4 42.Qxg8 Qxf4+ 43.Kh1 Nf6=]

[40.h4!+- 2.85/29 Nh7 41.Qd2]

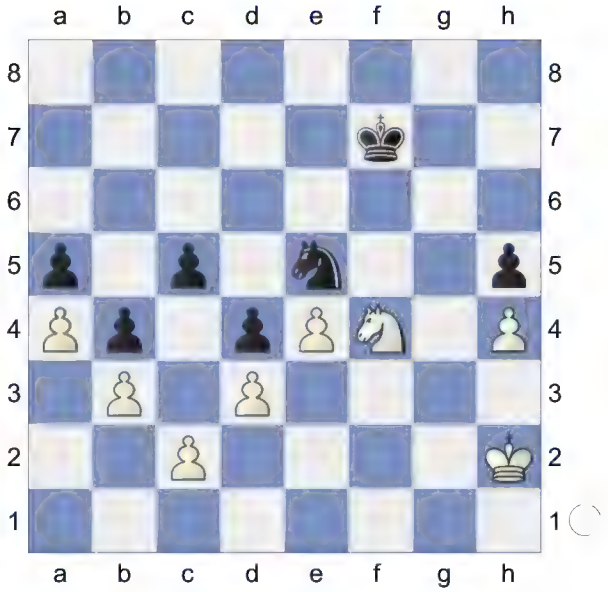
40...Rg6? 5.25/25

[40...f3= 0.00/29 41.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 42.Qxf3 Qe5+ 43.Kh1 Rxg1+ 44.Kxg1 c4]



41.h4!+- White is clearly winning.

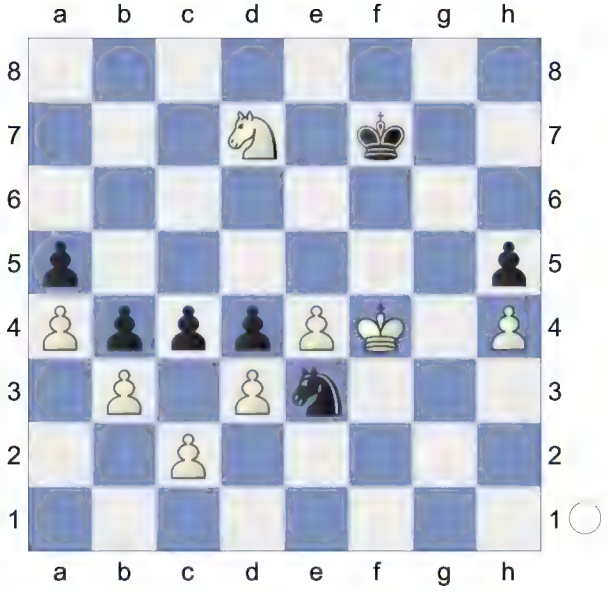
41...Nf7 42.Qxg6+ Qxg6 43.Rxg6+ Kxg6 Endgame. KN-KN **44.Ng2 Ne5 45.Nxf4+ Kf7**



46.Kg3

[46.Nxh5 c4+-]

46...Ng4 47.Nd5 Ke6 48.Kf4 Kf7 49.Nb6 Ne3 50.Nd7 c4



White must now prevent ...c4-c3.

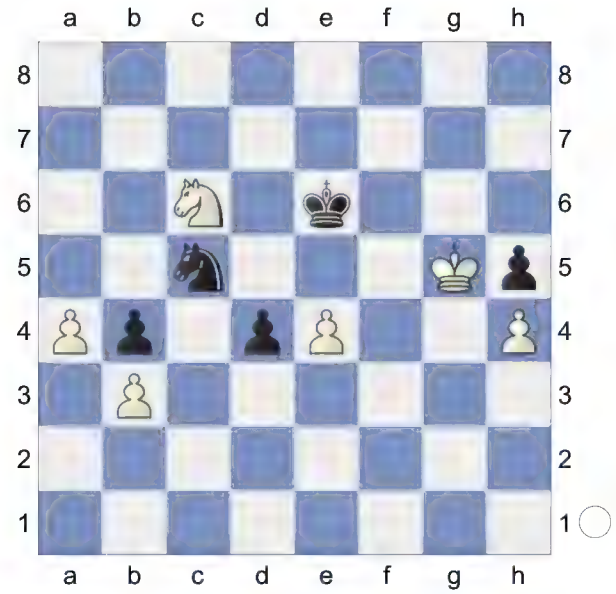
51.Ne5+

[51.bxc4 Nxc2 52.c5 b3=]

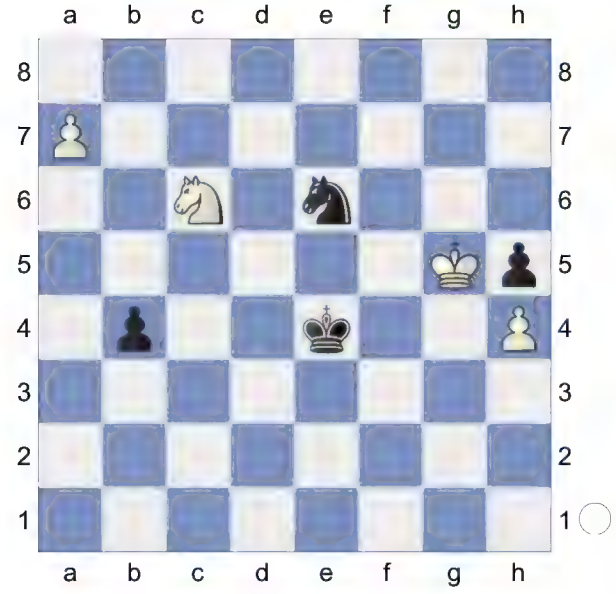
51...Ke6 52.Nxc4

[Less strong is 52.dxc4 Ng2+ 53.Kg3 Ne1+- *(53...Kxe5? 54.Kxg2 Kxe4*

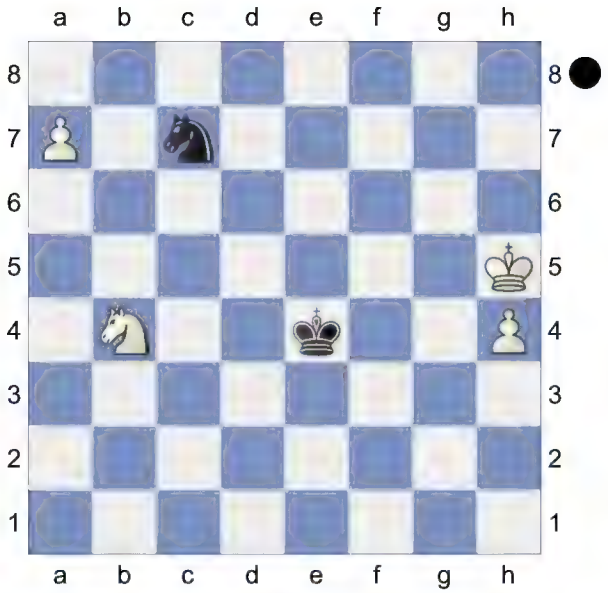
55.Kf2+-)]
52...Nxc2 53.Nxa5 Ne1 54.Nc6 Nxd3+ 55.Kg5 Nc5



56.Nxd4+ Ke5 57.Nc6+ Kxe4 58.a5 Nxb3 59.a6
[Worse is 59.Nxb4 Nxa5 60.Kxh5 Kf5=]
59...Nc5 60.a7
[Stronger than 60.Kxh5 Nxa6 61.Nxb4 Nxb4=]
60...Ne6+



61.Kxh5 Nc7 62.Nxb4
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.37
1-0

66 **D26**
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2789**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**
FIDE Candidates 2024 (14.1) 21.04.2024
[Nigel Davies]

E51: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: 4...0-0 5 Nf3 d5
Kitty Kat: 'D26: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 4 e3 e6 5 Bxc5 c5 sidelines'
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 Be7N
[5...c5 6.0-0 a6 *(6...Nc6 7.b3 Be7 8.Bb2 0-0 9.dxc5 Qxd1 10.Rxd1 Ne4 11.Nd4 Nxc5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nc3 Ba6 14.Bxa6 Nxa6 15.Rd7 Bf6 16.Na4 Bxb2 17.Nxb2 Nb4 18.Kf1 Rfd8 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Ke2 Kf8 21.Nc4* ½-½ (55) Goodwin,B (2640)-Comp Chess (2287) 39/167 Varna 1985 (14) *c5 22.a3 Nc6 23.Rc1 Rb8 24.Rc3 a6 25.Kd1 f5*

26.Kc2 Ke7 27.Nb2 Kd6 28.Nd3 Rb5 29.a4 Nb4+ 30.Kd2 Rb6 31.Nxc5 g6 32.f4 Nd5 33.Rc4 Nf6 34.g3 a5 35.h3 Kd5 36.Kc3 ½-½ (55) Bu,X (2640)-Wu,K (2287) CHN-chT 2nd Chiva 2006 (14)*)* 7.Be2 cxd4 8.exd4 Nc6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Bf4 Nf6 12.Rc1 0-0 13.Na4 Nd5 14.Bg3 Bd6 15.Bd3 Nce7 16.Qb3 b6 17.Be4 Rb8 18.Rfe1 Bb7 19.Nc3 Nxc3 20.Bxb7 0-1 (110) C 06/32 (2809)-Deslandes,P (2807) GER-ITA email 2012 (2)]

This looks like an attempt to derail any preparation, though Gukesh had played it against Nepomniachtchi earlier. It seems likely that in many lines Black will lose time, sooner or later he has to play ...c7-c5 and then the bishop may need to recapture. On the other hand Black may claim that he has some choice in when ...c5 is played. **6.Nc3** Already this may not be best, the knight is often misplaced on c3 in the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

[Nepomniachtchi,I (2793)-Gukesh,D (2718) Dusseldorf WR Masters 2023 had gone 6.0-0 a6 7.Qe2 *(7.Nbd2 b5 8.Be2 Nbd7 9.a4 bxa4 10.Qxa4 0-0 11.Nb3 c5 12.Bd2 cxd4 13.Nfxd4 Ne5 14.Rfc1 Bb7 15.Qa5 Qb8 16.Qc7 Bd6 17.Qxb8 Rfxb8 18.Na5 Be4 19.b3 h6 20.f3 Bd3 21.Kf1 Bb4* ½-½ (41) Le,Q (2739)-Giri, A (2728) 7th Prague Masters 2025 (1) *)* 7...b5 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.a4 Bb7 10.Nbd2 *(10.axb5 axb5 11.Rxa8 Qxa8 12.Bxb5* must surely be critical. *)* 10...0-0 11.b3 c5! 12.Bb2 cxd4 13.Bxd4 bxa4 14.bxa4 a5 and White didn't have very much.]

6...c5 7.a3 This move makes sense whether White is given an isolated pawn (...c5xd4) or if he embarks on his own expansion with dxc5 followed by b2-b4. Yet later on Nakamura balks at this second option, perhaps because Black could then simplify.

[If White wants a full-blooded middle game then perhaps 7.0-0 was better, with the possible sequel of 0-0 8.Qe2 cxd4 9.exd4 a6 10.a4 Nc6 11.Rd1 transposing into a standard Queen's Gambit Accepted with 7.a4. Ruslan Scherbakov analysed a few games from this position including Stefansson - Izoria, Bayram - Xu Jun and Ivan Sokolov - Guliyev.]

7...0-0 8.0-0 a6 9.Qe2? -1.65/3

[I felt that Nakamura should have been playing for a slight edge in this critical game, and with that in mind 9.dxc5 might have been a clever choice. Black can exchange queens with 9...Qxd1, but White could then hope to make use of his slight lead in development. Black has more often played Bxc5 , for example

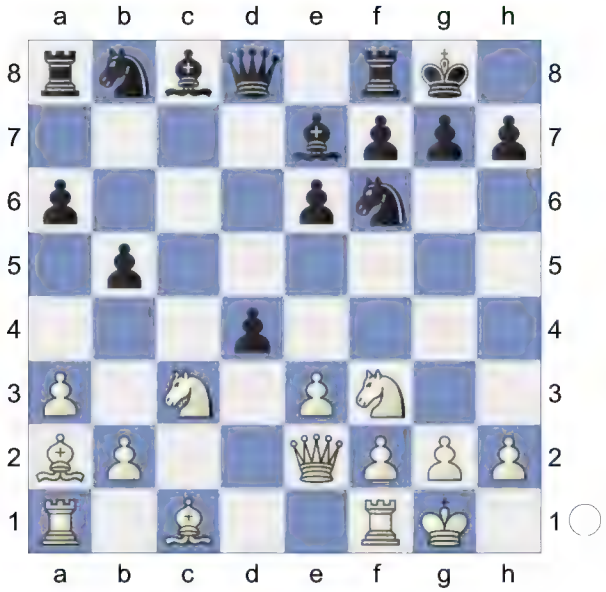
A) 10.Qe2 is also possible, for example b5 11.Ba2 Bb7 12.e4

Qc7! 13.e5 Nfd7! 14.Bf4 Threatening Rac1. Bxf3! 15.Qxf3 Nc6 16.Qg3 -0.16/15 *(16.Rac1± 0.52/4)* 16...Bd4!= 17.Rad1 Bxe5 18.Rxd7! Qxd7 19.Bxe5 Nxe5 20.Qxe5 was a bit better for White at this stage in Vitiugov,N (2719)-Cheparinov,I (2654) ESP-chT CECLUB Honor Linares 2023.;

B) 10.b4 Bd6 0.58/9 *(*Black should try *10...Be7*= 0.06/16 *)* 11.Bd3± Qe7 12.Bb2 Rd8 13.Qc2 0.28/19 *(13.Rc1± 0.70/3)* 13...Nbd7= 14.Rfd1 and White's lead in development gave him the initiative in Fedoseev,V (2680)-Anton Guijarro,D (2690) ChessKid Cup Div 2 W Chess.com INT rapid 2023.]

[9.Bd3= 0.30/3 and White has nothing to worry.]

9...b5-+ 10.Ba2 cxd4



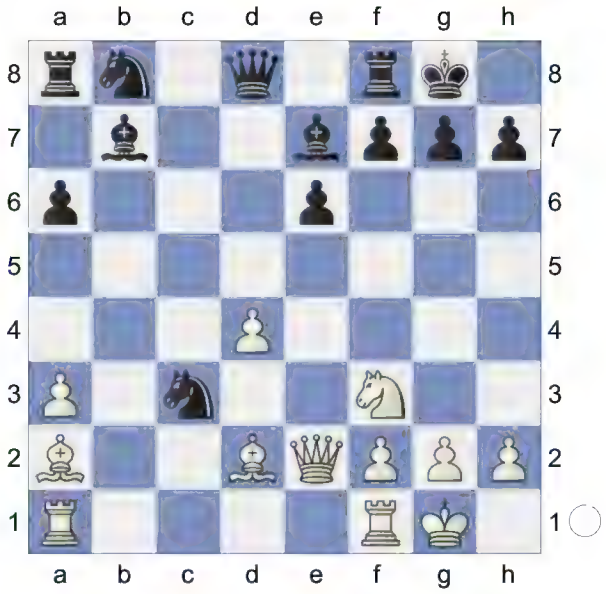
11.exd4

[White could also play 11.Rd1 Bb7 12.exd4 , and this seems like a better try than the game.]

11...b4! 12.Ne4

[12.axb4 is well met by Nc6! 13.b5 -0.57/19 *(13.Rd1=* 0.00/21 *Nxb4 14.Bc4)* 13...axb5 and a White capture on b5 is met by 14...Nb4.]

12...bxa3 13.bxa3 Bb7 14.Nc3 Nd5 15.Bd2 Nxc3



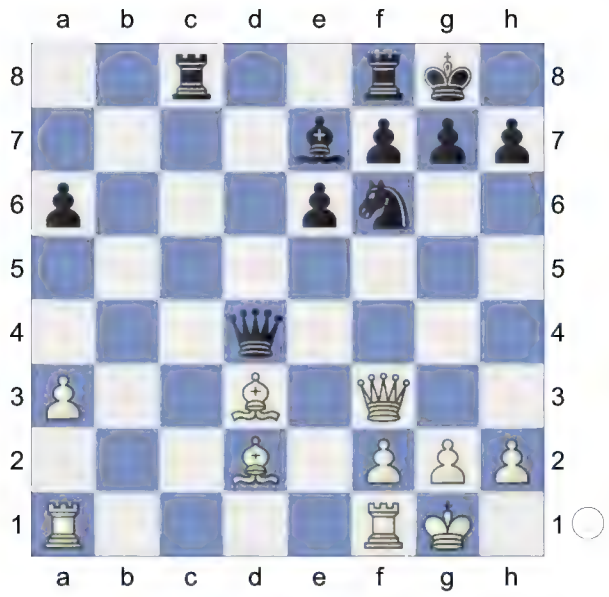
16.Bxc3 Nd7 17.Bb1 -0.44/19

[17.Rfb1 would have been objectively better, but Nakamura wanted to point pieces at Black's king. He ends up having to struggle for a draw, giving the title shot to his opponent.]

[17.Rab1= -0.03/6 Bc6 18.Rfe1]

17...Rc8 18.Bd2 Nf6 19.Bd3 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Qxd4

(Diagram)



The only hope for White to win is if he captures the a6 pawn for free. Stranger things have happened. **21.Rfd1 Qa4 22.Qb7 Bc5**

[22...Bxa3? 23.Qf3+-]

23.Be1

[And not 23.Qxa6? -2.32/22 23.Be1 -0.50 as there would follow Qh4 24.g3

Qh3! and ...Ng4 should not be overlooked 25.Bf1 Bxf2+! 26.Kxf2? -5.62/20 *(26.Kh1* -1.99/18 nothing else works. *Qf5 27.Bb4)* 26...Qxh2+-+ 27.Kf3 e5 , with a winning attack.]

23...a5

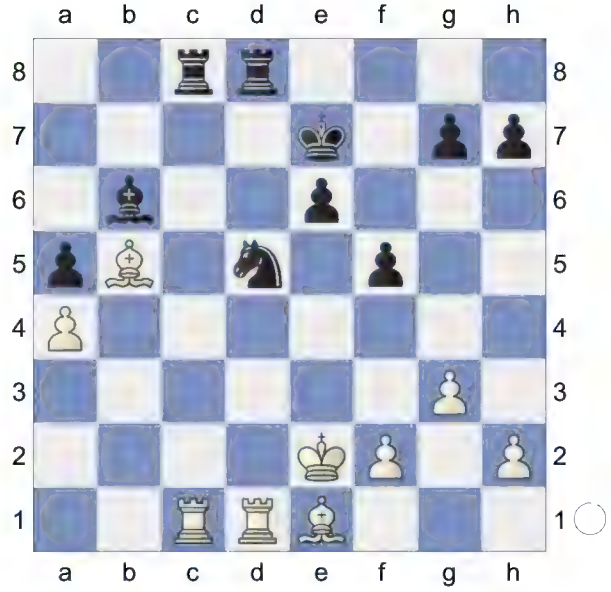
[23...Bxa3? 24.Qf3+-]

24.Qb5 Qxb5

[24...Qf4 feels hotter. 25.g3 Qe5 26.Qxa5 Ng4]

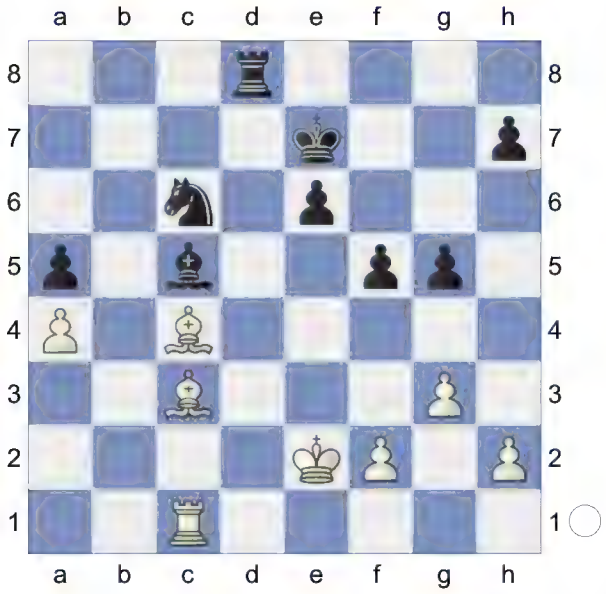
25.Bxb5 The position is equal. **25...Bb6**

26.Rac1 Nd5 27.Kf1 Rfd8 28.a4 Kf8 29.g3 Ke7 30.Ke2 f5

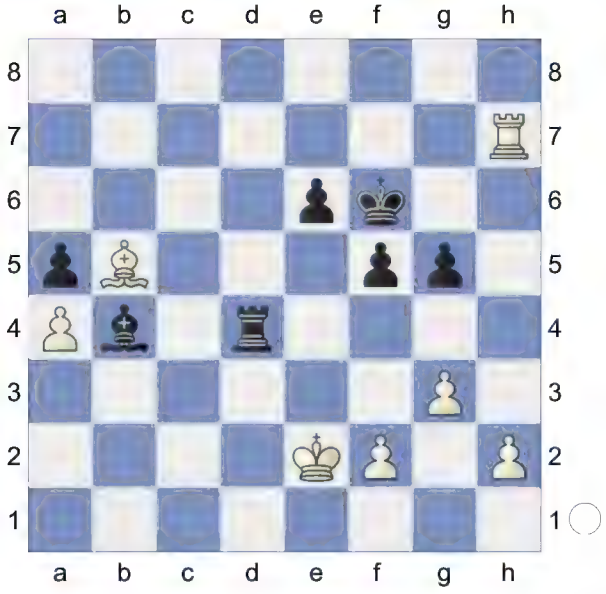


With an extra pawn, and a5 well protected, Black has a risk free advantage. White's main drawing plan

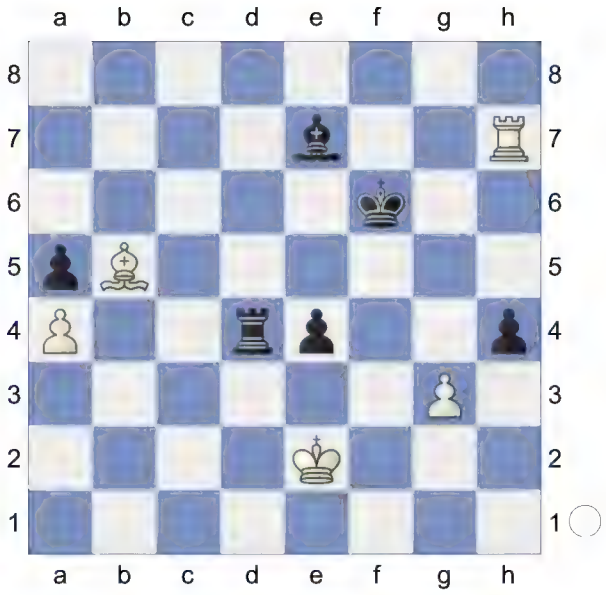
will be to bring about an opposite colour bishop endgame without rooks. **31.Rc4 Rxc4 32.Bxc4 Nb4 33.Rb1 Bc5 34.Rc1 Nc6** next ...Ba3 is good for Black. **35.Bc3 g5**



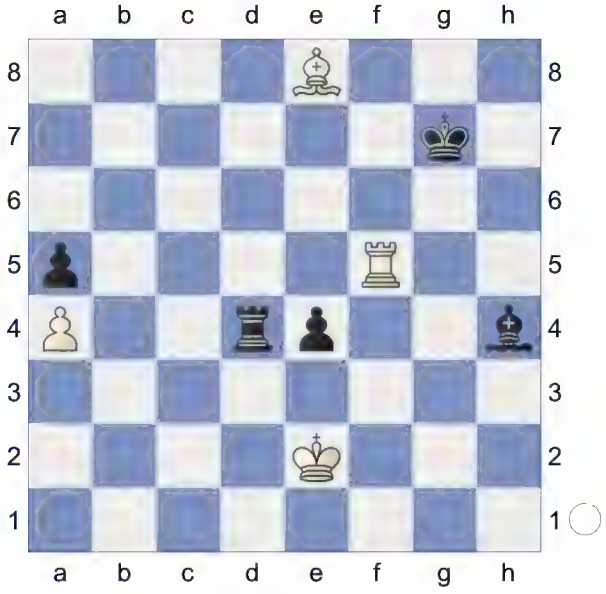
36.Bb5 A strong pair of Bishops. **36...Ba3 37.Rc2 Nd4+** Bringing about a very drawish position which gets played out to the very end. **38.Bxd4 Rxd4=** Endgame KRB-KRB. Black is a pawn up. **39.Rc7+ Kf6 40.Rxh7 Bb4**



41.Bd3 e5 42.f3 e4 43.fxe4 fxe4 44.Bb5 Be7 45.h4 gxh4

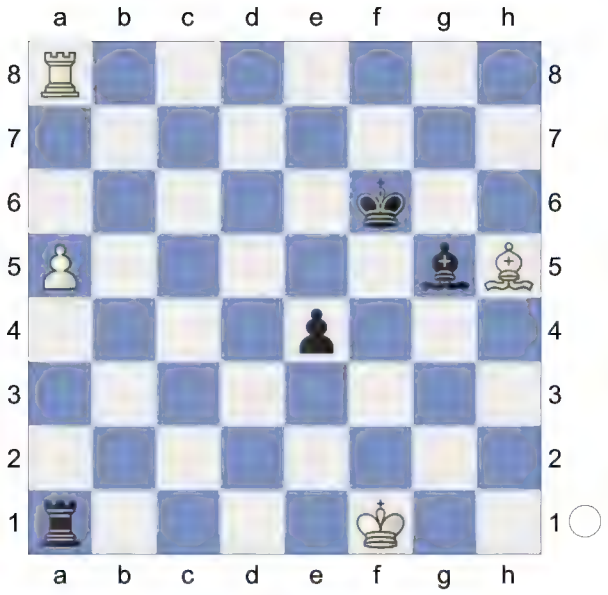


46.gxh4 Rb4 47.Rh5 Kg7 48.Bd7 Rd4 49.Be8 Bd8 50.Rf5 Bxh4

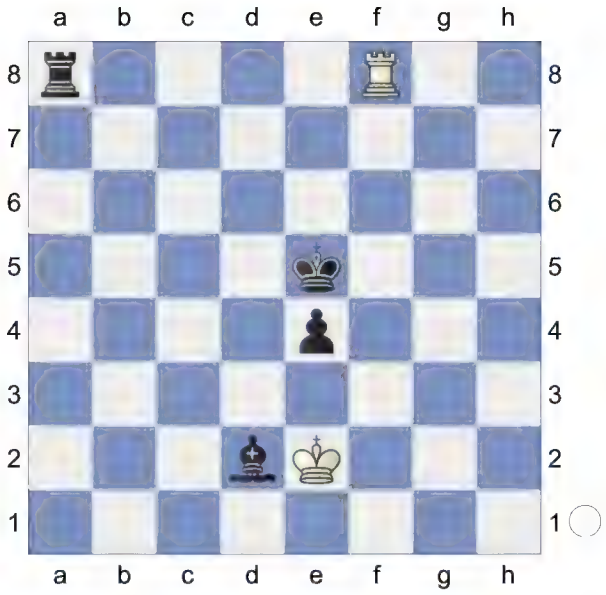


51.Rxa5 Kf6 52.Ra8 Bg5 53.Bh5 Rd2+ 54.Kf1 Ra2 55.a5 Ra1+

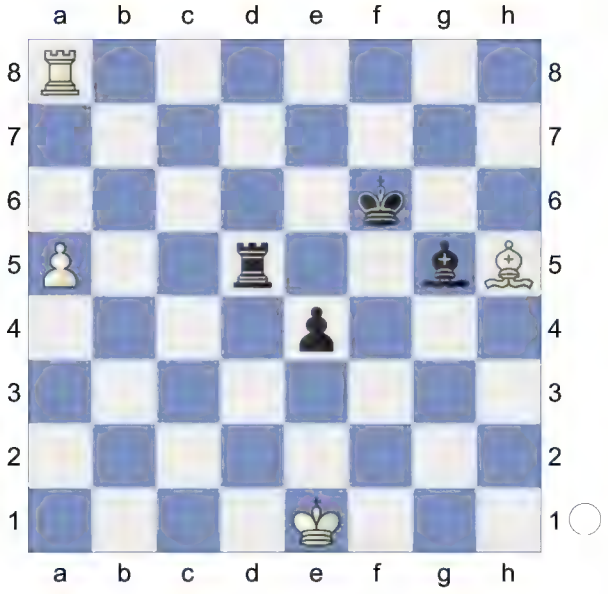
(Diagram)



56.Kg2 Ra2+ 57.Kf1 Ra1+ 58.Ke2 Ra2+ 59.Kd1 Fighting with his last breath. **59...Rd2+ 60.Ke1 Rd5**



66.Rxa8 KR-KB **66...e3 67.Ra4 Kd5 68.Kd3 Kc5 69.Re4 Kd5 70.Rxe3 Bxe3**

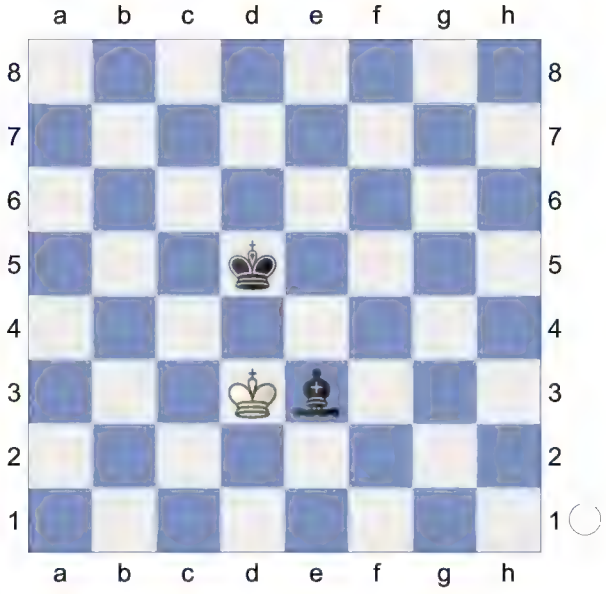


61.Ke2 Bd2 62.a6 Rxh5 KRB-KR **63.a7** and Rf8+ would now be decisive

[63.Kxd2 simplifies Kg7 64.Ra7+ Kf6 65.Ke3]

63...Ra5 64.Rf8+ Ke5 65.a8Q Rxa8

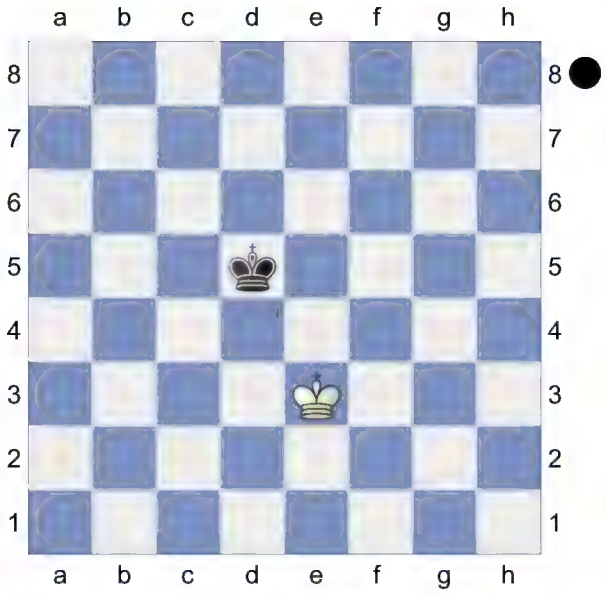
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

71.Kxe3

(Diagram)



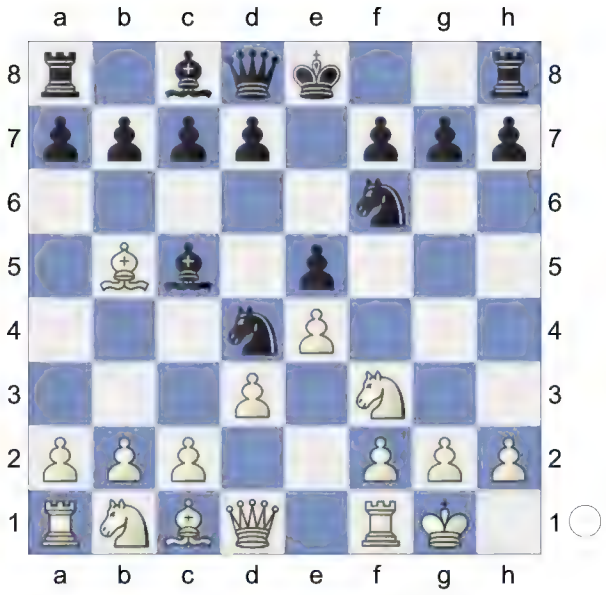
½-½

67 **C65**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**
■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2760**
FIDE Candidates 2024 (13.4) 20.04.2024
[Kitty Kat]

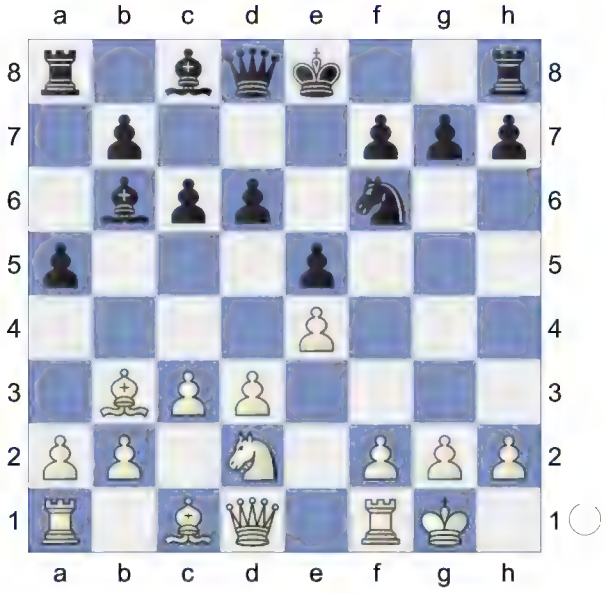
C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5 Levon Aronian crushes the World Champion in a brilliant game, which brought the victory for Armenia against Norway. Adhiban,Baskaran: 'An epic clash between a slightly weakened "slow poison" Carlsen and the improved "I am a different player now" Aronian. Mikhalevski, V: 'Adhiban,B: 'An epic clash between a slightly weakened "slow poison" Carlsen and the improved "I am a different player now" Aronian. '"

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.0-0 Nd4

(Diagram)



6.Nxd4 Bxd4 7.Nd2 c6 8.Bc4 d6 9.c3 The position is equal. **9...Bb6 10.Bb3 a5**



11.Nc4 Ba7

[11...Bc7 12.a4 Be6 13.f4 exf4 14.Bxf4 d5 15.Bxc7 Qxc7 16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Qf3 Nf6 18.Qf4 Qxf4 19.Rxf4 0-0 20.h3 Rfd8 21.d4 c5 22.Rd1 Nd5 23.Re4 Nf6 24.Rf4 Nd5 25.Re4 Nf6 26.Rf4 Balogh,C (2558)-Prohaszka,P (2585) Ajka 2023 ½-½]

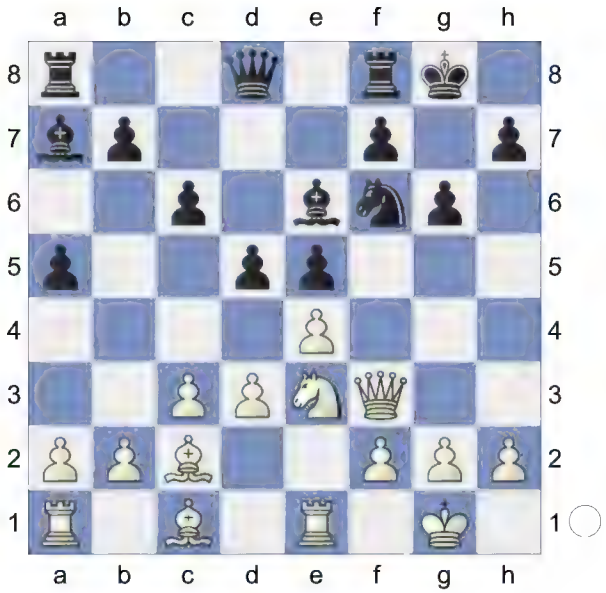
12.Ne3N 'N!?' New and interesting.

Theoretisch interessant.
[Vorgänger: 12.Kh1 a4 13.Bc2 Ng4 0.12/19 *(⌓13...b5 -0.24/20 14.Ne3 0-0)* 14.Ne3 -0.31/21 *(14.d4!= 0.12/19)* 14...Bxe3∓ 15.Bxe3 Qh4 16.h3 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Bxh3 18.gxh3 Qxh3+ 19.Kg1 Qg3+! 20.Kh1 ½-½ Karjakin,S (2754)-Aronian,L (2772) Bucharest Superbet blitz playoff 2019 (1)]
[12.a4 0-0 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Nxa5 d5 16.Bc2 dxe4 17.dxe4 Rd8 18.Qe1 Qg5 19.Kh1 Rd2 20.Bd1 Be6 21.b4 Rad8 22.Nxb7 Bc4 23.Nxd8 Bxf1 24.Qxf1 Rxf2 25.Qg1 Ra2 26.Rxa2 Bxg1 Chapter-Games Game 4 (44) 27.Kxg1 Qc1 28.Kf2 Qxd1 29.Nxc6 Qb3 30.Rd2 Qxc3 31.Rd6 Qb2+ 32.Ke3 Qa3+ 33.Kf2 Qxa4 34.Nxe5 Qc2+ 35.Kf3 f5 36.Rd3 fxe4+ 37.Kxe4 Qxg2+ 38.Nf3 Qg4+ 39.Ke3 g5 40.Kf2 Qf5 41.Rd8+ Kg7 Carlsen,M (2850)-Aronian,L (2781) Reykjavik ISL 2015 [Mikhalevski, V] 0-1 (44) 42.Kg2 g4 43.Nd2 Qe6 44.Nf1 Qc6+ 0-1 (44) Lozon Urena,X (2850)-C 06/30 (2781) Moscow 2015 200 Traps In The Opening [Lirindzakis,T; Porfiriadis,S]]

12...0-0 13.Qf3 d5 14.Bc2 g6
[14...a4 feels hotter. 15.Nf5 b5 16.Bg5 d4]

15.Re1 Be6

(Diagram)

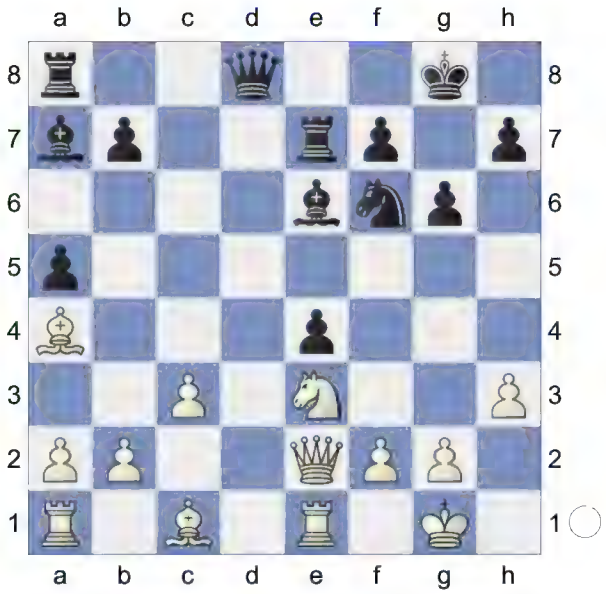


16.exd5 cxd5 17.h3
[17.Nf1 is more complex. Ng4 18.Re2 Qf6 19.Bb3]

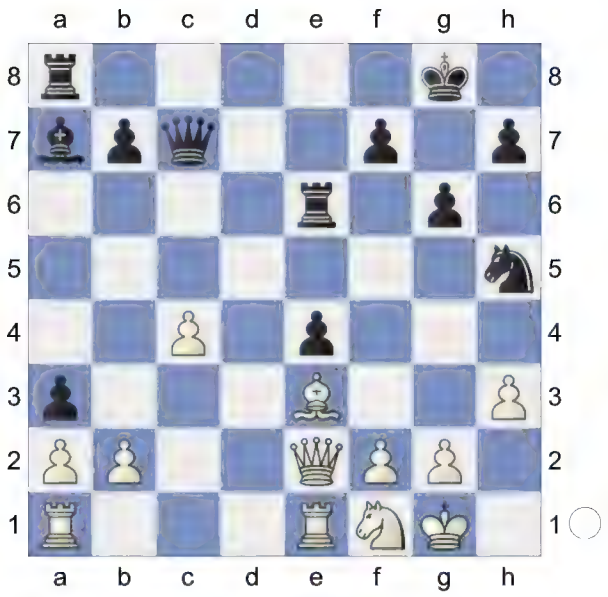
17...Re8 18.Ba4 e4
[18...Nd7 with more complications. 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Qxd5 Bxf2+ 21.Kxf2 Qh4+]

19.dxe4 dxe4 20.Qe2 -0.08/21
[20.Qf4± 0.34/20 Nh5 21.Qxe4]

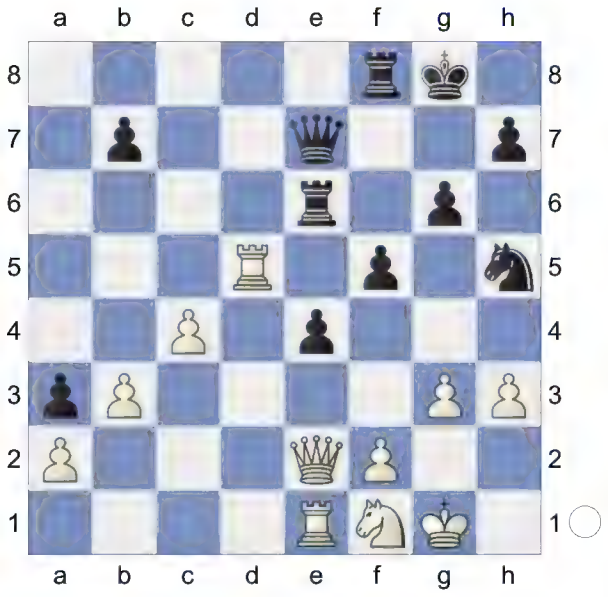
20...Re7!=



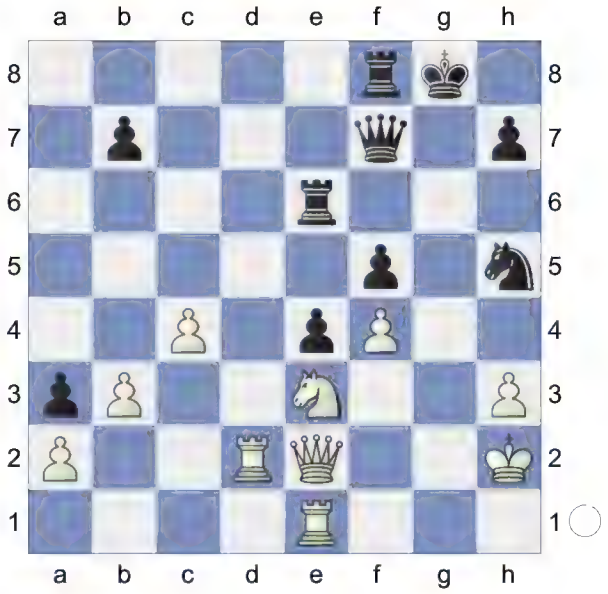
21.Nf1 Qc7 22.Bb3 Inhibits Bc4.
22...a4 23.Bxe6 Rxe6 24.Be3 a3 25.c4 Against Nd5 **25...Nh5**



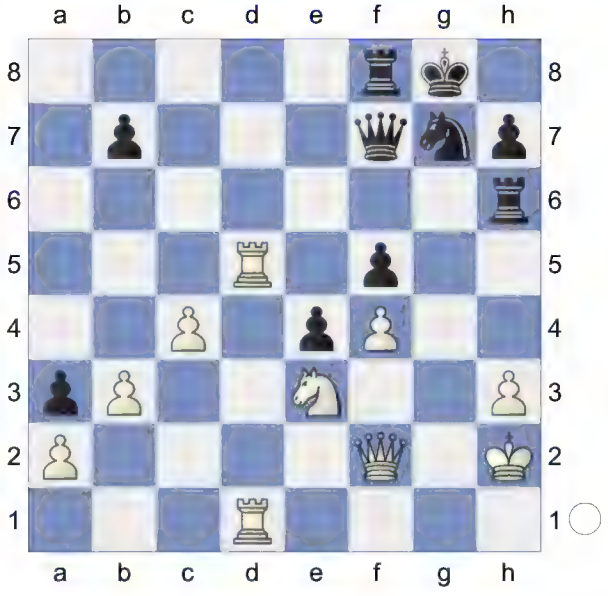
26.g3 Bc5 0.12/17
[⌓26...Bxe3 -0.25/18 27.Nxe3 Nxg3! 28.fxg3 Qxg3+ 29.Ng2 Qxh3]
27.b3 -0.41/20
[27.Rab1!= 0.12/17]
27...f5∓ 28.Bxc5 Qxc5 29.Rad1 Rf8 -0.13/19
[29...Rae8∓ -0.54/19 might be stronger.]
30.Rd5 Qe7



31.f4 Nf6 -0.27/20
[31...b6∓ -0.63/20]
32.Rd2= g5 -0.01/22
[32...Rd8∓ -0.47/18]
33.Ne3 gxf4 34.gxf4 Qf7 35.Kh2
[35.Nxf5? Nh5 36.Rd6 Rg6+ 37.Rxg6+ Qxg6+ 38.Qg4 Rxf5-+]
35...Nh5

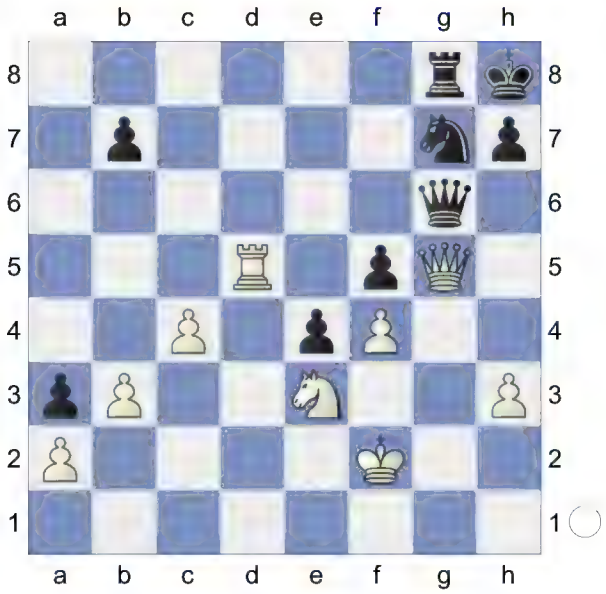


36.Qf2 Rg6 0.57/22
[36...Kh8= 0.01/20]
37.Rd5!± Ng7 38.Red1 Rh6 39.Rg1 Rg6 40.Rgd1 -0.01/17
[40.b4± 0.31/21]
40...Rh6!=



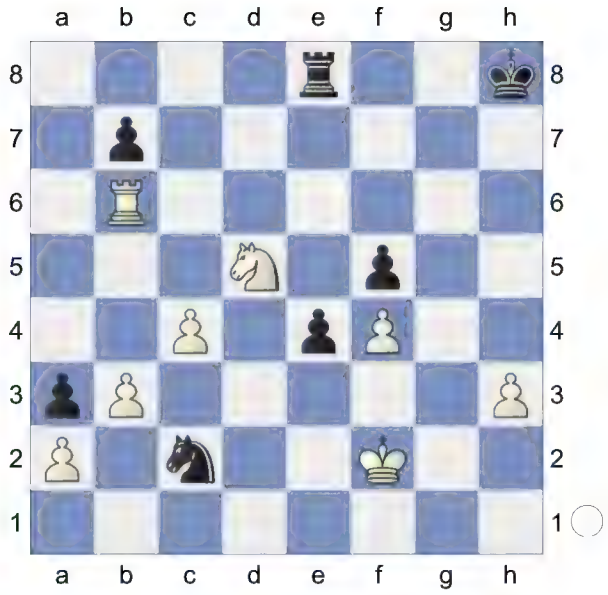
41.Rg1 Strongly threatening Nxf5.
41...Rg6 42.Qh4 -0.01/20

[42.Ra5!± 0.33/18]
42...Rxg1! 43.Kxg1 Kh8 0.64/20
[43...Qg6+= 0.01/20 44.Kf2 Ne6]
44.Kf2!± &Bianco is more active.
44...Rg8 45.Qg5 0.22/21
[45.Qh6± 0.65/21 deserves consideration.]
45...Qg6 0.95/21
[45...Ne6= 0.22/21 remains equal. 46.Qxf5 Qg7]

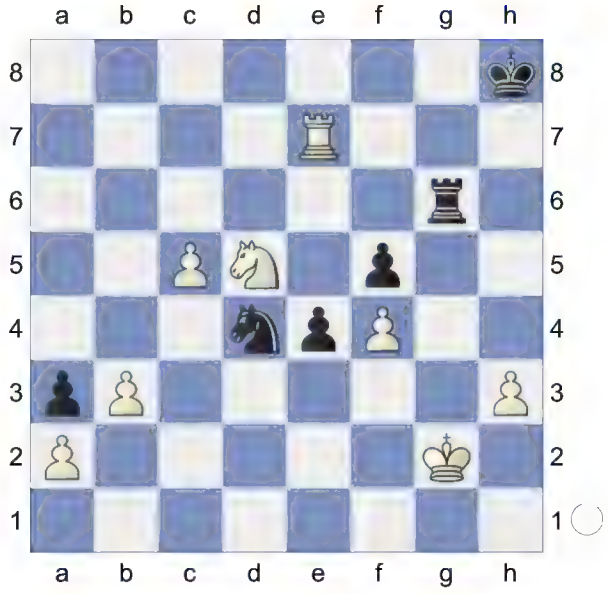


46.Qxg6±
[But not 46.Nxf5? Nxf5 47.Qxg6 hxg6-+]
46...hxg6 Endgame KRN-KRN **47.Rd6** Inhibits Ne6. **47...Re8 48.Rxg6** Rf6 is the strong threat. **48...Ne6 49.Nd5 Nd4 50.Rb6 Nc2** 3.05/22
[50...e3+ 1.68/22 might work better. 51.Nxe3 Re4 52.Rxb7 Kg8]

(Diagram)

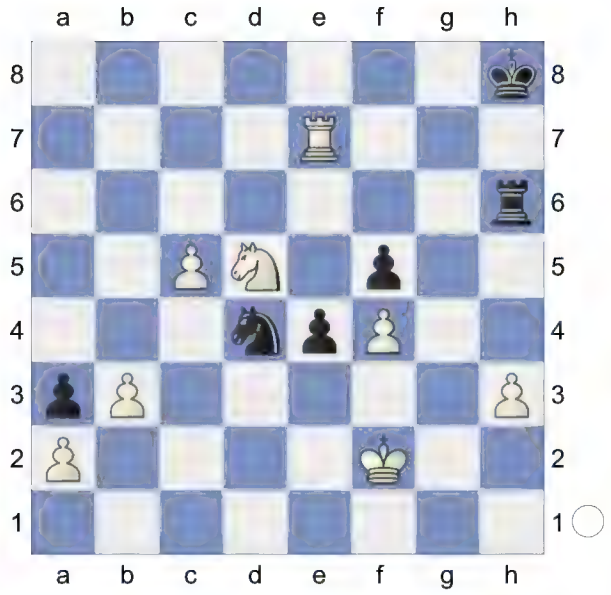


51.Rxb7+- White threatens Nf6 and mate. **51...Re6** Prevents Nf6. **52.Re7 Rh6 53.c5 Nd4 54.Kg2** 1.71/20 **Rg6+**



55.Kf2 -0.01/17
[55.Kf1!± 1.15/24 Threatens to win with Rd7. Rg3 56.Rd7]
55...Rh6!=

(Diagram)



A mistake that costs the game. ⍝**56.b4** 4.09/24

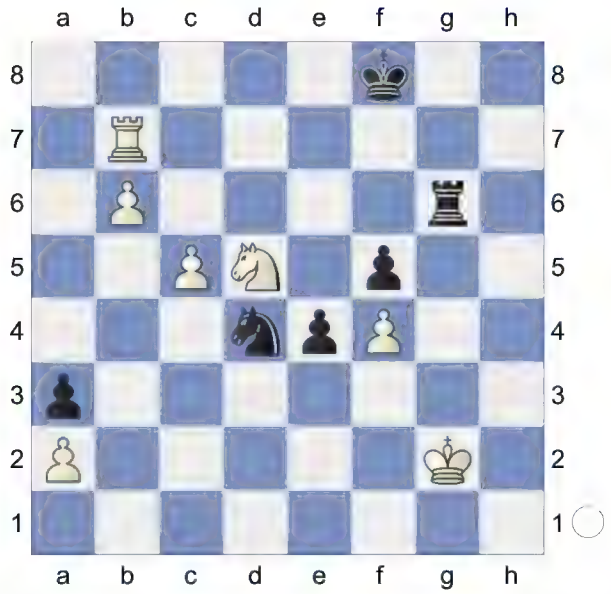
[Not 56.Ke3 Nc6+-]

56...Rxh3 57.Kg2 Rh6 58.Rb7 Kg8? 7.00/22

[58...Ne6 3.31/20 59.Rb6 Kg7]

59.b5+- White is clearly winning.

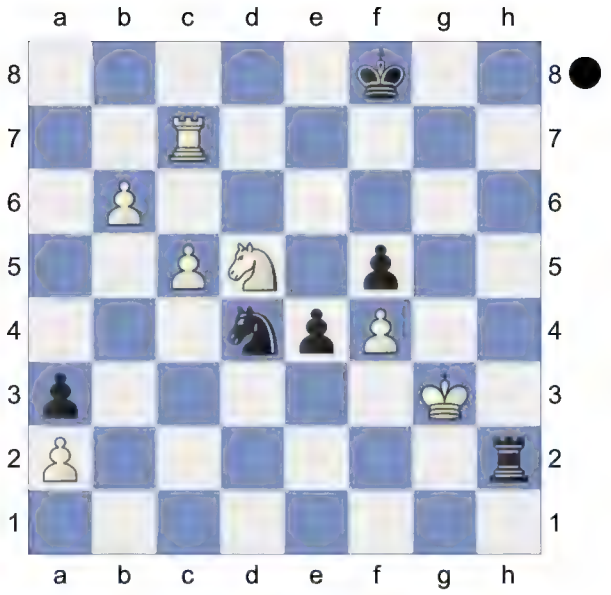
59...Kf8 60.b6 Rg6+



61.Kf2 Rh6 62.Rc7 b7 would kill now.

62...Rh2+ 63.Kg3

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)

1-0

68		**B27**
□	**Gukesh,Dommaraju**	**2743**
■	**Nakamura,Hikaru**	**2789**
Toronto		20.04.2024

[Daniel Fernandez]

B27: Sicilian: 2 Nf3, unusual Black 2nd moves

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 d5 4.e5

[4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Bg7 6.dxc5 Qxc5 7.Na3 Nf6 8.Be3 Qa5 9.Nc4 Qc7 10.Qa4+ Bd7 11.Qa3 Nd5 12.0-0-0 Nxe3 13.Nxe3 Bc6 14.Bb5 Qf4 15.Be2 Bf6 16.g3 Qe4 17.Rhe1 0-0 18.Nd4 Qe5 1-0 (41) Tong,Y (2505)-Kudrin,S (2565) Tan Chin Nam Cup 4th 1998 (4)]

4...Bg4N

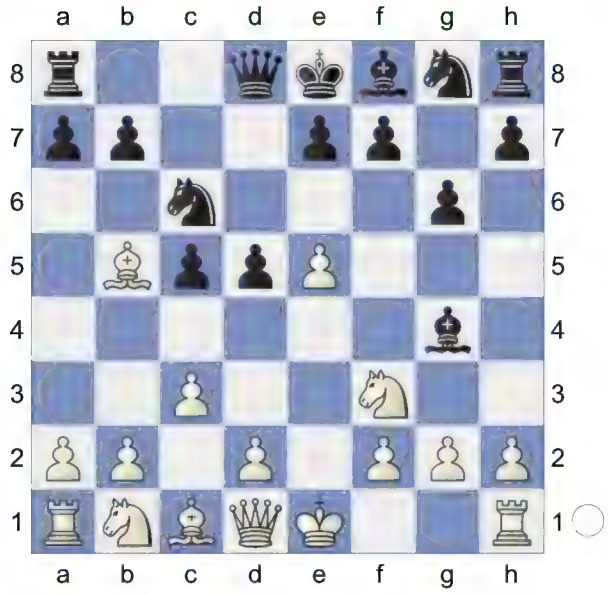
[We previously checked 4...a6 in Esipenko-Nakamura from the IOM 2023.]

[4...Bg7 5.d4 Nc6 6.Bb5 Qb6

7.Bxc6+ Qxc6 8.0-0 Nh6 9.h3 0-0 10.Re1 e6 11.Bg5 Re8 12.Qd2 Nf5 13.Na3 b5 14.Rac1 a5 15.Nc2 Ba6 16.Ne3 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 Rac8 18.Bh6 Re7 19.Qg5 0-1 (41) Woznicki,T (1987)-Kovalskyi,R (2213) Wch U18 blitz 2024 (16)]

5.Bb5+ White views capitalising on the absence of ...a6, as being of higher importance than pushing d4. **5...Nc6**

[After 5...Nd7 6.d4 a6 White seems to get an edge with either Bxd7 or Ba4.]



6.Bxc6+

[Delaying the capture with something like 6.0-0 gives Black the chance to consolidate with Rc8 .]

6...bxc6 7.0-0

[Ideally probably White would like to play 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 but it's by now well known that Qa5+ 9.Nbd2 Qb5! equalises.]

7...c4!? A novelty, and one that seems to have worked well for Nakamura in this game.

[On reflection it does still feel like 7...Nh6 is the strongest move for Black here. 8.d3 *(8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bxf3! 10.Qxf3 Nf5=)* 8...Bxf3! *(8...Bg7* 0.82/21 8...Bxf3 0.40 Aronian,L-Mamedov,R Julius Baer INT 2023 *9.Nbd2! Bxe5 10.Qa4↑)*]

8.d3 This is not an especially testing move. Three alternatives spring to mind:. White is slightly better.

[The potentially stronger 8.Re1 is checked in Gavrilescu-Vakhidov.]

[Logically it seems that Black's intention must have been to meet the immediate 8.b3 with f6 *(8...Bg7 9.Re1* transposes into Gavrilescu-Vakhidov, where it seems White is slightly better with good play. *)*

A) 9.bxc4 fxe5 10.d3 *(10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 e4=; 10.Qa4 Bxf3 11.Qxc6+ Kf7* and ...Rc8 should not be overlooked *12.gxf3 e6⇄)* 10...Nf6 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Nbd2 Bg7 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Nxf3 e4 15.Ng5 Qd7! Repels Ne6 16.dxe4 h6! 17.e5! hxg5 18.exf6 Bxf6=;

B) More critical seems to be 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.bxc4 and Black has a few options:

B1) 10...Bh6!? should be met in cold-blooded style. 11.h3 *(11.cxd5?! -0.25/22* 11.h3 0.64 *0-0!* seems to be a successful gambit for Black*)* 11...Bxf3 12.Qxf3 0-0 13.Na3±;

B2) 10...Bg7 seems reasonable. 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 0-0 13.Na3 Ne4 14.Qe3 Qb6=;

B3) 10...dxc4 is the engine preference. In any case Black cannot avoid the loss of this pawn in the long run, but there will be endgame compensation. 11.h3 Bxf3 *(11...Bh5 12.d4 cxd3 13.g4 Nxg4 14.Qa4!)*

12.Qxf3 Qd5 13.Na3 Qxf3 14.gxf3 Nd5 15.Nxc4 Bg7⩲ Black intends short castling. Probably the default intention is to double on the f-file with White unable to move the d-pawn for the foreseeable future, it isn't completely clear how they would react to this.]

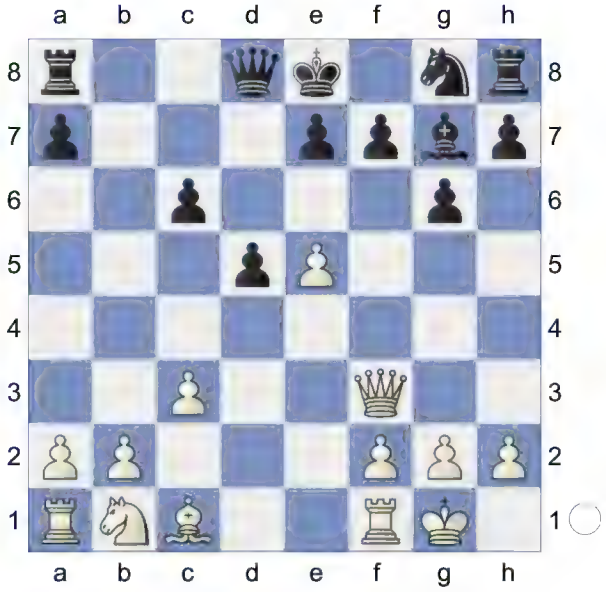
[The very best move should be 8.d4 since Black has little alternative but to capture en passant.]

8...cxd3 Maybe it was better to capture on f3 first (see next note.) But if Nakamura thought 8.d4 cxd3 was equalising somewhere, there's no special reason not to give the same treatment to 8.d3. **9.Qxd3** Forgiving Black the little move-order nuance.

[9.Nbd2 was interesting, and I don't exactly know how Black equalises, though it should be possible. However, it is axiomatic that this line must have been in Nakamura's files and so a practical test is probably coming at some point that sheds light on the situation. c5! *(9...Bg7* 0.69/23 9...c5 0.28 *10.h3 Bxf3 11.Nxf3 e6 12.Qxd3 Ne7±* is probably a safe plus for White, as they have a 1.5 tempi advantage compared to the game.*)* 10.h3 *(10.c4!? Nh6∞)* 10...Be6 I prefer this retreat for Black. The line I give is not forced and probably will be improved upon at some point. *(* comparatively, something like *10...Bf5* 0.56/19 10...Be6 0.20 *11.Re1 Bg7 12.Nb3 c4 13.Nc5 Qc8 14.Be3±* feels awkward for Black because the f5-square is not available for the knight.*)* 11.Nb3 *(11.Ng5 Bg7 12.Nxe6 fxe6* seems to give Black good play in spite of the limited minor pieces *)* 11...Qc8 12.Be3 c4 13.Nc5 Nh6 14.Bd4! Qa4+ would now be deadly. Qc6∞]

[9.Nbd2 c5 10.c4 Bg7 11.h3]

9...Bxf3! 10.Qxf3 Black is weak on the dark squares **10...Bg7**



11.Qe2 Qc7 12.Re1

[Going for 12.e6 -0.28/24 12.Re1 0.29 in such positions is rarely entirely beneficial and certainly Black has their share of the chances after f5⇄ .]

12...e6 13.b4 Ne7 14.Nd2 Nc8!?

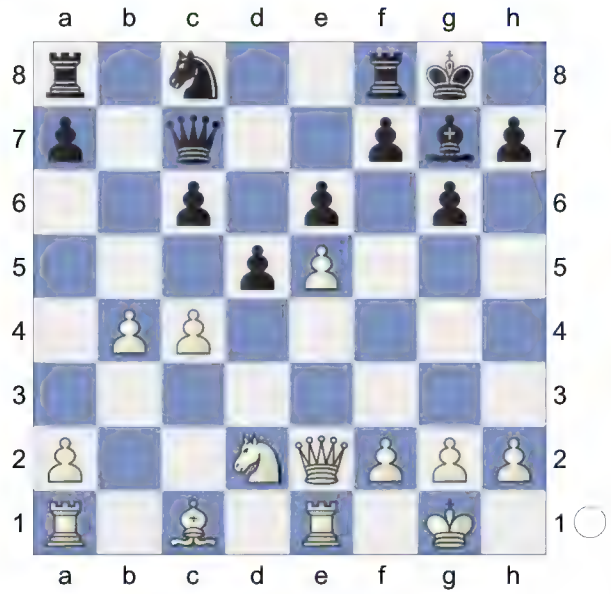
[The thematic Caro play was 14...c5!?⇄]

15.c4?! 0.19/4

[There was a chance to question Black's knight deployment with 15.a4 , looking for a5 which would prevent both ...a5 and ...Nb6. However, this is a double-edged idea because maybe Black could allow the a5 push and then establish some sort of light square dominance. The engine thinks not and would prefer Black to counter with a5 , which at least humanly starts to feel shaky as after 16.b5 there will be Ba3 ideas that question Black's king position somewhat.]

[15.Nb3± 0.57/10 should be considered.]

15...0-0=



16.Bb2 a5 17.a3 -0.33/11

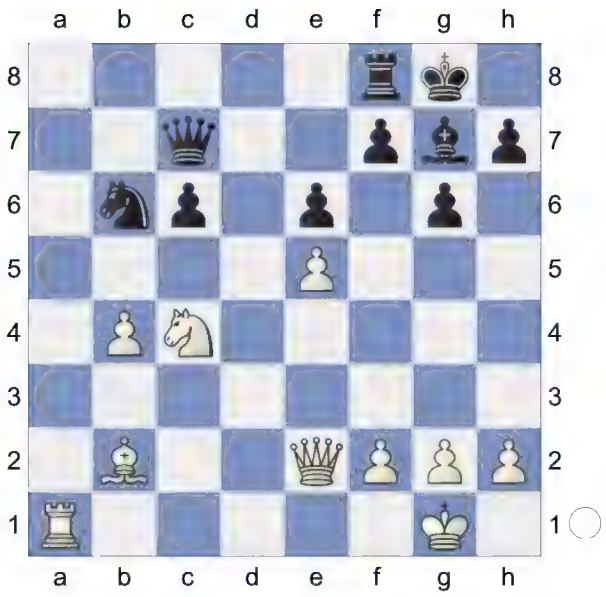
[White should try 17.b5= 0.24/4]

17...axb4 18.axb4 Rxa1 19.Rxa1 dxc4 Nakamura chooses not to take any particular risks and goes for a simplification which would be unlikely to yield any outcome other than a draw.

[It was possible to make White think about how not to be worse, e.g. 19...Qb8 20.Bc3 Rd8 (threatening ... d4) 21.Nf3 -0.43/4 *(21.c5± 0.36/3)* 21...dxc4 22.Qxc4 Nb6 23.Qe4 Nd5 and the contrast in the quality of the knights should give White at least some pause for thought. 24.Bd2 Bf8↑]

20.Nxc4 Nb6

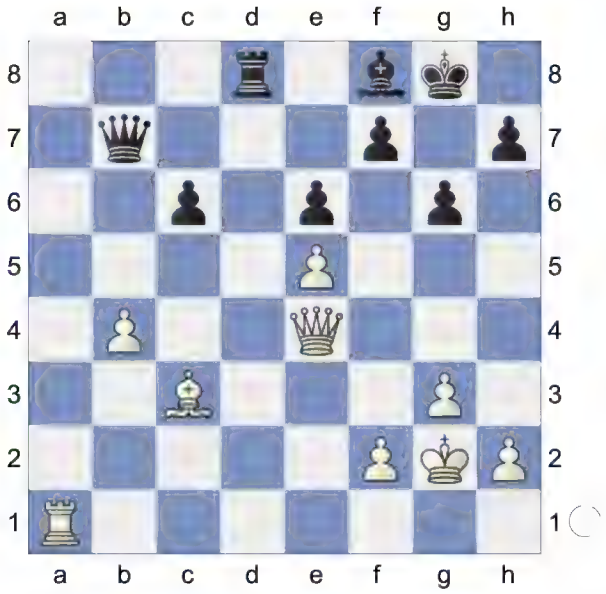
(Diagram)



21.Nxb6 Qxb6 22.Bc3 Qb5

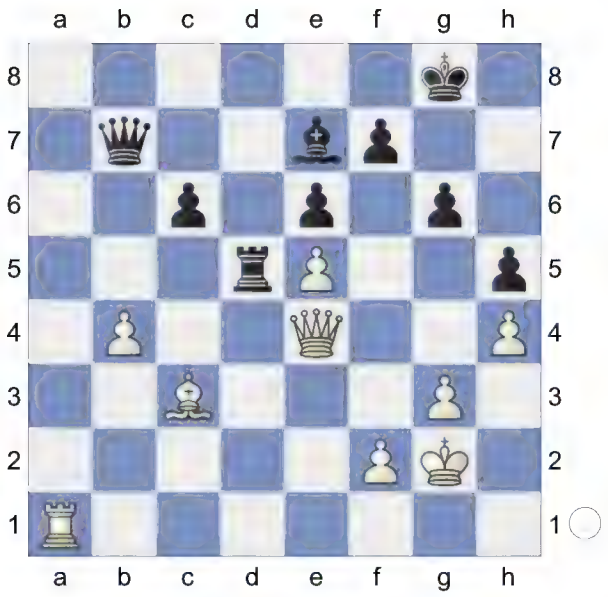
The remainder of the game is more or less just going through the motions.

23.Qe4 Rd8 24.g3 Bf8 25.Kg2 Qb7

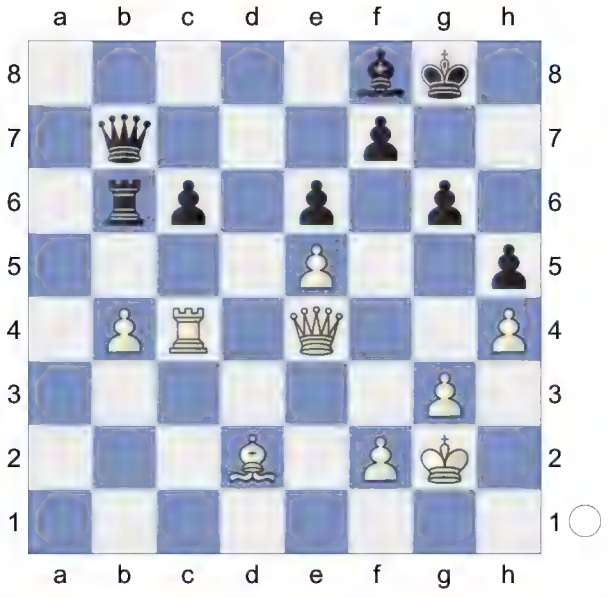


26.Rc1 Rd5 27.Be1 h5 28.Bc3 Be7 29.h4 Bf8 30.Ra1 Be7

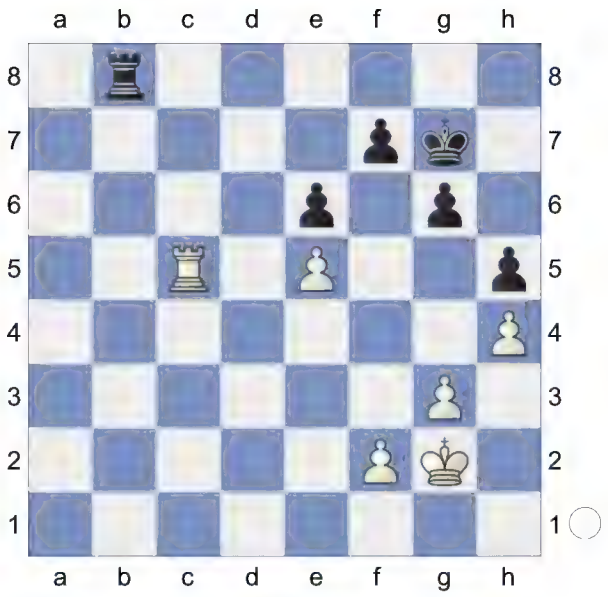
(Diagram)



31.Rc1
[31.Ra3 is interesting. Rd1 32.Qf3 Qd7 33.Ra6]
31...Bf8 32.Ra1 Rb5 The position is equal. **33.Rc1 Rb6 34.Bd2 Ra6 35.Rc4 Rb6**



36.Be3 Rxb4 37.Qxc6 Qxc6+ 38.Rxc6 Rb8 Prevents Rc8. **39.Bc5 Bxc5 40.Rxc5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
40...Kg7
(Diagram)



½-½

69 **E32**
□ **Abbasov,Nijat** **2632**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**
FIDE Candidates 2024 (12.3) 18.04.2024
[John Emms]

E32: Nimzo-Indian: Classical (4 Qc2): 4... 0-0
IM Kushager Krishnater: 'In the first chapter, we'll cover the 4.Qc2 variation of the Nimzo Indian.' RR: 'Inf 84/(437)'
1.d4
[1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 a6!? 5.0-0 h6!? (Vidit,S-Gukesh,D/Toronto 2024) is another example of Gukesh's opening preparation at the Candidates. Vidit spent a considerable amount of time on his fifth and sixth moves, no doubt wondering if there was some kind of punishment for Black's early pawn moves. Eventually Vidit settled for standard moves, but after 6.a4 Bc5 7.Be3 d6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.c3 Re8

10.b4 Bxe3 11.fxe3 Be6 Gukesh reached a comfortable position, enjoyed a clear time advantage, and later went on to win in convincing style.]

1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 h6!? What's this? Clearly Gukesh has a thing about an early .. .h6 (see the previous note). It won't come as a surprise to you to hear that we haven't covered 4...h6 before. What's this? Clearly Gukesh has a thing about an early .. .h6 (see the previous note). It won't come as a surprise to you to hear that we haven't covered 4...h6 before. GM Sethuraman: 'Gukesh clearly wanted to avoid some long theoretical stuff and he comes up with a playable alternative. The move has its points, like it prevents Bg5 pins.'

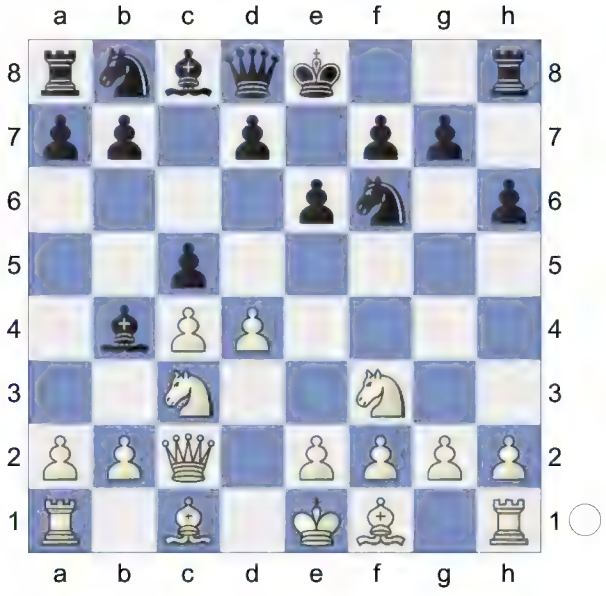
[4...0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b6 7.Nf3 Bb7 8.e3 d6 9.b4 Nbd7 10.Bb2 c5 11.Be2 Qe7 12.0-0 Rfc8 13.dxc5 dxc5 14.Rfd1 Ne8 15.b5 f6 16.a4 a5 17.bxa6 Rxa6 18.a5 Rca8 19.Qd2 ½-½ (25) Kramnik,V (2809)-Karpov,A (2690) Praha (m-rapid) 2002 (1)]

5.Nf3N GM Sethuraman: 'So we get to our system from a different move order.' GM Sethuraman: 'is the move order which we will reach from the 3...h6 line.'

[After 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 0-0 Black's ...h6 has some use in preventing Bg5. *(or 6...b6)* 7.g3 d5 8.Bg2 b6 9.Bf4 Nh5 10.Bd2 Bb7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Rc1 c6 13.Nf3 Nd7 14.0-0 Nhf6 15.Bf4 Rc8 16.b4 Ba6 17.Rfe1 Re8 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.Bxe5 Ng4 20.Bh3 Qg5 21.f3 Nxe5 ½-½ (32) Feagin,J-Braskin,I ICCF World Cup8-9 prel-045 1990]

[5.e4 must also be a critical option, and here Black should respond with must also be a critical option, and here Black should respond with GM Sethuraman: 'Curious to see what he had up his sleeve.' c5! The most testing line might be 6.dxc5 *(6.e5 cxd4 7.a3 Bf8!* demonstrates an advantage of ...h6 over castling*; 6.d5 exd5 7.exd5 b5 8.cxb5 0-0 9.Bd3 a6 10.Nge2 axb5 11.Bxb5 Nxd5 12.0-0 Nf6 13.a3 Bxc3 14.Nxc3 d5* Chapter 1- 4.Qc2 h6!? 2025*)* 6...Bxc5 7.e5 Ng4 8.Ne4 but it would be brave to enter this sharp position without preparation. Qb6 9.Nxc5 Qxc5 10.f4 d6 11.Qe2 h5 12.Nf3 Nd7 13.h3 Nh6 14.g4 b5 15.cxb5 Bb7 16.Bd2 0-0 17.b4 Qc2 18.Rc1 Qxa2 19.Rc7 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Nb6 21.exd6 Rad8 22.Rc6 Rd7 23.f5 (26) Chapter 2-4... h6 Gukesh variation Nimzo Qc2 2025 2024]

5...c5



6.dxc5 Na6 This is a normal position if you replace ...h6 with castling. The change should favour White of course.

7.g3

[7.c6 is possible here too, as it is in

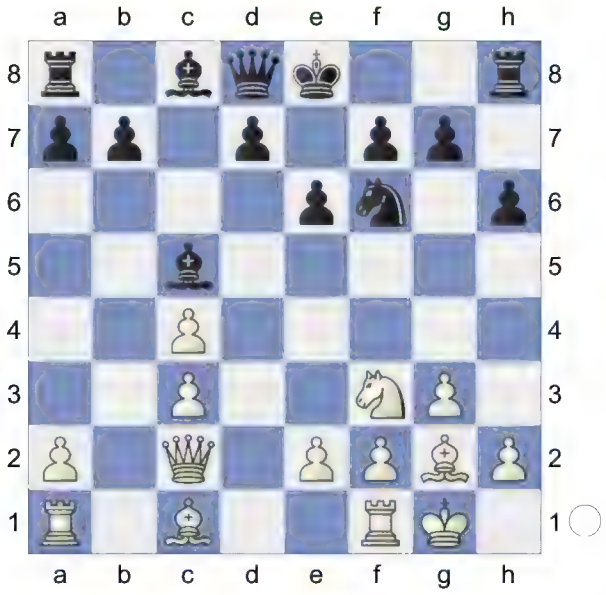
the 4...0-0 Nf3 c5 line.]

7...Nxc5 8.Bg2 White is slightly better.

8...Nce4 9.0-0 Nxc3

[9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Nd4 d5 12.cxd5 exd5 13.c4 White's position is easier to play and it is definitely not what Gukesh wanted.]

10.bxc3 Bc5



11.e4 Nh7! An amazing idea, and a good one too. With this subtle piece of prophylaxis against e5, Gukesh somehow finds a creative way to justify his 4... h6. An amazing idea, and a good one too. With this subtle piece of prophylaxis against e5, Gukesh somehow finds a creative way to justify his 4... h6. GM Sethuraman: 'A brilliant knight maneuver, thanks to the pawn on h6. Black solves the problem of the e5 push and now he will create play around the c-file.'

[11...0-0 0.73/20 11...Nh7 0.25 12.e5! Ne8 13.Nd4 looks promising for White.]

12.e5 Rb8! The priority is to vacate the long diagonal to prepare ...b6 and ...Bb7. The priority is to vacate the long diagonal to prepare ...b6 and ...Bb7. GM Sethuraman: 'In order to free the game with ...b6-Bb7.'

[12...0-0 0.75/20 12...Rb8 0.30 13.Nd4! would be difficult for Black. Rb8 14.Rd1! And Black is stuck here. Qe8 *(14...b6?? 1.62/20* 14...Qc7 0.74 *15.Nc6!+-)* 15.Qa4! a6 16.Nb3±]

13.Nd2

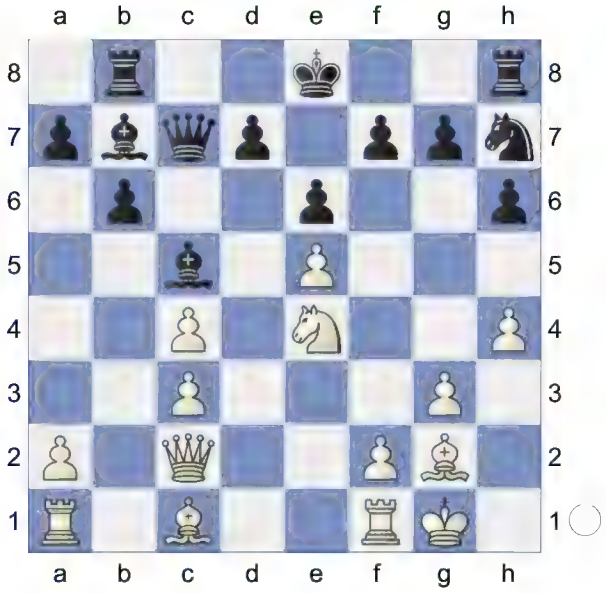
[13.Nd4 b6! 14.Rd1 *(14.Be4 Ng5)* 14...Bb7 Repels Nc6 15.Be4 Bxe4 16.Qxe4 Black must now prevent Nc6!. f5! 17.exf6 -0.19/19 *(17.Qe2* 0.30/22 might be stronger. *Qe7 18.a4)* 17...Qxf6 looks fine for Black.]

13...b6 14.Ne4 Bb7 Gukesh's opening experiment has been a success. White might have a small edge here, but Black's position is certainly playable and there's a nice imbalance to it as well.

15.h4 This prevents ... Ng5 but allows a tactical idea later.

[15.Qe2 is slightly better.]

15...Qc7!



16.Rd1 Bxe4! 17.Qxe4

[White would prefer to recapture with the bishop, to attack the knight. However, 17.Bxe4 -0.29/24 17.Qxe4 0.23 is well met by f5! when

18.exf6? -1.09/22 *(18.Bf3= -0.29/23)* 18...Qxg3+! demonstrates a disadvantage of White's 15th move.]

17...0-0 GM Sethuraman: 'Up to here, I am pretty sure Gukesh was prepared.' **18.Bf4 Rfd8** Black is weak on the light squares

[18...b5! could be played here too.]

[18...Rbd8 It's more precise, as the b8-rook wasn't doing much there. But I can understand that at some point, perhaps Gukesh was aiming for a ...b5 push, so he shifted the other rook. The dilemma of which rook to move - always a classic! 19.Rd2 d6 20.Rad1 dxe5 21.Bxe5 Rxd2 22.Rxd2 Qe7∞]

19.Rd2 Nf8 GM Sethuraman: 'The knight though passive is very good at defending the d7-pawn and potential invasions on the h7-square.'

[19...d6? 1.63/21 19...g5 -0.18 20.Rad1! dxe5 1.94/22 *(20...Rbc8± 1.48/19* was called for.*)* 21.Bxe5+- Now one can see why the other rook to d8 is precise.]

20.h5 b5!

It's more important to open lines for counterplay than it is to keep the white pawns doubled. **21.cxb5 Rxb5 22.Bf1** GM Sethuraman: 'White is doing well so far, on the other hand Black is also fine with no real problems as such.' **22...Rb6 23.Rad1 Rdb8 24.a4** GM Sethuraman: '?!' GM Sethuraman: 'A slight inaccuracy, as it allows the rook to invade and I don't quite see the point of a4 either.'

[24.Bc4 intending Bb3, or intending Bb3, or GM Sethuraman: '=']

[24.Kg2 were stronger.]

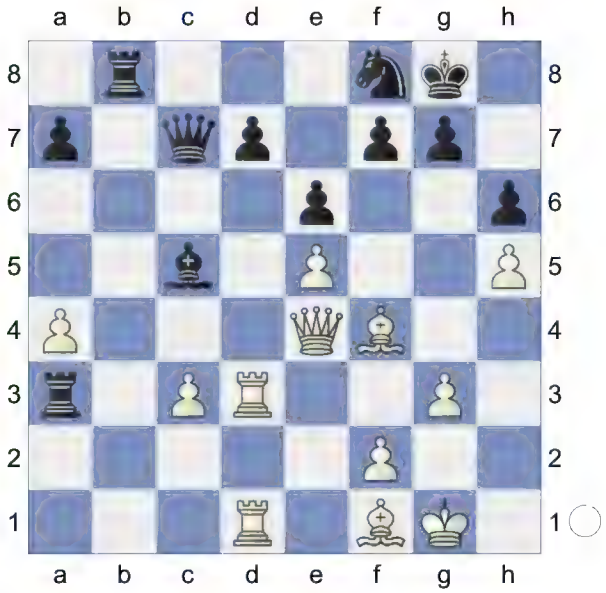
[24.Bd3=]

24...Rb3! Gukesh seizes the opportunity to attack the weaknesses on the queenside, and this soon leads to a win of a pawn. **25.Rd3?!**

[25.Rc1 Ra3 26.Bb5! maintains the balance.]

[25.Rc2 Ra3 0.37/19 *(25...Rb1=* 0.00/20 *26.Rxb1 Rxb1)* 26.Bb5]

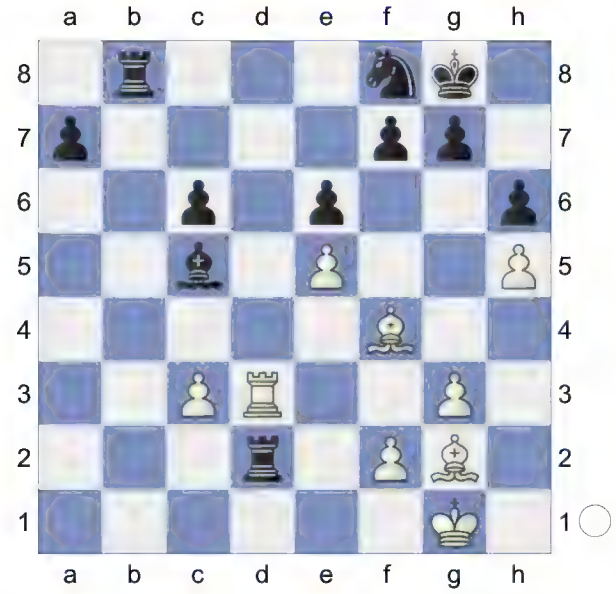
25...Ra3



GM Sethuraman: 'And now there is no Bb5 stuff to protect the a4-pawn.' **26.Rf3 Qc6!** Winning the a-pawn. Winning the a-pawn. GM Sethuraman: 'Removing the defender on e4.' **27.Qxc6 dxc6 28.Rfd3 Rxa4 29.Bg2** -0.84/21

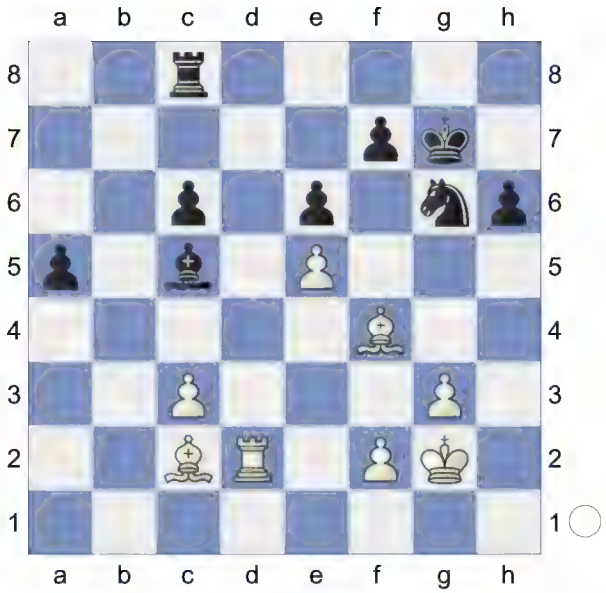
[29.R3d2∓ -0.42/21]

29...Ra2 -0.16/22
[29...g5! 30.hxg6 Nxg6
GM Sethuraman: '∓']
[29...g5∓ -0.84/21 30.Bd2 Ra6]
30.R1d2 Rxd2

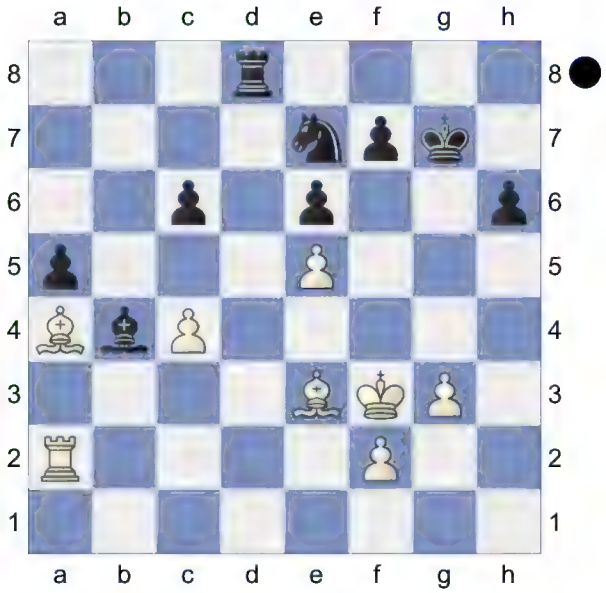


31.Rxd2 Rc8 32.Be4 a5 33.Bc2
[33.Ra2! gives White better chances to hold. gives White better chances to hold. GM Sethuraman: 'is better resistance.' Bb6 34.Kf1 Nd7 35.Ke2 Nc5 36.Bg2]
33...g5 34.hxg6 Nxg6 35.Kg2
[35.Bxg6 fxg6 36.Ra2! Ra8
Hoping for ...g5. 37.Bxh6 a4
For computers it's equal, but the a-pawn is definitely dangerous for human play.]
35...Kg7

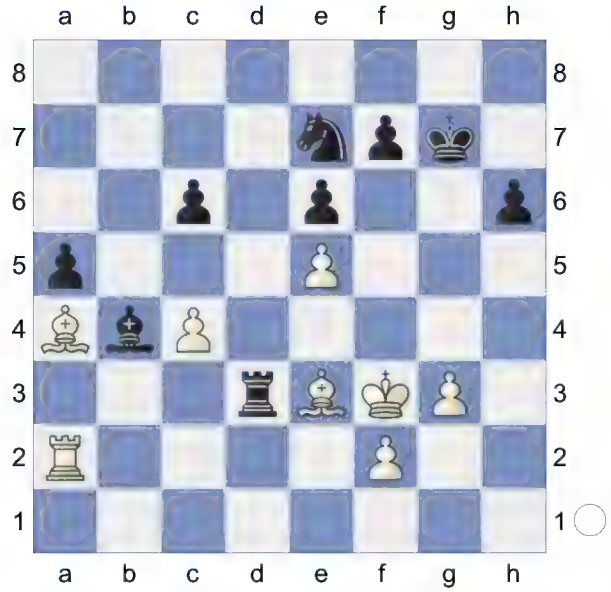
(Diagram)



36.Ba4 Ne7 37.c4? -0.70/19
For the second time in the game, a rash pawn move on the queenside only succeeds in creating a weakness.
[White must sit and wait with 37.Ra2 Nd5 38.Bd2]
[37.Ra2= -0.18/27]
37...Rb8! Gukesh quickly eyes his new property - the b4-square. **38.Ra2! Bb4** Black keeps a firm grip on the game.
39.Kf3 Rd8! 40.Be3 -1.60/21
[Better is 40.Ke4!∓ -0.57/20]



Wards off Rd4 **40...Rd3!∓**

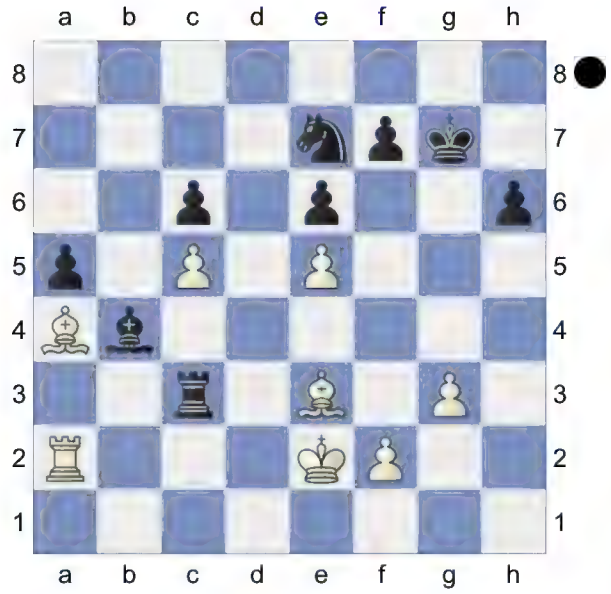


Black has full control now, and Gukesh goes on to win without any further problems. Black has full control now, and Gukesh goes on to win without any further problems. GM Sethuraman: 'Slowly Black has achieved a dream position for his rook and now the game is almost over.' **41.Ke2** -1.84/20

[41.Kg4∓ -1.24/20]

41...Rc3-+ 42.c5 -2.45/22

[⌓42.Bd4 -1.84/20 Rxc4 43.Kd3]



42...Nd5!

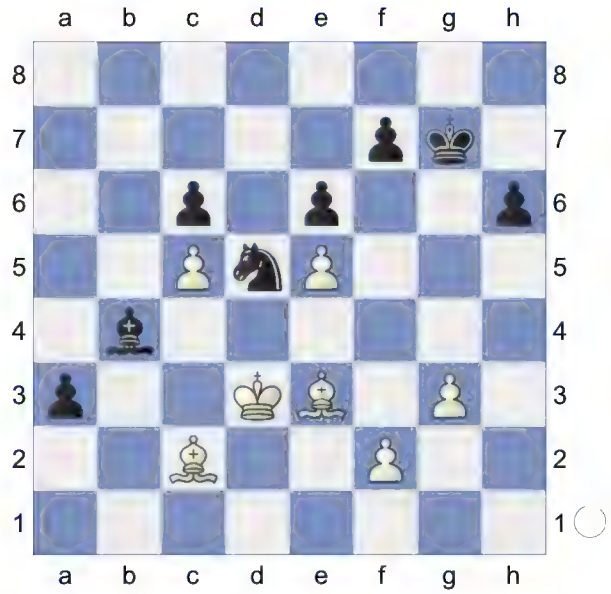
[Weaker is 42...Bxc5 43.Bd2 Rc4 44.Bxa5∓]

43.Rc2 Rxc2+ 44.Bxc2 Endgame KBB-KBN. Black is a pawn up. **44...a4** GM Sethuraman: '-+' **45.Kd3** -3.90/24

[45.Bxa4? -4.75/24 45.Bc1 -2.76 Nc3+-+]

[⌓45.Bc1 -2.45/21]

45...a3



46.Bb3 Kg6 -1.92/18

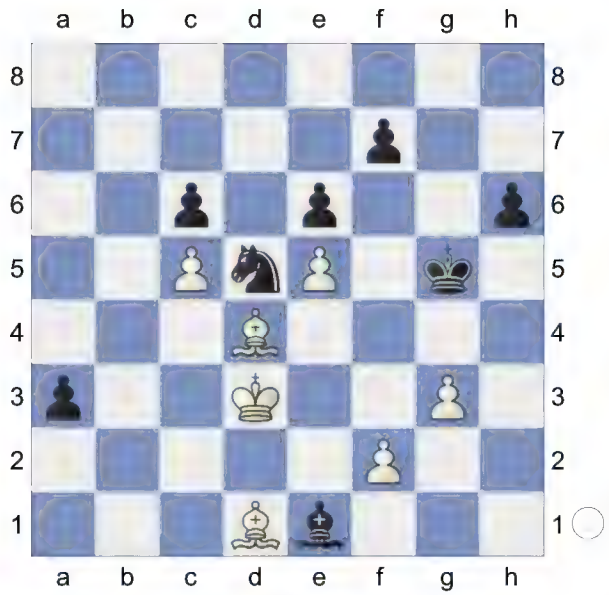
[⌓46...Nxe3 -3.54/21 47.Kxe3 Bxc5+ 48.Ke2 h5]

47.Bd4? -4.54/24

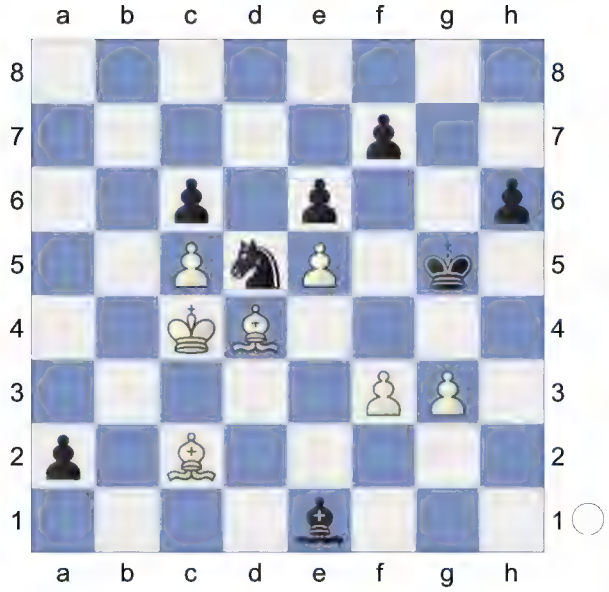
[47.Kc4 -1.92/18 was the only defense.]

47...Kg5 48.Kc4 Be1 49.Kd3 Kg4 50.Bd1+ Kg5

(Diagram)

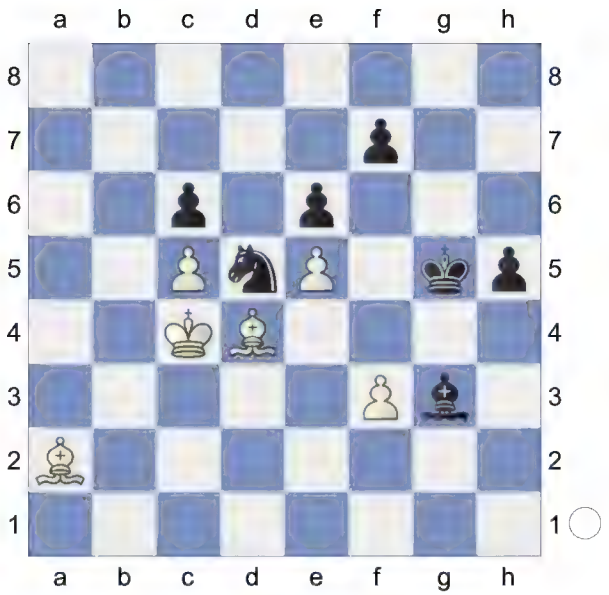


51.Bb3? -4.97/23
[51.Kc2 -3.03/18 a2 52.Kb2]
51...Kf5 52.Kc4 Ke4 53.Bd1 -7.09/22
[⌓53.g4 -4.47/19 Kf4 54.Ba4]
53...a2 54.f3+ Kf5 55.Bc2+ Kg5



56.Bb3 Bxg3 57.Bxa2
Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/ Black=0.20 (precise)
57...h5

(Diagram)

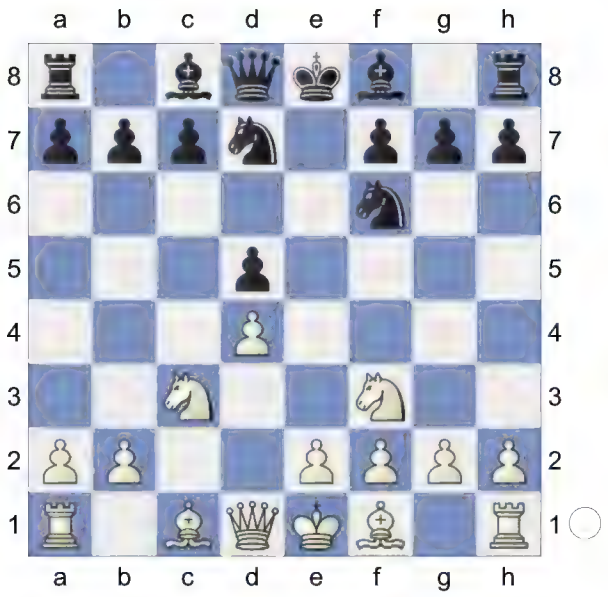


GM Sethuraman: 'A fine win by Gukesh that significantly boosted his chances of winning the Candidates, which he later went on to win :) 0-'
0-1

70 **D37**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2803**
FIDE Candidates 2024 (11.3) 17.04.2024
[Nigel Davies]

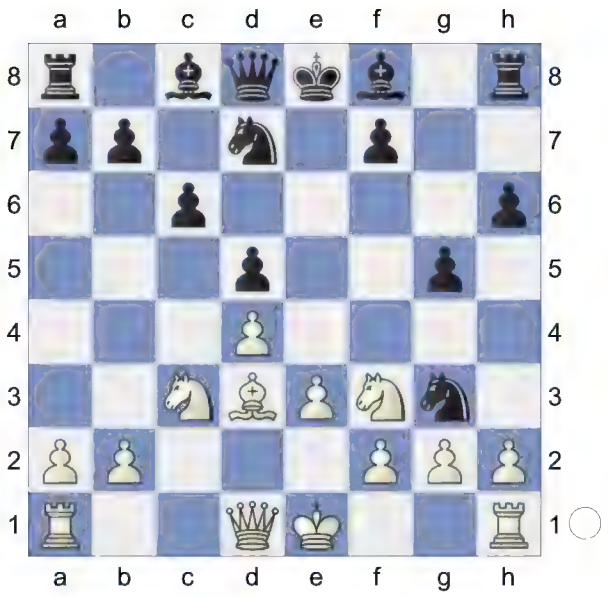
D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.cxd5 exd5

(Diagram)



6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 c6N
[7...Bb4 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 c5 10.e3 Qa5 11.Nd2 Qxc3 12.Rc1 Qxa3 13.dxc5 0-0 14.Be2 Qb4 15.Bxf6 Nxf6 16.0-0 Bf5 17.Nb3 Rac8 18.Nd4 Bg6 19.c6 Qb6 20.Qa4 Kh8 21.cxb7 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 0-1 (44) Morris Suzuki,S (1770)-Urh,Z (2096) Wch U16 Girls 2017 (11)]
8.e3 g5 A pugnacious choice by Caruana, who no doubt felt he needed to catch up in the tournament. Black creates weaknesses but gets the two bishops. Caruana had not previously played this way, so presumably it came as a surprise to Gukesh. White is slightly better. **9.Bg3 Nh5 10.Bd3 Nxg3**

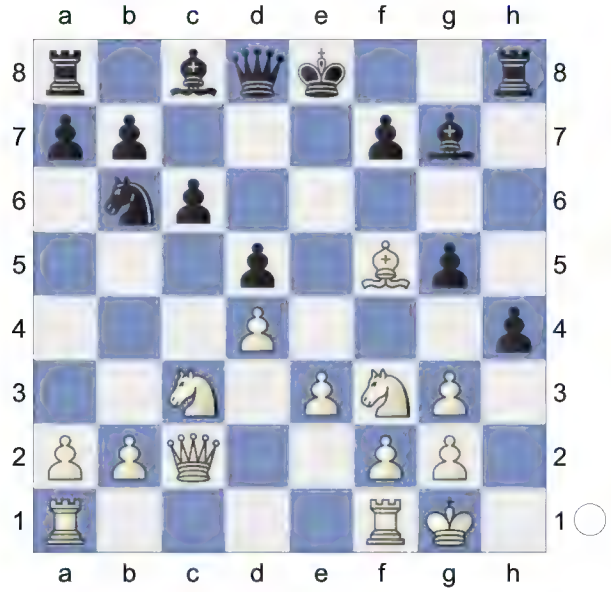
(Diagram)



11.hxg3 Bg7 12.0-0 Natural enough, but a possible objection to early castling is the idea of ...h6-h5-h4 by Black.
[The flexible 12.Qc2 keeping the option of castling on either side. This, plus other White alternatives, were covered by Max Illingworth within a Parligras - Nisipeanu game.]
12...Nb6
[12...a5 was covered by Max Illingworth in the game Navara,D-Carlsen,M.]
13.Qc2
[The immediate 13.b4 is also playable, for example h5!? *(13...a6 14.a4 Be6 15.Rc1 0-0 16.a5 Nc8 17.Na4 Nd6 18.Nc5 Qe7 19.Ne5* was quite promising for White in Ding,L (2799)-Santos Latasa,J (2608) San Fermin Masters Final chess24.com INT 2021. *)* 14.b5 0.27/4 *(14.Rc1± 0.66/4)* 14...h4 15.bxc6 bxc6 16.Qc2 hxg3 17.fxg3 Qd6 produced a murky situation in Babula,V (2540)-Grischuk, A (2754) Olympiad-42 Baku 2016.]
13...0-0
[Black can also play 13...Be6 which White can answer with 14.b4

, aiming for traditional minority attack style play.]

[The aggressive 13...h5!? 0.86/4 13...0-0 0.42 can also be considered, Voloshin,L (2370)-Krejci,J (2582) CZE-ch Ostrava 2018 continuing 14.Bf5 0.24/2 *(14.Rae1± 0.86/4)* 14...h4 0.86/10 *(14...Qf6= 0.24/2* keeps the balance. *15.Bxc8 Rxc8)*

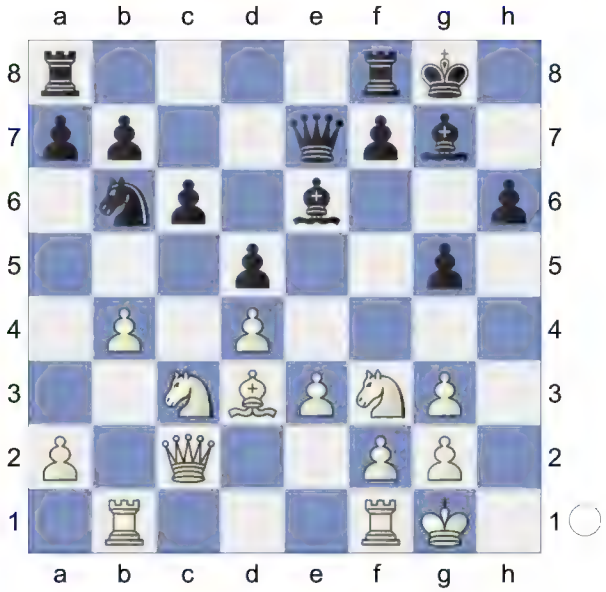


15.g4 0.45/6 *(15.Rae1!± 0.86/10)* 15...Qf6± 16.Bxc8 Rxc8 17.Qf5 -0.36/21 *(*White should try *17.e4±* 0.34/13 *)* 17...Qxf5∓ 18.gxf5 Bf6 with at least an equal game.]

14.b4 Qe7 This is the departure point from known theory, it's a fairly standard looking move but it does get White to take action against the threat to his b-pawn.

[14...Be6 15.Nd2 Qe7 16.a3 -0.04/18 *(16.Rab1± 0.40/17)* 16...a5 0.36/21 was Salem, A (2624)-Khismatullin, D (2651) Berlin 2015, and now rather than 17.Rab1, Illingworth pointed out a promising option for White in *(16...Nc8=* -0.04/18 *)* 17.Nb3!± axb4 18.axb4 Nc4 19.b5 0.06/18 , with queenside pressure. *(19.Nc5±* 0.44/20 *)*]

15.Rab1 Be6



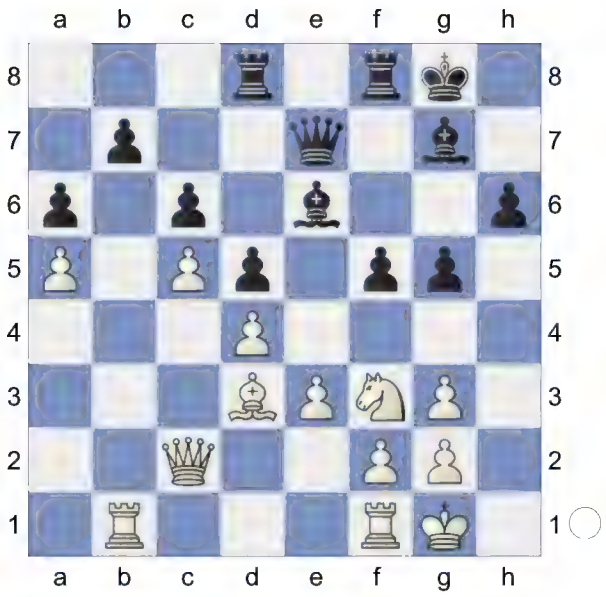
16.a4 Nd7 17.a5 Switching plans from a minority attack. White first threatens to push on to a6 and then routes his knight round to c5. **17...a6** 0.87/20

[17...Rac8± 0.45/20]

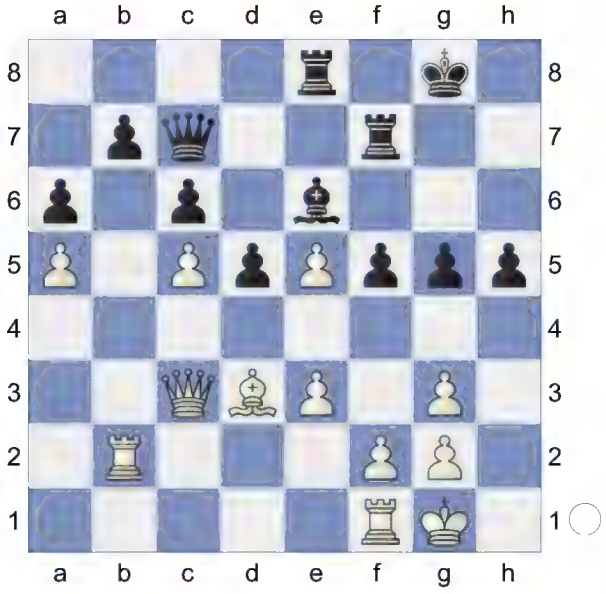
18.Na4± Rad8 19.Nc5 Nxc5 Not strictly necessary, but the knight on c5 is very annoying. Now Black needs to defend b7, but when he does that can White break through? Sometimes similar positions can be won by White transferring his king to the queenside before breaking through with a kingside pawn storm, but this looks quite unrealistic in the case under review.

20.bxc5 f5

(Diagram)



21.Qc3 Rf7 22.Rb4 White is more active. **22...Qc7 23.Rb2 Re8 24.Ne5 Bxe5 25.dxe5 h5**



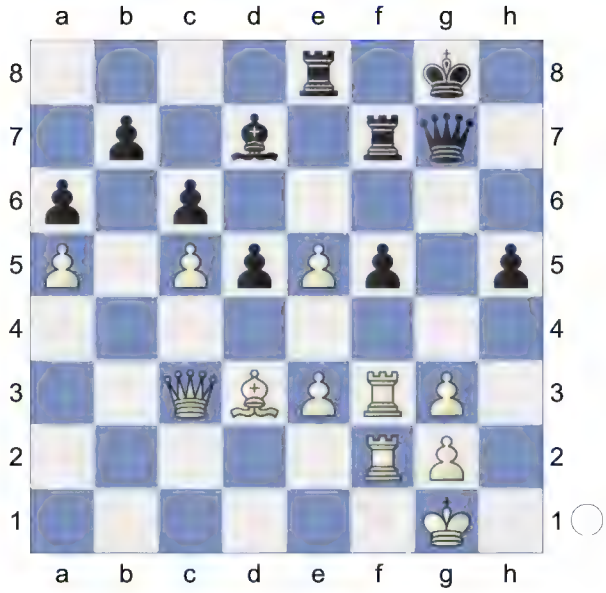
26.f4 Qd8 27.fxg5 0.56/17

[My engine is initially critical of this move, suggesting instead that White keeps the tension with 27.Rb6 0.59/16 27.Be2 1.04 , yet as I investigated its suggested line, there was no indication of how White should break through. This explains Gukesh's decision to release the tension.]

[27.Be2± 1.04/16]

27...Qxg5± 28.Rf3 Qg7 29.Rbf2 Bd7 0.95/23

[29...Rfe7± 0.43/21]

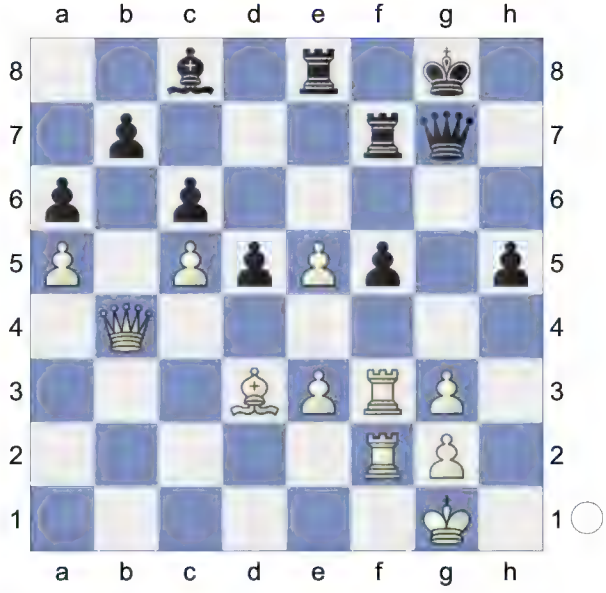


30.Qb4 0.16/18

[Don't play 30.Bxf5 Qxe5 31.Qxe5 Rxe5 32.Bxd7 Rxd7=]

[30.Qb2!± 0.95/23]

30...Bc8!=

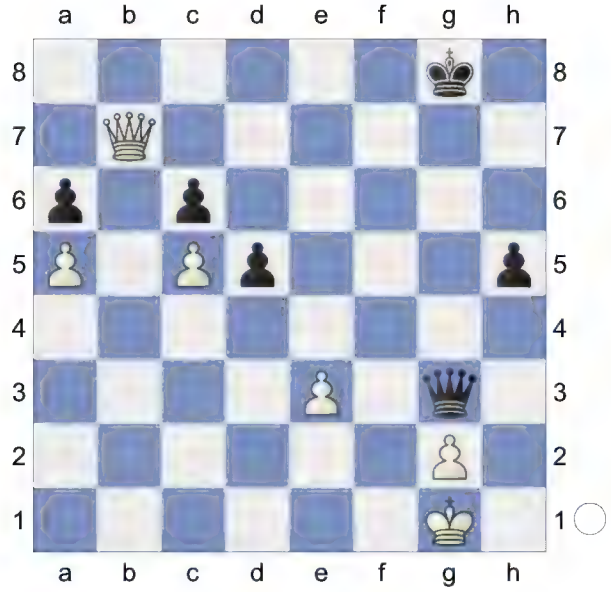


31.Bxf5 Leading to simplifications and a draw.

[31.Qh4 keeps more tension. Qxe5 32.Rf1 Ref8 33.Qxh5 Rh7 34.Qg4+]

31...Rxf5 32.Rxf5 Bxf5 33.Rxf5 aiming for Qf4. **33...Rxe5 34.Rxe5** The position is equal. **34...Qxe5 35.Qxb7 Qxg3**

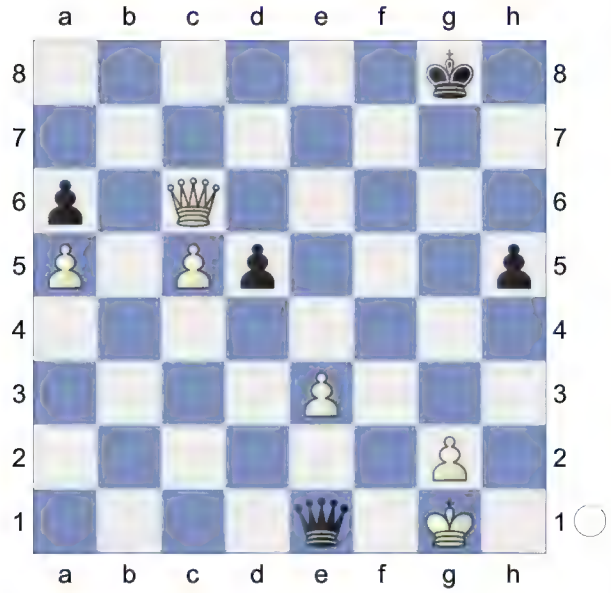
[35...Qxe3+ 36.Kh2 Qxc5 37.Qxa6]



36.Qxc6 KQ-KQ. White is a pawn up. **36...Qe1+ 37.Kh2 Qh4+ 38.Kg1 Qe1+ 39.Kh2 Qh4+ 40.Kg1**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

40...Qe1+



½-½

71 **C55**

□ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2727**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**

FIDE Candidates 2024 (8.2) 13.04.2024

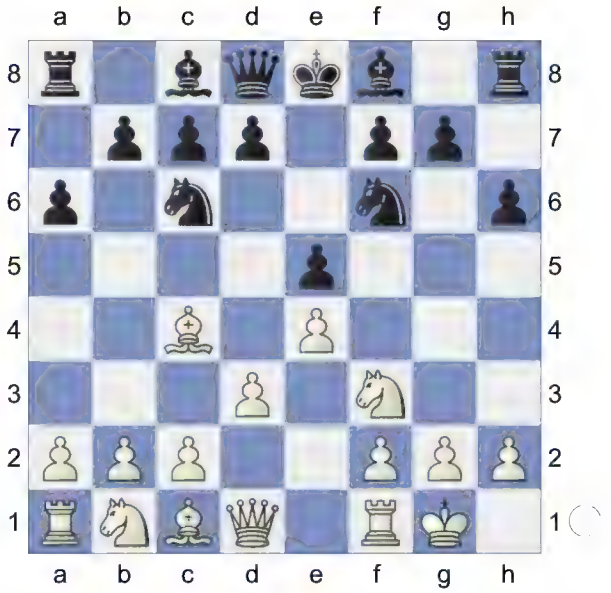
[TA]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack

Kitty Kat: 'C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo

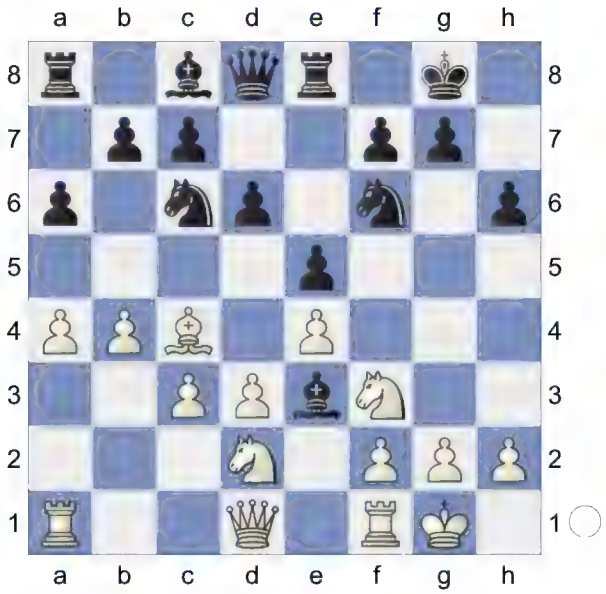
' Kitty Kat: 'Die nachfolgende Partie wird durch den unterschiedlichen Werdegang der Damen bestimmt. Zunächst bringt Schwarz seine Dame zu früh heraus und erlaubt dem Weißen eine schnelle Entwicklung. Schließlich läßt sich die schwarze Dame auf b8 nieder und die Stellung erscheint halbwegs gesichert. Dann jedoch schwenkt die weiße Dame elegant zum verwaisten schwarzen Königsflügel und entfacht einen heftigen Angriff. Ich verwende Kommentare von Euwe, Petrosian und Kmoch aus "Von Steinitz bis Fischer" von Max Euwe.'

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 a6 5.0-0 h6



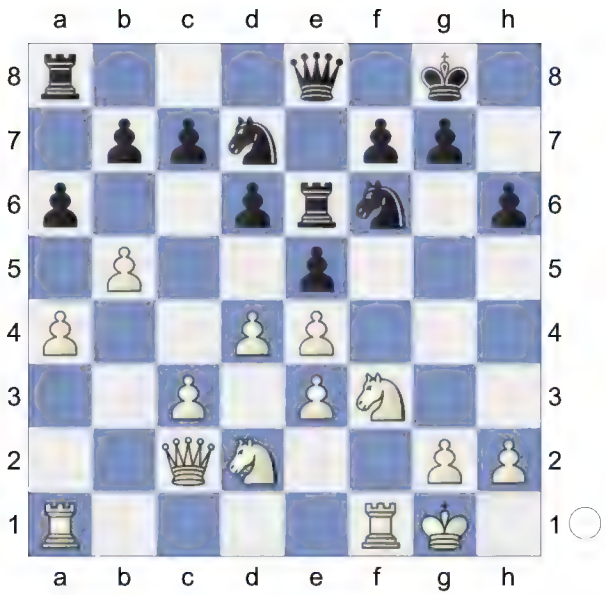
6.a4 Bc5 7.Be3 d6 8.Nbd2

White has an edge. **8...0-0 9.c3 Re8N**
[9...Bxe3 10.fxe3 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Qb3 Qd7 13.h3 Kh7 14.Rf2 Rab8 15.Raf1 Ne7 16.g4 Kh8 17.g5 Nh7 18.h4 b5 19.axb5 axb5 20.Rg2 hxg5 21.Nxg5 Nxg5 22.hxg5 Rxf1+ 23.Nxf1 g6 24.Qd1 1-0 (66) Deac,B (2683)-Nasuta,G (2533) Arad op 17th 2024 (5)]
10.b4 -0.04/22
[10.Qb3± 0.45/19]
10...Bxe3=

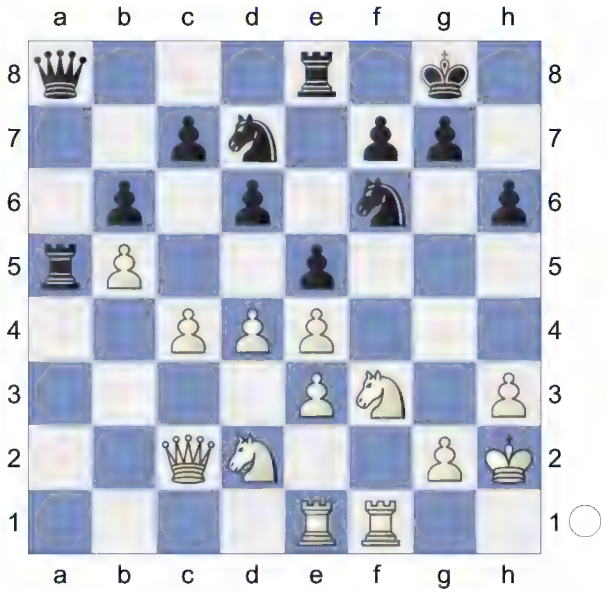


11.fxe3 Be6 12.b5 -0.50/20
[12.Qc2= -0.02/20 might be stronger.]
12...Nb8 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 14.Qc2 Nbd7 15.d4 Qe8

(Diagram)

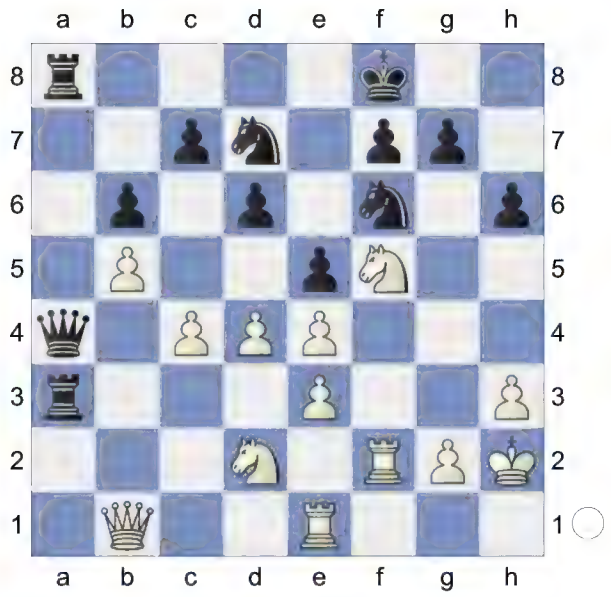


16.Rae1 axb5 17.axb5 Ra5 18.c4 Qa8 19.h3 Re8 20.Kh2 -1.09/23
[20.Nb1∓ -0.60/18]
20...b6



21.Rf2 Ra2 22.Qd3 Ra3 -1.01/21
Black is much more active.
[⌓22...Qa3 -1.39/21 23.Qb1 Ra8]
23.Qb1 Qa4 24.Nh4 Ra8 25.Nf5 Kf8

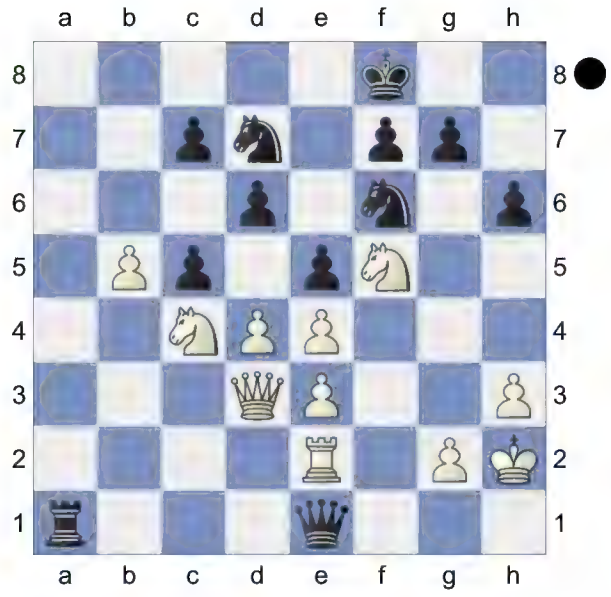
(Diagram)



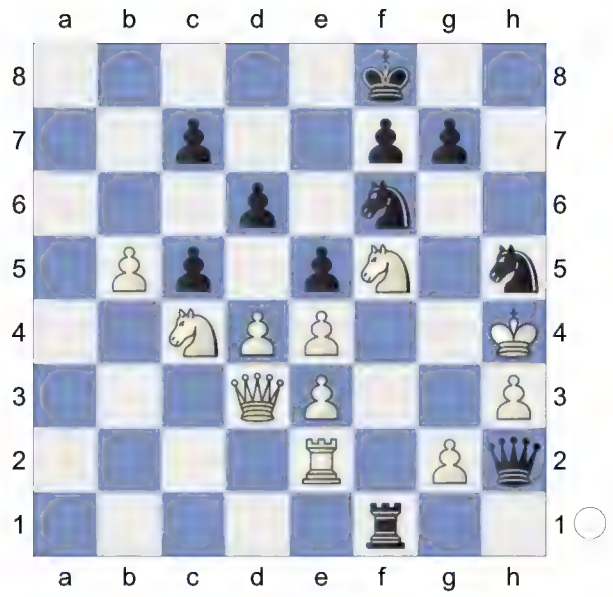
Inhibits Ne7. **26.Ref1 Ra1 27.Qd3 Qb4** -0.96/19
[⌓27...Rxf1 -1.35/23 28.Rxf1 Qb4]
28.Rxa1 -1.59/20
[Better is 28.Nb1 -0.96/19]
28...Rxa1∓ 29.c5 -2.52/19
[29.Nf3∓ -1.59/19]
29...bxc5-+ 30.Nc4? -4.57/17
[30.dxc5 -2.11/18 might work better. Nxc5 31.Qc4 Qxc4 32.Nxc4]
30...Qe1
[Weaker is 30...Qxb5 31.dxe5 dxe5 32.Rb2∓]

(Diagram)

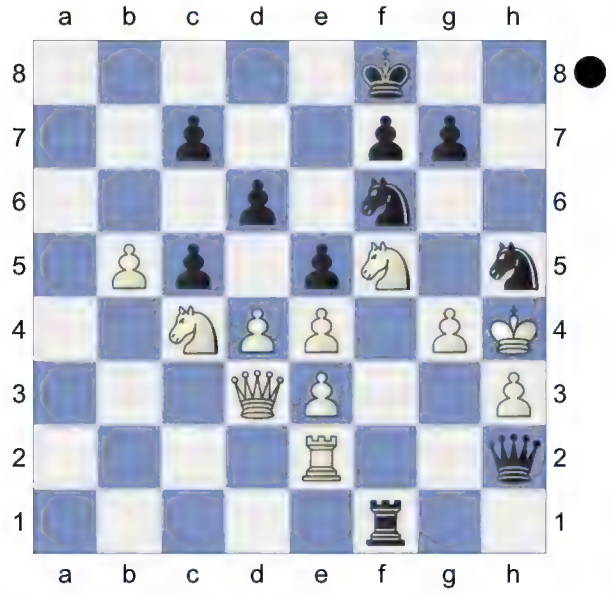
31.Re2 -#15/15
[31.b6-+ -4.60/17 Nxb6 *(31...Qxf2 32.bxc7 Rg1 33.c8Q+ Ne8 34.Qf1 Qxf1 35.Qxe8+ Kxe8 36.Ncxd6+ Kf8 37.Nh4 Qe1 38.Ng6+ fxg6 39.dxe5 Rh1#)* 32.Re2 Qh1+ 33.Kg3 Nxc4 Deflection 34.Qxc4 Nxe4+ 35.Kf3 Ng5+ 36.Kg3 Ne4+ *(36...Rg1? 37.Qd5-+)*]



31...Qg1+ Black mates. **32.Kg3 Nh5+ 33.Kh4 Ndf6 34.Nxh6 Qh2 35.Nf5 Rf1**

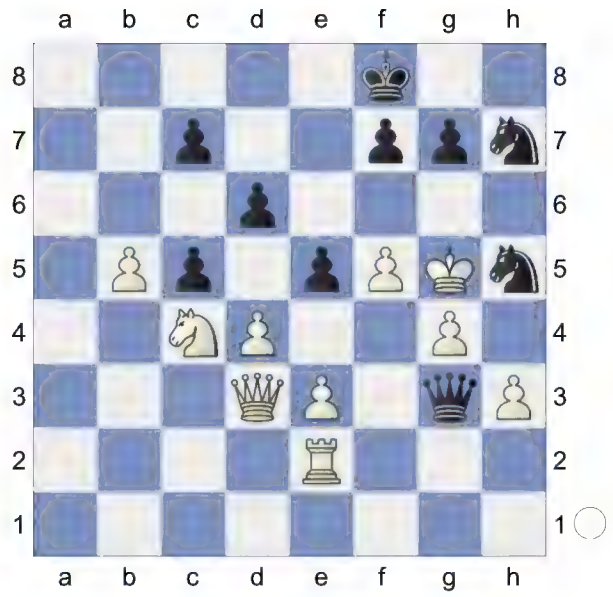


36.g4



Rxf5! Remove Defender **37.exf5 Qg3+ 38.Kg5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.55/ Black=0.06 (flawless)
38...Nh7+

(Diagram)

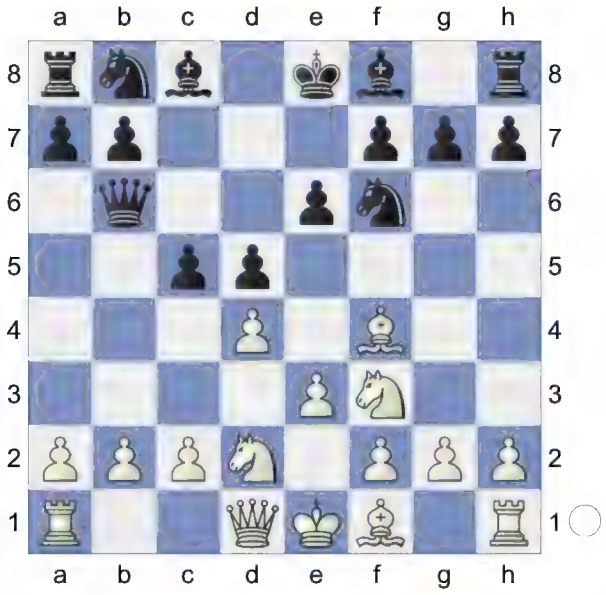


0-1

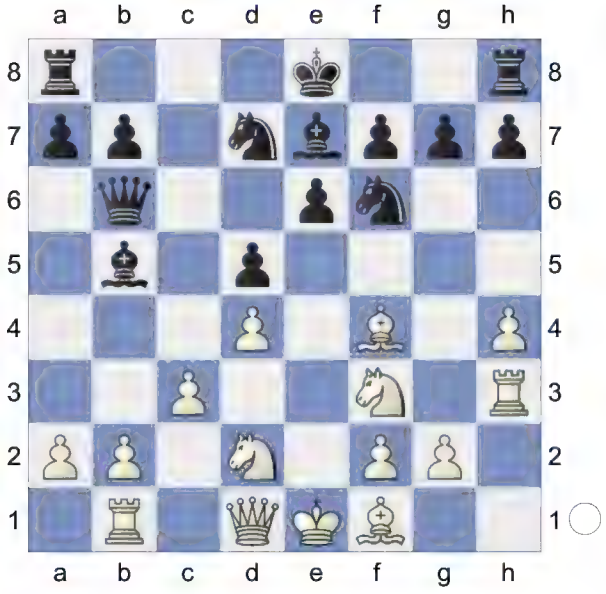
72 **A45**
□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2760**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**
FIDE Candidates 2024 (7.1) 11.04.2024
[TA]

D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4
1.d4 Nf6
[1...d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 g6 *(3...Nbd7 4.f4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 b6 7.Nbd2 Bb7 8.c3 0-0 9.Ne5 Ne4 10.a4 a6 11.Qb3 Nd6 12.a5 b5 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Qc2 e6 15.Nb3 Bc6 16.Nc5 Qc8 17.Be2 Rd8 18.b3* 1-0 (36) Can,E (2483)-Erdogan,H (2234) ch-TUR Kemer-Antalya TUR 2011 (6.3)) 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c3 b6 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.Bd2 Qc8 10.Be1 Ba6 11.Bh4 Qb7 12.Ne5 Bxd3 13.Nxd3 Ne4 14.f5 Nc6 15.Nd2 c4 16.Nf4 0-1 (25) Abdulla,A (2359)-Rausis,I (2525) Goodricke 12th op 2001 (5)]

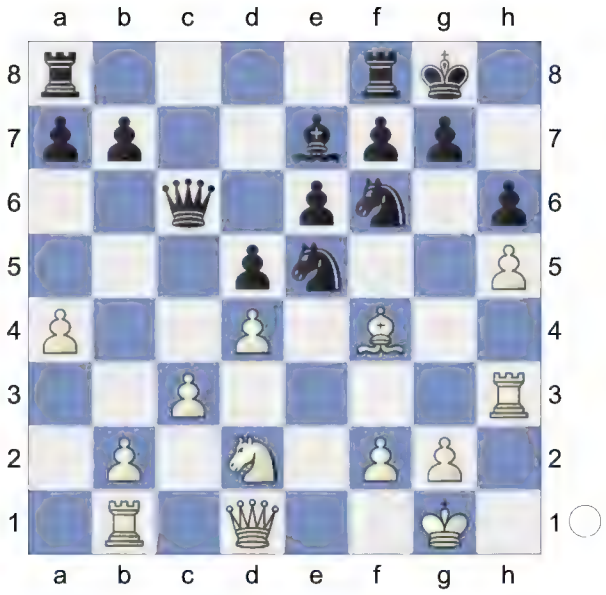
2.Bf4 d5N
[2...c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.a4 Na6 8.Be2 Nc7 9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nd7 12.Qd2 a6 13.Be2 Rb8 14.a5 b5 15.axb6 Rxb6 16.Nd1 Benoni Benko Defense-3...d6 with 4...g6 #2]
3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Nbd2 Qb6



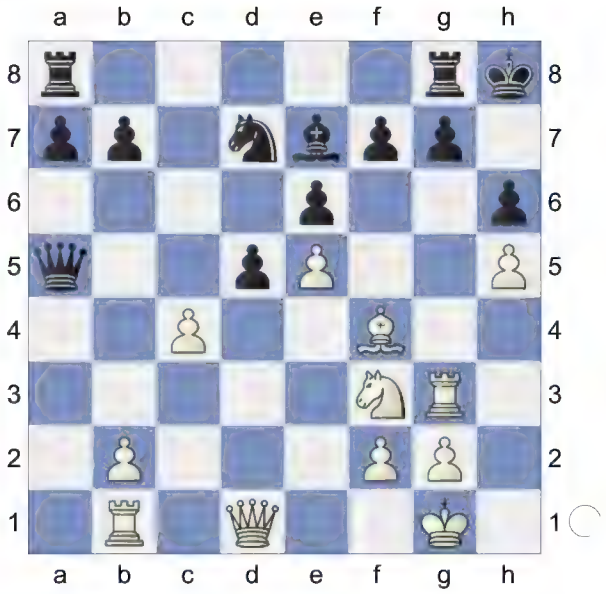
6.Rb1 cxd4 7.exd4 Bd7 8.c3
White has an edge. **8...Bb5 9.h4 Nbd7 10.Rh3 Be7**



11.h5 h6 12.a4 Bxf1 13.Kxf1 0-0 14.Kg1 Qc6 15.Ne5 Nxe5

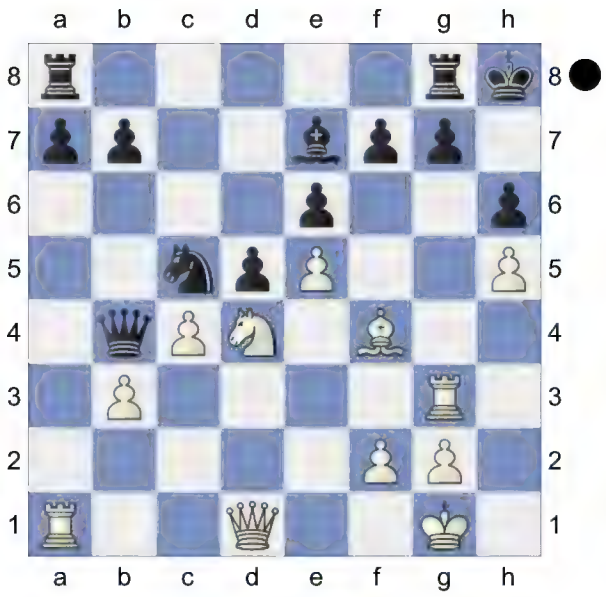


16.dxe5 Nd7 17.Rg3 Kh8 18.a5 Qc7 19.Nf3
[19.Qg4 Rg8∓]
19...Qxa5 20.c4 Rg8



21.Ra1 -0.96/18
[21.cxd5= -0.01/21 Qxd5 22.Qxd5 exd5 23.Nd4]
21...Qb4∓ 22.b3 Nc5 Wards off Ra4
23.Nd4

(Diagram)

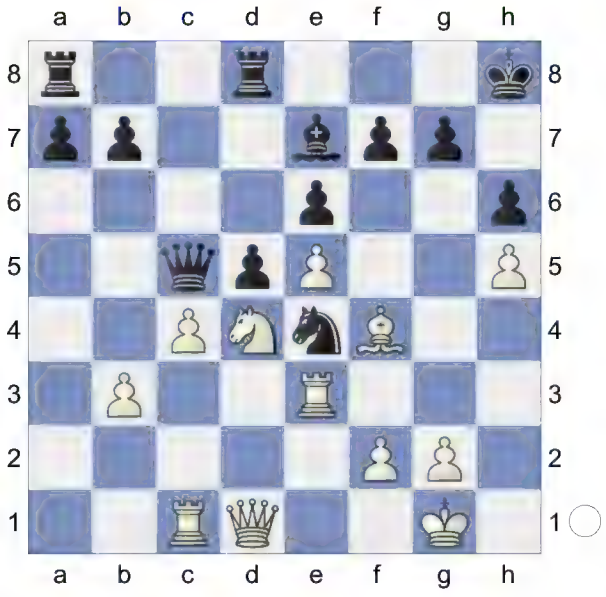


Ne4 Repels Bd2

[23...dxc4? 24.Bd2 Qb6 25.Ba5+-]

24.Re3 Qc5 25.Rc1 Rgd8 -0.46/17

[Black should play 25...Rgc8∓ -0.91/19 26.Re1 a5]

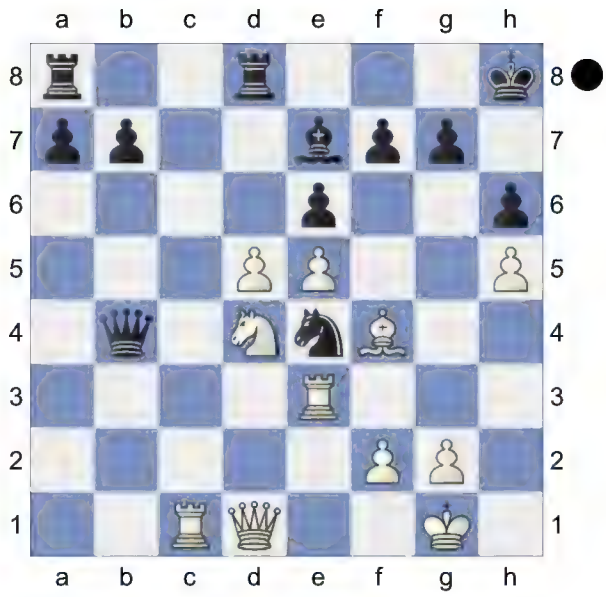


26.b4!∓ Deflection **26...Qxb4** -0.28/18

[26...Qb6!∓ -0.68/21 deserves consideration. 27.cxd5 Nxf2 Decoy *(27...exd5 28.Rf3∓)* 28.Kxf2 Bh4+ *(28...Rxd5 29.Re4=)* 29.Kg1 Rxd5]

27.cxd5=

(Diagram)



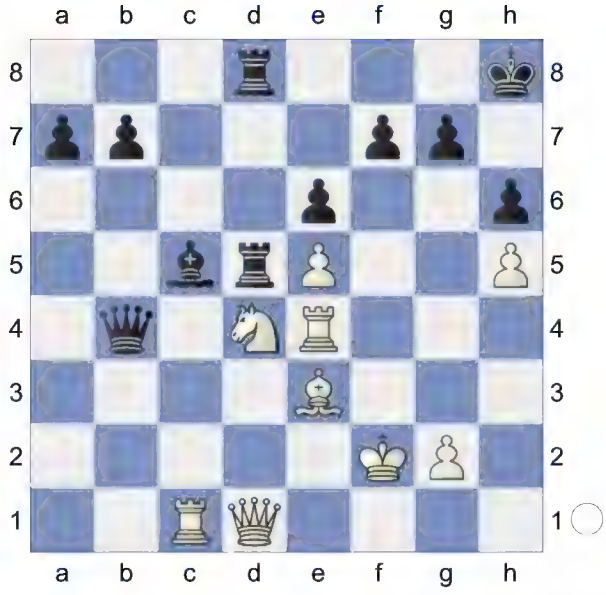
Nxf2 28.Kxf2 Rxd5

[28...Bc5?! 29.Rxc5 Qxc5 30.d6±]

29.Re4 Rad8 0.00/20

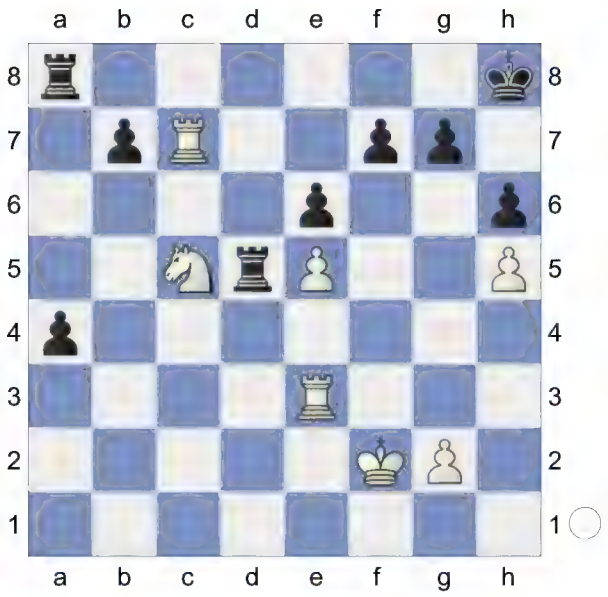
[29...a5!∓ -0.52/19 30.Rb1 Qc3]

30.Be3! Bc5



31.Qb3! Qxb3! 32.Nxb3 Bxe3+ 33.Rxe3 a5 34.Rc7 a4 35.Nc5 Ra8

(Diagram)



36.Nd7 aiming for Nb6!. **36...Kh7?** 2.04/22

[36...Rd2+= 0.20/20 and Black is okay. 37.Ke1 *(37.Re2 Rxe2+ 38.Kxe2 a3∓)* 37...Rd4 *(37...Rxg2? loses. 38.Rec3+-)*]

37.Rf3+-

[Weaker is 37.Rxb7 a3∓]

37...a3? 4.21/20

[37...Rb5± 0.86/19]

38.Rxf7 Threatening mate with Nf6+.

38...Kh8 #7/17

[38...Rd2++- 4.32/18 39.Ke3 Rxg2]

39.Nf8

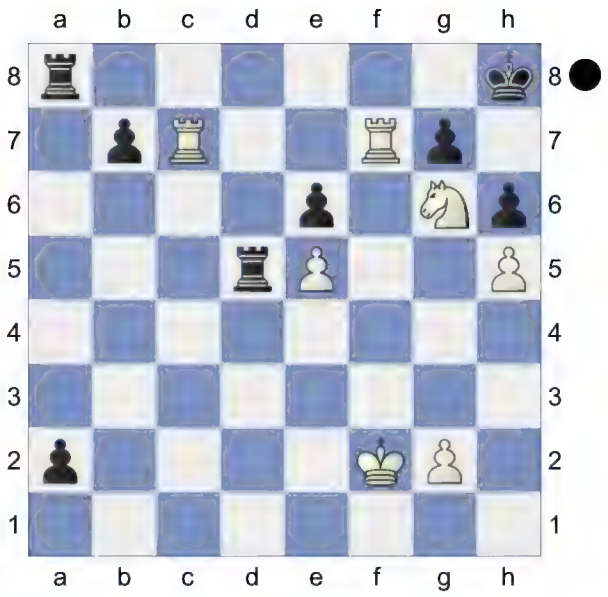
[39.Rxb7 Rxd7 *(39...a2 40.Nf8 Rd2+ 41.Kg3 Rd3+ 42.Kh2)* 40.Rfxd7 a2±]

39...a2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.42

40.Ng6+

(Diagram)



1-0

73 **B27**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**

■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2789**

FIDE Candidates 2024 (6.2) 10.04.2024

[TA]

B27: Sicilian: 2 Nf3, unusual Black 2nd moves

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 d5 4.e5

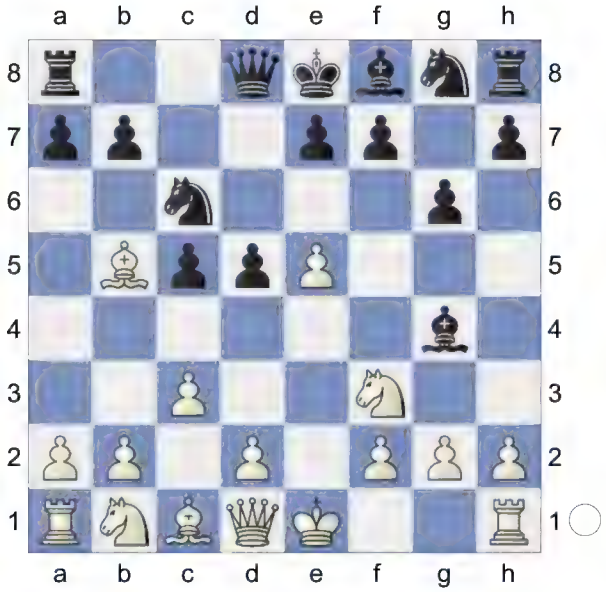
[4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Bg7 6.dxc5 Qxc5 7.Na3 Nf6 8.Be3 Qa5 9.Nc4 Qc7 10.Qa4+ Bd7 11.Qa3 Nd5 12.0-0-0 Nxe3 13.Nxe3 Bc6 14.Bb5 Qf4 15.Be2 Bf6 16.g3 Qe4 17.Rhe1 0-0 18.Nd4 Qe5 1-0 (41) Tong,Y (2505)-Kudrin,S (2565) Tan Chin Nam Cup 4th 1998 (4)]

4...Bg4N

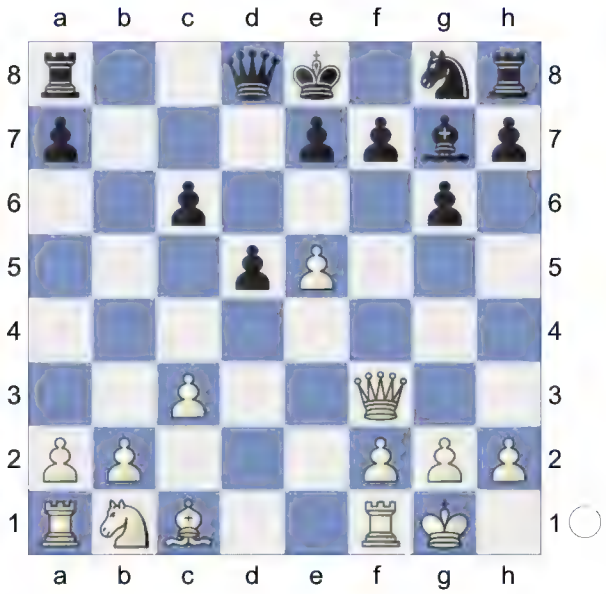
[4...Bg7 5.d4 Nc6 6.Bb5 Qb6 7.Bxc6+ Qxc6 8.0-0 Nh6 9.h3 0-0 10.Re1 e6 11.Bg5 Re8 12.Qd2 Nf5 13.Na3 b5 14.Rac1 a5 15.Nc2 Ba6 16.Ne3 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 Rac8 18.Bh6 Re7 19.Qg5 0-1 (41) Woznicki,T

(1987)-Kovalskyi,R (2213) Wch U18 blitz 2024 (16)]

5.Bb5+ Nc6

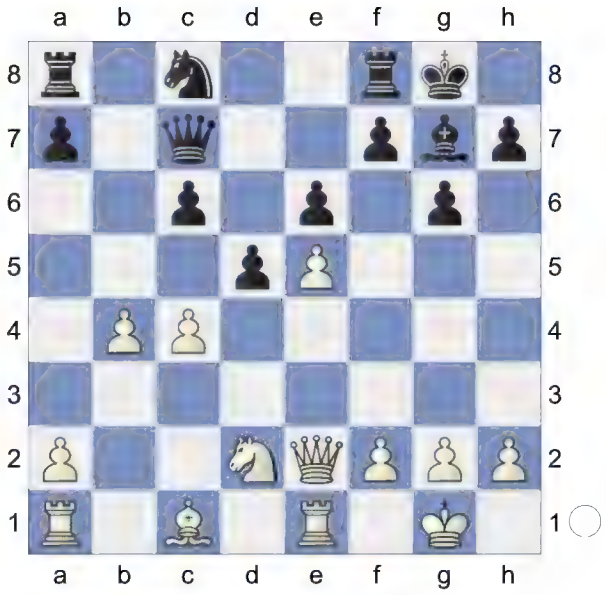


6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.0-0 c4 8.d3 White is slightly better. **8...cxd3 9.Qxd3**
[9.Nbd2 c5 10.Re1 Bg7 11.h3]
9...Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Black is weak on the dark squares **10...Bg7**

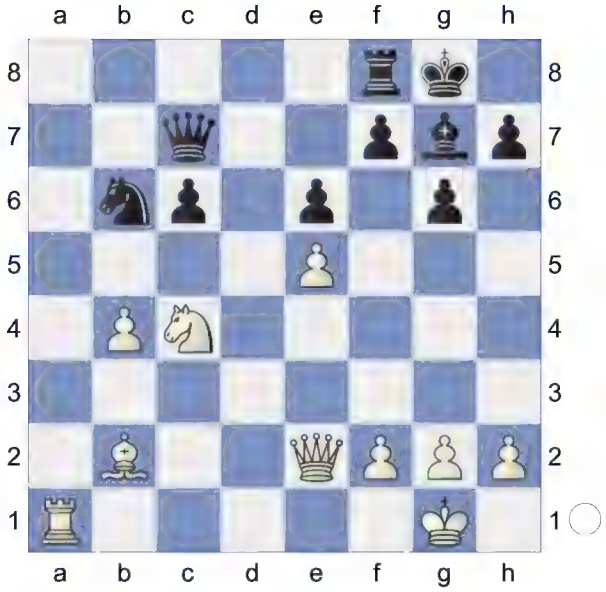


11.Qe2 Qc7 12.Re1 e6! 13.b4 Ne7 14.Nd2 Nc8 15.c4 0.03/4
[15.a4± 0.40/20]
15...0-0=

(Diagram)



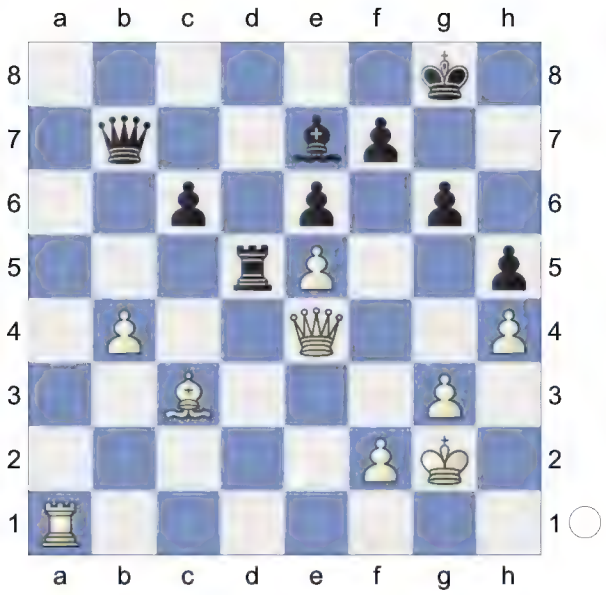
16.Bb2 a5 17.a3 -0.32/3
[17.b5= 0.15/2]
17...axb4∓ 18.axb4 Rxa1 19.Rxa1 dxc4 20.Nxc4 The position is equal.
20...Nb6



21.Nxb6 Qxb6 22.Bc3 Qb5 23.Qe4 Rd8 24.g3 Bf8
[24...Rd3 keeps more tension. 25.Be1 Rd5 26.Ra5 Qb6]
25.Kg2 Qb7

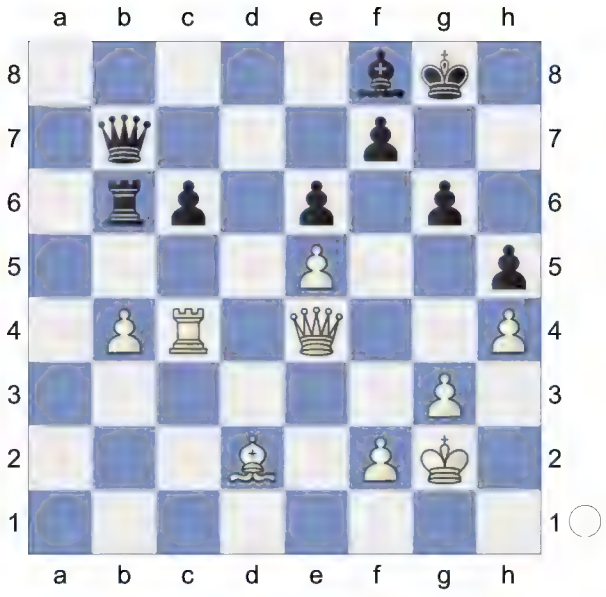
(Diagram)

26.Rc1 Rd5 27.Be1 h5 28.Bc3 Be7 29.h4 Bf8 30.Ra1 Be7

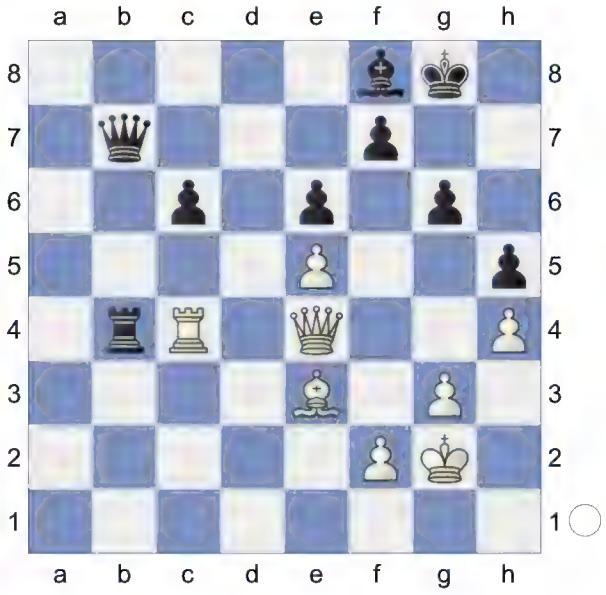


31.Rc1 Bf8 32.Ra1 Rb5 33.Rc1 Rb6 34.Bd2 Ra6 35.Rc4 Rb6

(Diagram)



36.Be3 Rxb4

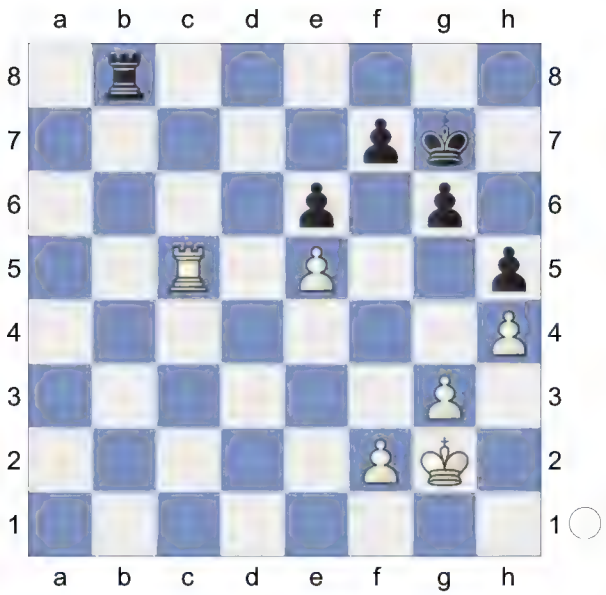


...Qb5 is the strong threat. **37.Qxc6 Qxc6+ 38.Rxc6 Rb8** Inhibits Rc8. **39.Bc5 Bxc5 40.Rxc5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

40...Kg7

(Diagram)



½-½

74 **C43**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**
■ **Abbasov,Nijat** **2632**
FIDE Candidates 2024 (5.3) 09.04.2024
[TA]

C43: Petroff Defence: 3 d4

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3

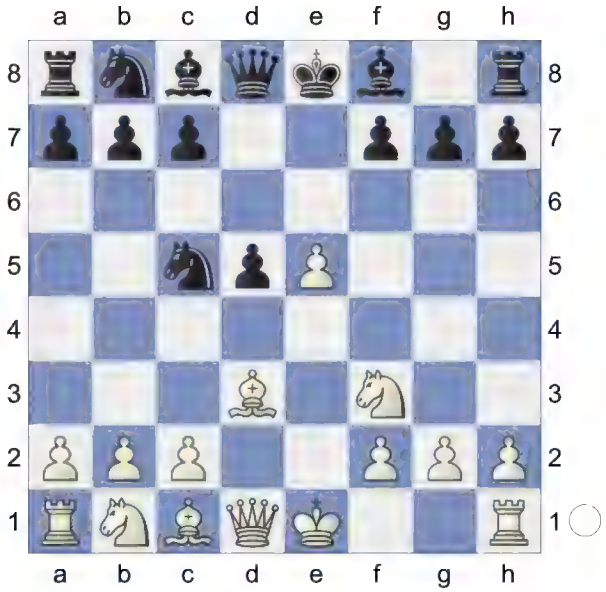
[4.dxe5 d5 5.Nbd2 Nxd2 6.Bxd2 Be7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 c5 9.Bf4 Nc6 10.Qd2 Be6 11.c3 Qd7 12.h3 Rad8 13.Rfd1 h6 14.Bd3 Bf5 15.Bg3 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Qe6 17.a3 b6 18.b4 d4 ½-½ (31) Nepomniachtchi,I (2751)-Mamedyarov,S (2809) 11th Tal Mem Rapid 2018 (9.5)]

[4.Nxe5 d6 5.Nf3 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 c6 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.g4 Bg6 14.Ne5 b5 15.Bb3 Nd7 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.Qf3 Qf6 18.Qxf6 Nxf6 ½-½ (24) Manish,A (2355)-Grebnev,A (2555) Wch U20 62nd 2025 (4)]

4...d5 5.dxe5N

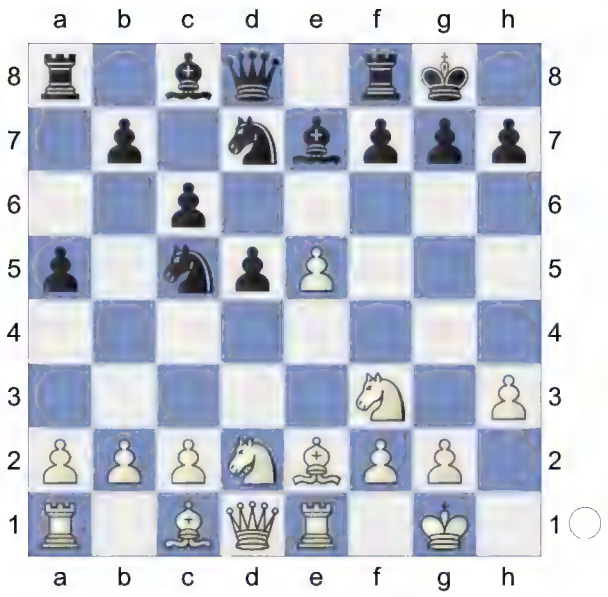
[5.Nxe5 Bd6 *(5...Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nd2 f6 8.Nef3 f5 9.c4 c6 10.Re1 Bf6 11.Nf1 Be6 12.Qb3* 9. Petroff 3... Nxe4 4. Bd3 N-Petroff 3...Nxe4 â?? 4...d *)* 6.0-0 0-0 7.Re1 f6 8.Nf3 f5 9.c3 Nd7 10.Qb3 Ndf6 11.Nbd2 Kh8 12.c4 c6 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Nf1 Re8 15.Bg5 Nxg5 16.Nxg5 Rxe1 17.Rxe1 Qa5 18.Re2 Qc7 19.Qxd5 1-0 Lehtinen-Vornanen Finland corr 1992]

5...Nc5



6.Be2 Be7 Inhibits Bg5. **7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1** The position is equal. **8...c6 9.Nbd2 Nbd7 10.h3 a5**

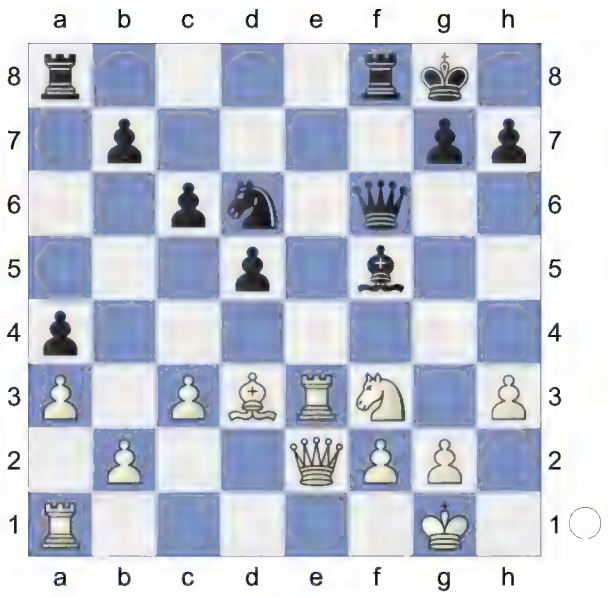
(Diagram)



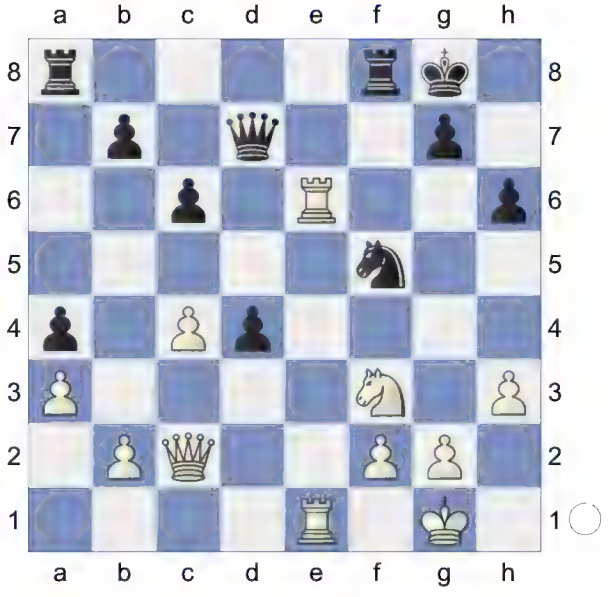
11.Nb3 f6 0.34/19
[11...a4= -0.08/19
is more appropriate. 12.Nbd4 a3]
12.exf6± Nxf6 13.Be3 Nce4 14.Nbd2 a4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4

16.a3 Bc5 ...Bxe3 would now be deadly.
17.Bd3 Bxe3 18.Rxe3 Qf6 19.c3 Bf5 20.Qe2 Nd6

(Diagram)

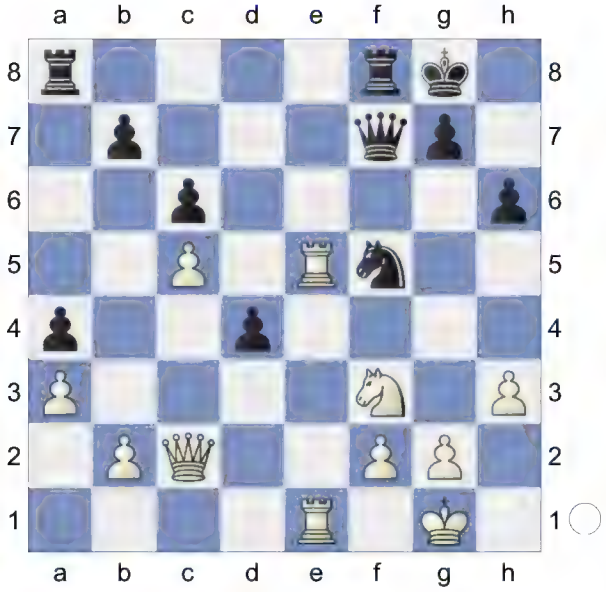


21.Bxf5 Nxf5 0.84/24
[21...Qxf5= 0.10/22 22.Nd4 Qg6]
22.Re6± Qf7 23.Re1 h6 Prevents Ng5.
24.Qc2 Qd7 1.36/23
[⌓24...Qh5 0.90/19]
25.c4 d4



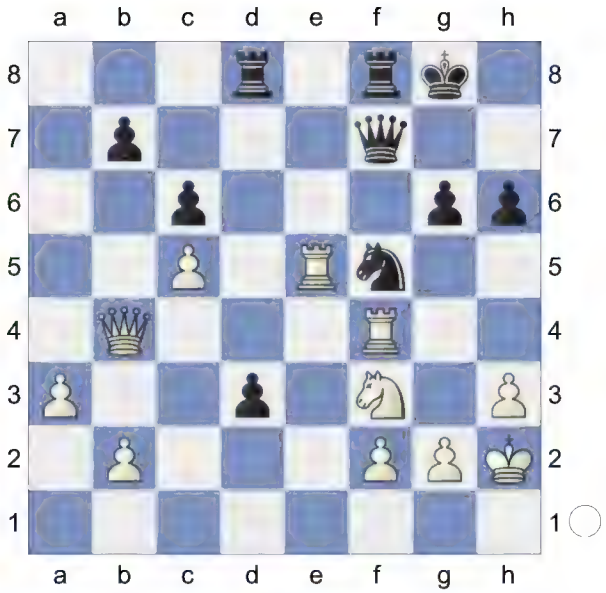
26.c5 Qf7 1.53/23
[⌓26...d3 1.11/19 27.Qc4 Rad8]
27.R6e4 White is much more active.
27...Qd5 28.Re5 1.05/21
[⌓28.Qd3 1.41/23]
28...Qf7 1.86/20
[28...d3± 1.05/21 29.Rxd5 dxc2]

29.R5e4 0.76/3
[29.R1e2+- 1.86/20 and White stays clearly on top.]
29...Qd5 30.Re5 Qf7 1.76/10
[30...d3± 0.87/4 31.Rxd5 dxc2]

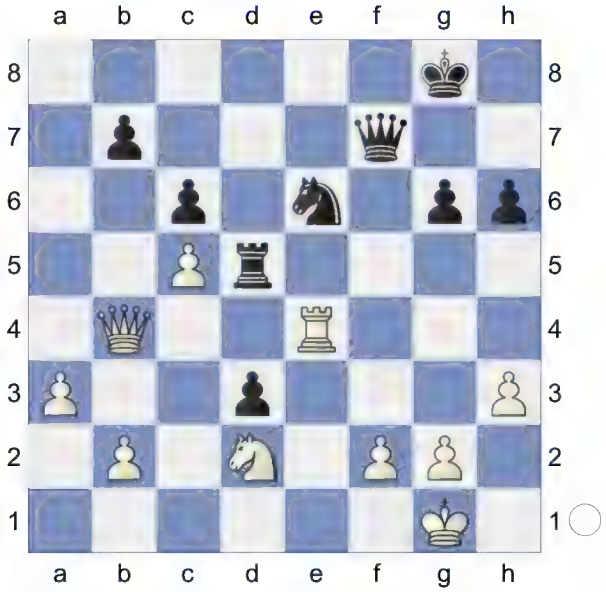


31.R1e4 1.18/7
[31.Rd1+- 1.76/10]
31...Rad8 1.74/2
[31...Qb3± 1.18/7 was worth a try. 32.Qxb3+ *(32.Nxd4? Nxd4 33.Qd2 Nb5-+)* 32...axb3 33.Nxd4 Nxd4]
32.Rf4↑ White is on the roll. **32...d3**
33.Qxa4 Qa2 34.Kh2 0.80/3
[34.Rfxf5 Rxf5 35.Rxf5 Qb1+ 36.Kh2 d2 37.Qc4+ Kh8 38.Nxd2 Qxf5∓]
[34.Rexf5 Qb1+ 35.Kh2 Rxf5 36.Rxf5 d2 37.Qc4+ Kh8 38.Nxd2 Qxf5∓]
[34.Qb4 1.20/3]
34...g6? 2.73/3
[34...d2± 0.80/3 35.Nxd2 *(35.Rexf5? Rxf5 36.Nxd2 Rxf4-+; 35.Qd1 Qxb2 36.Rfxf5 Rxf5±)* 35...Rxd2]
35.Qb4 Qf7

(Diagram)

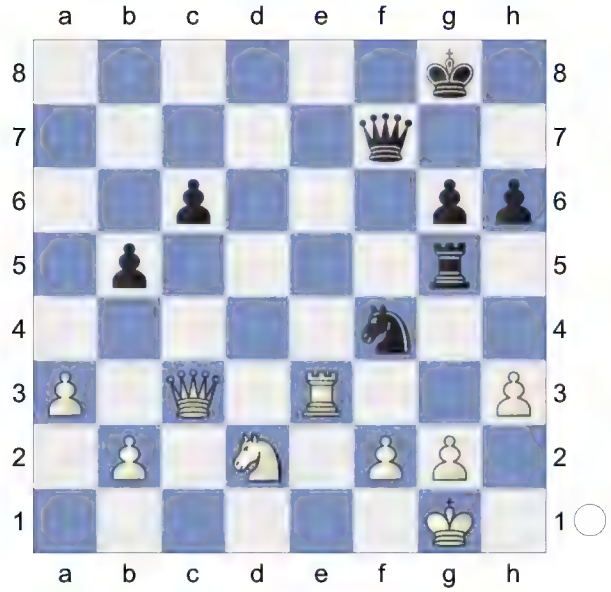


36.Re1 1.65/19
[⌓36.g4 3.00/2]
36...Rfe8 37.Rfe4 Rxe4 38.Rxe4 Rd5
39.Nd2 0.86/17
[39.Kg1+- 1.63/4]
39...Ng7 40.Kg1 0.36/18
[40.Nf3± 1.21/20]
40...Ne6±



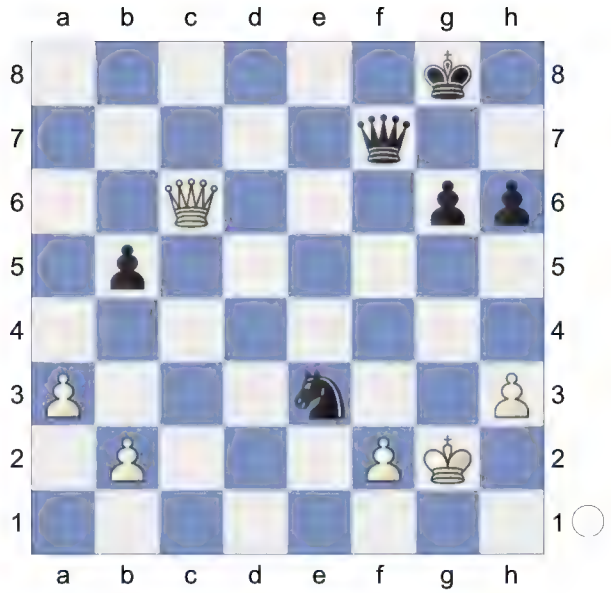
41.Re3 Nxc5 42.Qc4 Ne6 0.84/23
[42...g5= 0.27/17]
43.Rxd3± b5! 44.Qc3
[44.Qxc6? Rxd3 45.Nf1 Qd7 46.Qa8+ Kh7-+]

44...Nf4 45.Re3 Inhibits Ne2+. **45...Rg5**

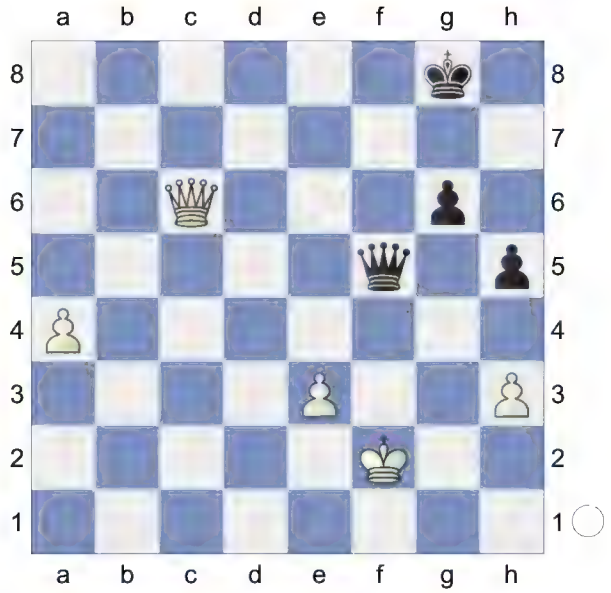


46.Ne4 0.76/3
[46.Qxc6 Rxg2+ 47.Kf1 Rh2 48.Re8+ *(48.Qxb5? Rh1#)* 48...Kh7+-]
[46.g4 1.21/3]
46...Rxg2+ 47.Kh1 -0.29/3
[⌓47.Kf1 0.29/5 Qa2 *(47...Nd5 48.Qd2±)* 48.Nf6+ *(48.Qxc6 Qb1+)* 48...Kf7 49.Ng4 Qb1+ 50.Qe1 *(50.Re1 Rg1+* Decoy *51.Kxg1 Ne2+ 52.Kf1 Nxc3+-)* 50...Qxe1+ *(50...Qxb2 51.Re7+ Kg8 52.Re8+ Kh7 53.Qe7+ Qg7 54.Nf6#)* 51.Rxe1 Rxg4 52.hxg4]
47...Nd5= 48.Nf6+
[48.Qxc6? Nxe3 49.Nf6+ Kg7-+]
48...Nxf6 49.Kxg2 Nd5 50.Qxc6 Nxe3+

(Diagram)



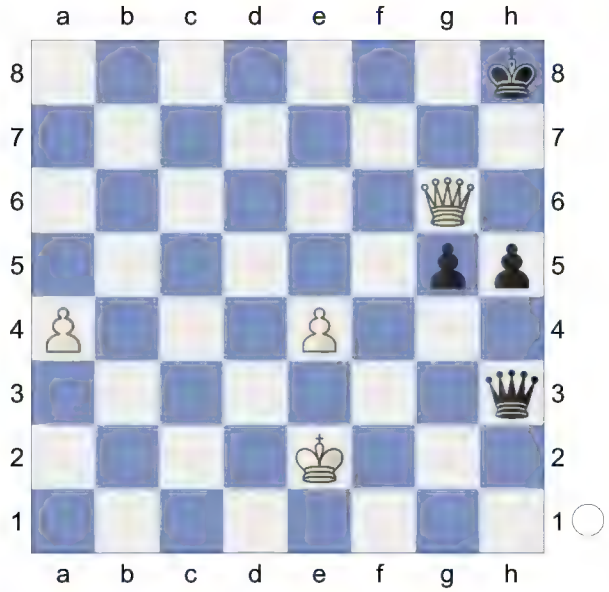
51.fxe3± Endgame **51...Qf5 52.b3** 0.23/8
[52.e4± 0.69/21 Qg5+ 53.Kf3]
52...h5 53.a4 0.19/4
[53.e4± 0.55/3 Qg5+ 54.Kf3]
53...bxa4= 54.bxa4 Qg5+ 55.Kf2 Qf5+



56.Kg2 0.24/8
[56.Ke2± 0.67/6]
56...Qg5+ 0.67/7
[56...Qd3= 0.24/8]
57.Kf2± Qf5+ 58.Ke2 g5 1.53/9
[58...Kh7!± 0.54/18]
59.e4± Qxh3 1.50/3

[⌓59...Qf4 0.84/3]

60.Qg6+ Kh8

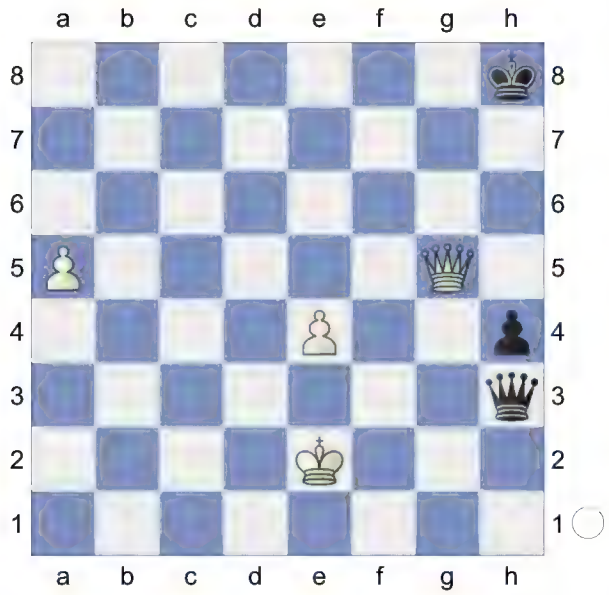


61.Qh6+

[61.Qxg5?! Qh2+ 62.Ke3 Qh3+ 63.Kf2 Qh2+ 64.Ke3 Qh1 65.Qf6+ Kg8=]

61...Kg8 62.Qxg5+ Kh8 63.Qh6+ Kg8 64.Qg5+ Kh8 65.a5! h4 2.01/4

[65...Qh2+± 1.50/4 66.Kd3 Qd6+ 67.Ke3 Qa3+ 68.Kf2 Qb2+ 69.Kg3 Qe2]

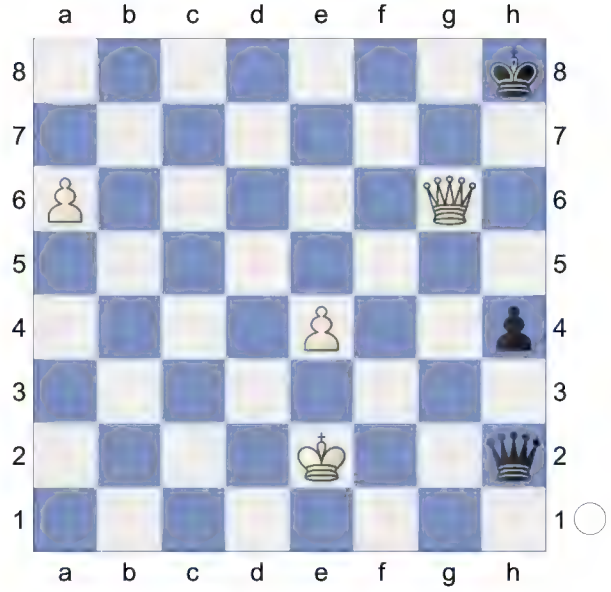


66.Qh6+ Kg8 67.Qg6+ Kh8 68.a6 1.65/8

[68.Qh6+ Kg8±]

[68.Qf6+!± 1.23/2 Kg8 69.Qg6+ Kh8 70.a6 Qh2+ 71.Kf3 Qh1+ 72.Ke2 Qh2+]

68...Qh2+- 69.Ke3 Qh3+ 70.Ke2 Qh2+



71.Kd3 0.58/7

[71.Kf3± 1.57/3 Qh1+ 72.Ke2 Qh2+]

71...Qh3+± 72.Kc4 aiming for Qf6+.

72...Qc8+ 1.24/3

[72...Qf1+± 0.61/2 73.Kc5 Qf2+ 74.Kb5 h3]

73.Kd5 0.31/2

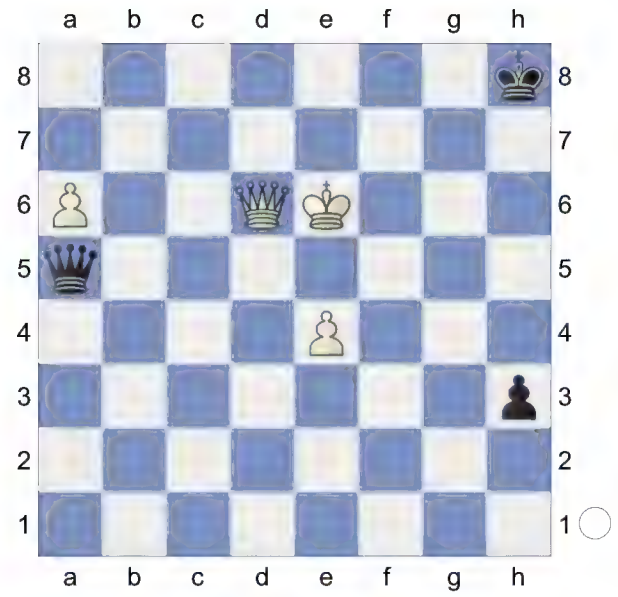
[73.Kb5± 1.24/3 Qd7+ 74.Kb6]

73...Qd8+? 1.90/4

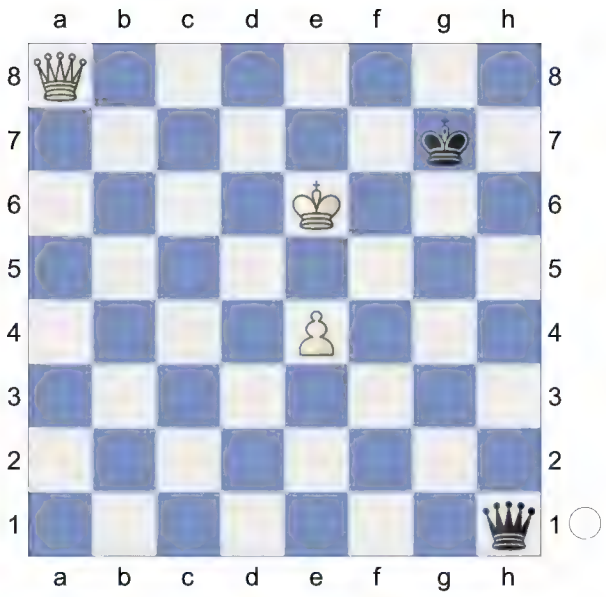
[73...h3!± 0.31/2]

74.Qd6!+- Qa5+ 75.Ke6 h3

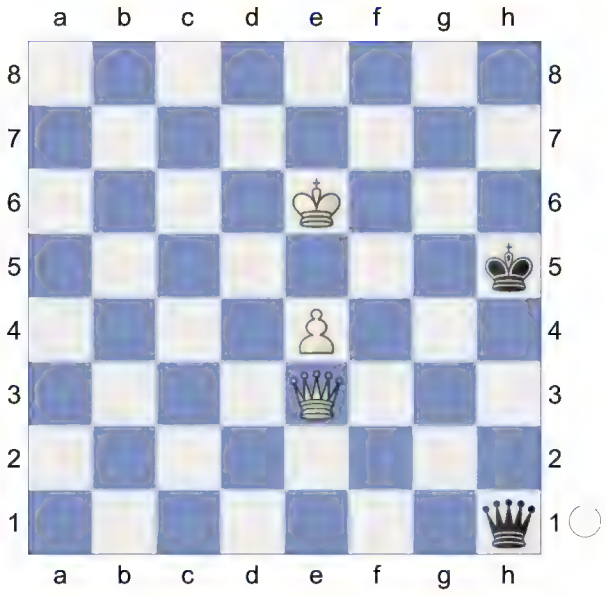
(Diagram)



76.Kf7 0.16/11
[White should play 76.Qb8+± 1.57/5 Kh7 77.Qb7+ Kg6 78.a7 *(78.Qf7+ Kg5±)* 78...Qa2+ 79.Kd6 Qa3+ 80.Kd7]
76...Qa2+!= 77.Qe6
[77.Qd5!? Qf2+□ *(77...Qxd5+ 78.exd5 Kh7 79.a7 Kh6 80.d6 Kh5 81.d7 Kh4 82.a8Q)* 78.Ke6=]
77...Qxe6+! 78.Kxe6 KPP-KP. White is a pawn up. **78...h2 79.a7 h1Q 80.a8Q+** KQ-KQ. White is a pawn up.
[80.a8B Qh3+ 81.Ke5 Qc3+ 82.Kf4 Qc1+ 83.Kg3 Qa3+ 84.Kg4 Qxa8 85.Kf4 Qb8+ 86.e5 Kg7 87.Kf5 Qb1+ 88.Kf4 Qd3 89.Kg5 Qe4 *(89...Qf3* is a self mate. *90.e6 Kf8 91.Kg6 Ke7 92.Kg5 Kxe6 93.Kh4 Qg2 94.Kh5 Kf5 95.Kh6 Qg6#)* 90.e6 Kf8 *(90...Qxe6 91.Kf4 Kf6 92.Kg3 Qe2 93.Kf4 Kg6 94.Kg3 Kg5 95.Kh3 Kf4 96.Kh4 Qh2#)* 91.Kh5 Ke7 *(91...Qxe6 92.Kh4 Qg8 93.Kh3 Qg1 94.Kh4 Ke7 95.Kh5 Qg3 96.Kh6 Kf6 97.Kh7 Qg7#)* 92.Kg5 Kxe6 93.Kh6 Qg4 94.Kh7 Kf7 95.Kh8 Qh5#]
80...Kg7

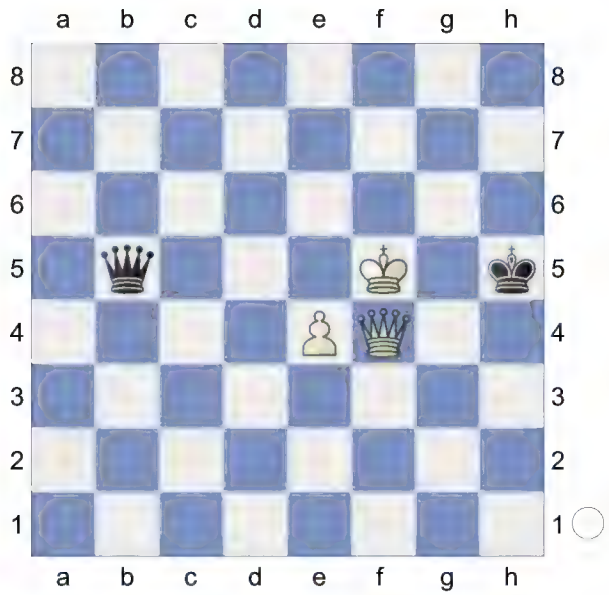


81.Qa7+ Kh6 82.Qe3+ Kh5? 5.95/20
[82...Kh7!= 0.06/24]

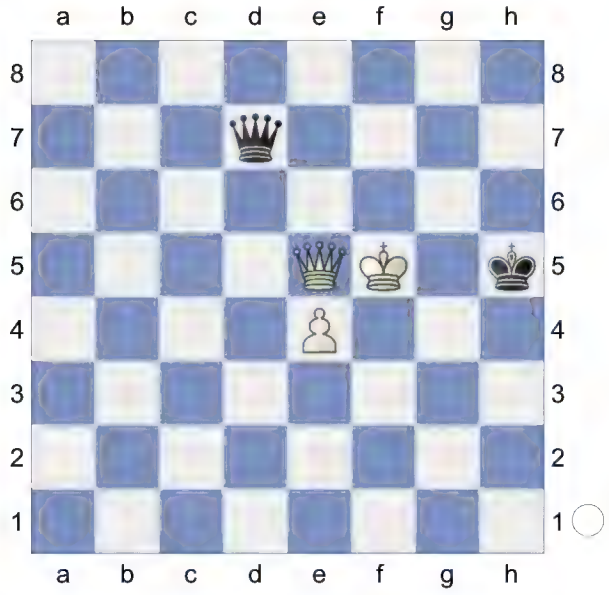


83.Kf5? 0.02/21
[83.Qc5+!+- 5.95/20 Kh4 84.Qf2+ Kh3 85.Qf5+ Kg2 86.e5]
83...Qf1+? 4.96/24
[83...Qg2= 0.02/21 and Black is okay.]
84.Qf4+- Qb5+

(Diagram)



85.Qe5! Qd7+



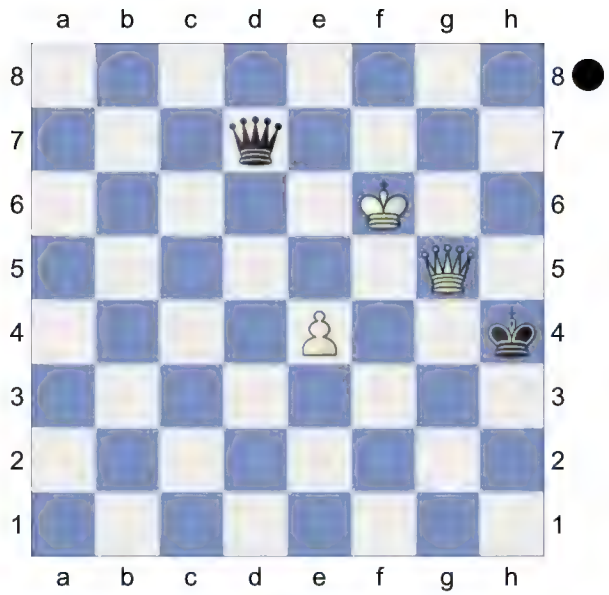
86.Kf6+ Kh4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)

87.Qg5+ 4.33/5

[⌓87.Qf4+ #32/25 Kh3 88.Qf5+ Qxf5+ 89.Kxf5 *(89.exf5 Kh4 90.Kg6 Kg4 91.f6 Kg3 92.f7 Kf4 93.f8Q+ Ke4 94.Qb4+ Kf3)* 89...Kh4 90.e5 Kg3 91.e6 Kf3 92.e7]

(Diagram)



1-0

75 **E01**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**

■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2758**

FIDE Candidates 2024 (3.1) 06.04.2024

[TA]

E01: Catalan: Early deviations

Dlugy,Maxim: 'Dlugy,M: 'Inf 40/(597)"

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5

(Diagram)

6.Nf3 cxd4 7.0-0 Bc5 8.Nxd4 0-0 9.Nb3N

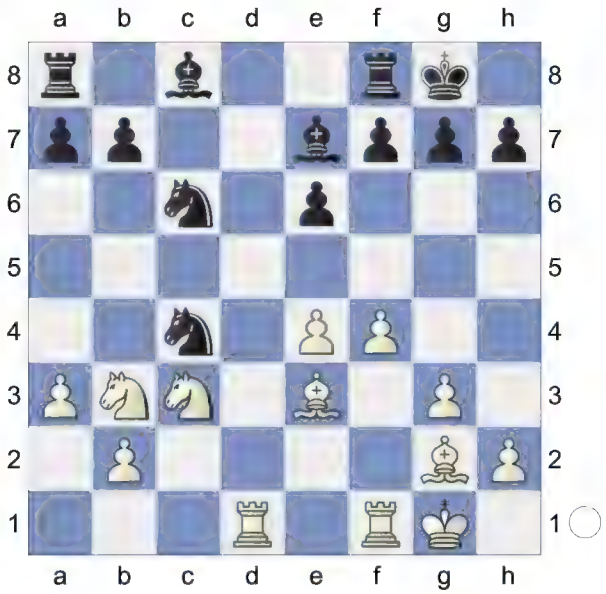
[9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Nd7 11.Rb1 Nb6 12.Nb3 Be7 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.Na5 Dlugy,M-Taylor,T 40/(597) New York 1985 Na4 15.c4 Nc3 16.Rb2 E 01/37 Chess Informant ECO E4 2008]

[9.e4 Nb4 10.Be3 e5 11.a3 exd4 12.axb4 dxe3 13.bxc5 exf2+ 14.Kxf2 Qf6+ 15.Kg1 Qxb2 16.Nd2 Rd8 17.Nc4 Rxd1 18.Raxd1 Qxg2+ 19.Kxg2 Nc6 20.Nd6 Bg4 21.Rb1 Be6 22.Rxb7 Ne5 23.Rfb1 Nc6 ½-½ (77) Oliveira,T (1982)-Buchenau,F (2190) Titled Tuesday intern op 24th Sep Late blitz 2024 (7)]

9...Be7 10.e4 Nb4

(Diagram)

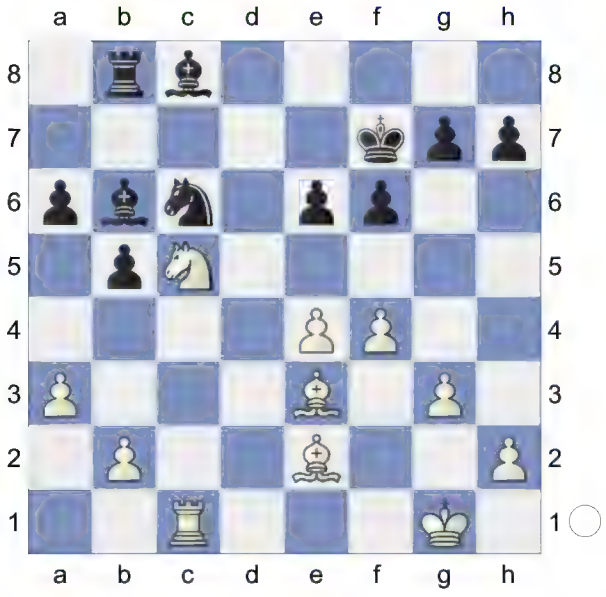
11.Nc3 N8c6 12.Be3 Qxd1 13.Raxd1 Ne5 14.a3 Nbc6 15.f4 Nc4



16.Bc1 f6 17.Rfe1 Rb8 18.Bf1 Nd6 19.Nb5↑ White has good play. **19...Nxb5 20.Bxb5 Kf7**

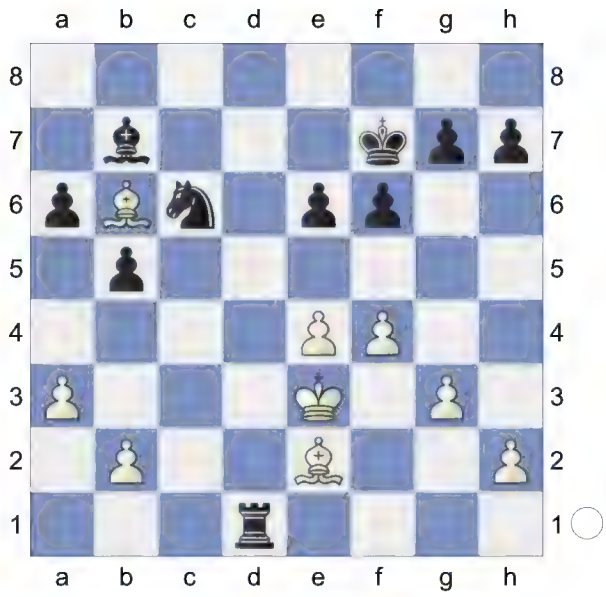
(Diagram)

21.Be3 a6 22.Be2 b5 23.Nc5 Rd8 24.Rxd8 Bxd8 25.Rc1 White has more active pieces. **25...Bb6** 0.94/23
[25...e5± 0.49/22 should be considered.]

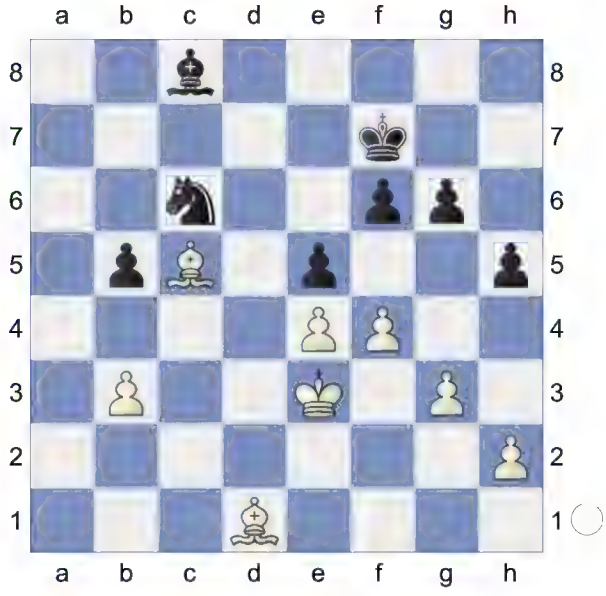


26.Kf2!± Bxc5 27.Bxc5 Strongly threatening Bd6. **27...Bb7 28.Ke3 Rd8 29.Bb6** 0.63/20 A strong pair of Bishops.
[29.a4± 1.15/18]
29...Rd7± 30.Rd1 Rxd1

(Diagram)

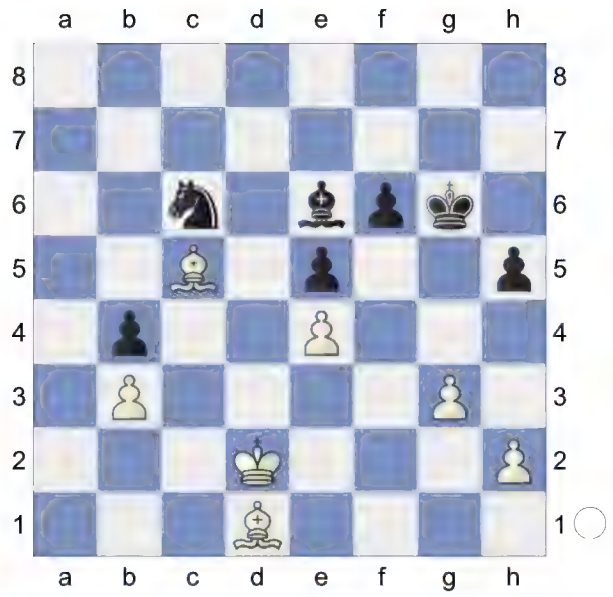


31.Bxd1 Endgame KBB-KBN **31...g6 32.Bc5 h5 33.b3 Bc8 34.a4 e5 35.axb5 axb5**



The position is equal. **36.f5 Kg7 37.fxg6 Bg4 38.Bc2 Be6 39.Kd2 b4 40.Bd1**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
40...Kxg6

(Diagram)



½-½

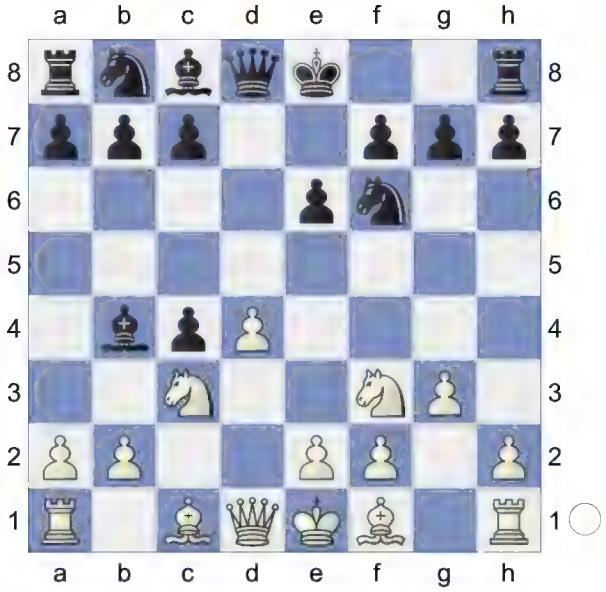
76 **E20**
□ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu 2747**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju 2743**
E Candidates 2024 (2) 04.04.2024
[Nigel Davies]

E20: Nimzo-Indian: 4 g3 and 4 f3

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Nc3N

[5.Bd2 Bd6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Qc2 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Rd1 Ne4 10.Nc3 f5 *(10...Nxd2 11.Nxd2 f5 12.e3 Nf6 13.c5 Bc7 14.b4 e5 15.dxe5 Bxe5 16.Nf3 Bc7 17.Nd4 Qe7 18.Nce2 Ne4 19.Rac1 g5 20.Re1 Bd7 21.a4 Rf7 22.Nc3 h5 23.f3 Nxc3 24.Qxc3 Qf6 25.Rcd1* ½-½ (39) Veres,E (1898)-Piekarz,P (2046) FRA-ch Accession 2003 (6)*)* 11.e3 Qe7 12.Ne2 Nxd2 13.Rxd2 Nf6 14.Rdd1 Bd7 15.Nf4 Be8 16.a3 Ne4 17.Ne5 g5 18.Nfd3 h5 19.b4 Kh8 1-0 (51) Tal,M (2605)-Abramovic,B (2445) Moscow International 1982 (3) 20.f3 Nf6 21.a4 Bxb4 22.Nxb4 Qxb4 23.Rab1 Qe7 24.a5 Rc8 25.cxd5 Nxd5 26.Qb3 Rc7 27.e4 Nf6 28.Re1 fxe4 29.fxe4 Nd7 30.Nd3 Bg6 31.Rf1 Rxf1+ 32.Rxf1 Kh7 33.Qc3 c5 34.Nf2 e5 1-0 (51) 11... ♕c7 12. ♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2813)-Warlick,J (2727) (m/2) 94/(448) 2005 (6) 35.d5 c4 36.Rd1 Qc5 37.d6 Rc8 38.Rd5 Qc6 39.Nh3 g4 40.Ng5+ Kg8 41.h4 Bf7 42.Nxf7 Kxf7 43.Kh2 Ke6 44.Qe3 c3 45.Qg5 Kf7 46.Qxh5+ Kf8 47.Qf5+ Ke8 48.Qe6+ Kf8 49.Rd1 Qc4 1-0 (51) Hort,V (2590)-Cuartas,C (2435) Dortmunder Schachtage-10 1982 (8)]

5...dxc4



6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 Nc6 8.a3 Be7 9.e4 a6 10.Be3 b5

(Diagram)

11.Qe2 Black is slightly better. **11...Bb7 12.Rad1 Na5**

[In Alonso Rosell,A (2514)-Gelfand,B (2620) Wch Blitz Almaty 2022, Gelfand unveiled an interesting novelty with 12...Qe8 -0.09/19 12...Na5 -0.81 after which 13.d5 and now Na5! would have been quite good for Black. The idea of ...Qe8 often comes up in this line, getting the queen away from the gaze of White's rook on d1.]

13.d5 exd5 14.e5 -0.91/20

A theoretical novelty, and most likely preparation.

[White's main try had previously been 14.Nh4 , but without much success for White after Bd6 15.Nf5 -0.97/20 *(15.Bg5∓ -0.57/21 h6 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5)* 15...Re8∓ 16.exd5 -1.43/18 *(⩲16.f4 -0.88/21)* 16...Bc8!∓ 17.Nd4 *(17.Qc2* was hardly an improvement after *Bxf5! 18.Qxf5 Qd7 19.Qc2 Nb3* 0-1 Goltseva,E (2329)-Kovalev,V (2579) Titled Tuesday intern op 09th Jan Early Chess.com INT blitz 2024 (2) in *)* 17...Bg4 18.f3 Bd7 19.Qf2 h6 20.Rfe1 Re7 gave White little to show for his pawn in Chatalbashev,B (2536)-Schandorff,L (2458) DEN-ch Svendborg 2021.]

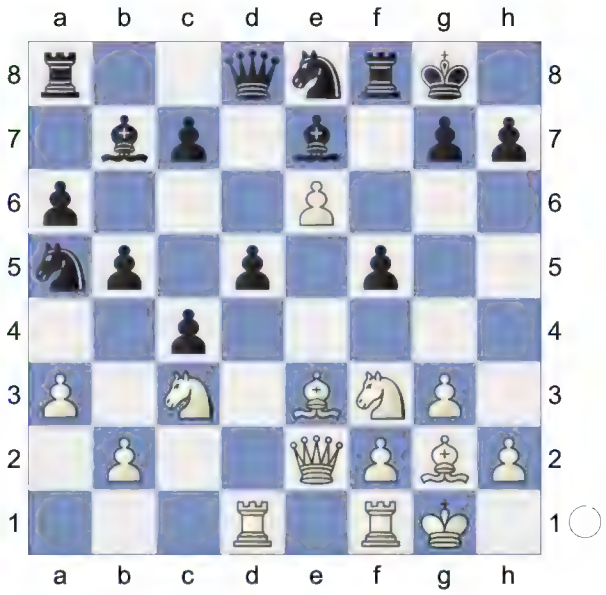
[Note that 14.exd5 Bd6 also leaves White with little in the way of compensation.]

[14.Nh4∓ -0.49/21]

14...Ne8!∓ 15.e6 f5 -0.36/19

[Praggnanandhaa was playing quickly, so perhaps Gukesh was afraid that some magical preparation was waiting for him after 15...fxe6 . If it exists I need a more powerful engine, for example 16.Bf4 Bc8 -0.41/18 *(16...e5∓ -0.77/21 17.Qxe5 c6 18.Qe6+ Kh8)* 17.Nd4∓ Rf6! 18.Rfe1! c6 19.Nxc6 Nxc6 20.Nxd5! exd5 21.Bxd5+ Qxd5 22.Rxd5 Re6 23.Qd1 Rxe1+ 24.Qxe1 Nf6! looks good for Black, despite him having to part with his queen.]

[15...c6∓ -1.06/22 16.Rfe1 Nb3 *(16...fxe6 17.Bb6+-)* 17.exf7+ Rxf7]



16.Ne5∓ Nf6 White should prevent ...c6.

17.Qc2 -1.29/19

[After 17.Nf7 Black can play Rxf7

0.24/20 *(17...Qc8!∓ -0.82/20 18.Bg5 d4 19.Rxd4 Nb3)* 18.exf7+= Kxf7 , for example 19.Qf3? -1.38/19 *(19.Rfe1!± 0.40/20* was forced to keep a grip. *Qd7 20.Bg5)* 19...d4∓ 20.Qxf5 c5! is just good for him.]

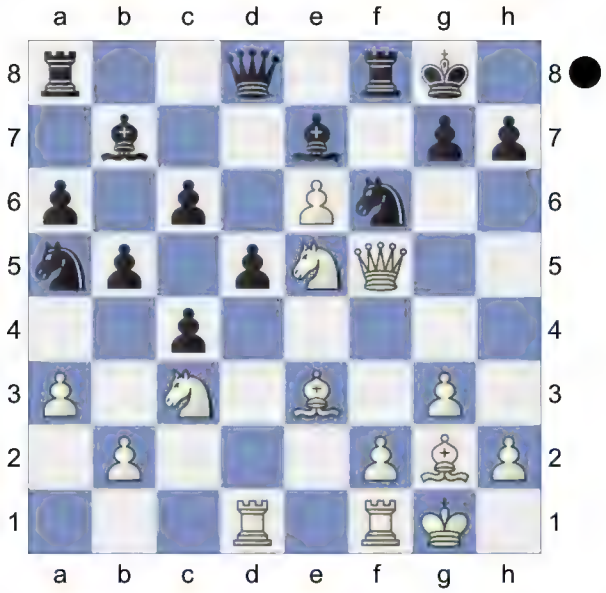
[17.Nf7= -0.05/20 keeps the balance. Qe8 *(17...Rxf7 18.exf7+ Kxf7 19.Bg5=)* 18.Bf4 *(18.Bxd5 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5∓)*]

17...c6 -0.42/18

[The engine preference is 17...c5 for example 18.Nxd5! *(Or 18.Nd7* -2.17/21 18.Nxd5 -1.21 *d4! 19.Bxb7 Nxb7 20.Nxf8 Qxf8* is good for Black. *)* 18...Nxd5 19.Rxd5 -1.63/19 *(19.Nd7∓* -1.17/20 *Nxe3 20.fxe3 Bxg2 21.Qxg2)* 19...Bxd5-+ 20.Rd1 Bxe6! 21.Rxd8 Raxd8 and Black has more than enough for the queen.]

[17...c5∓ -1.29/19 18.Nd7 d4 *(18...Nxd7 19.Bxd5 Ra7 20.exd7+ Bxd5 21.Rxd5∓)* 19.Bxb7 Nxb7 20.Bxd4 cxd4 *(20...Nxd7 21.Bxg7 Nd6 22.Bxf8±)* 21.Rxd4 Nd6 22.Nxf8 Qxf8]

18.Qxf5



Both players had now used lots of time, so it's safe to assume that any preparation was over. **18...Qe8** -0.36/17

[Black should play 18...Qc7!∓ -0.88/19]

19.Nf7? -1.31/19 Prevents Bd6.

[19.Rfe1! was better, keeping the tension. Now Black can sacrifice the exchange on f7, but he chooses a different path.]

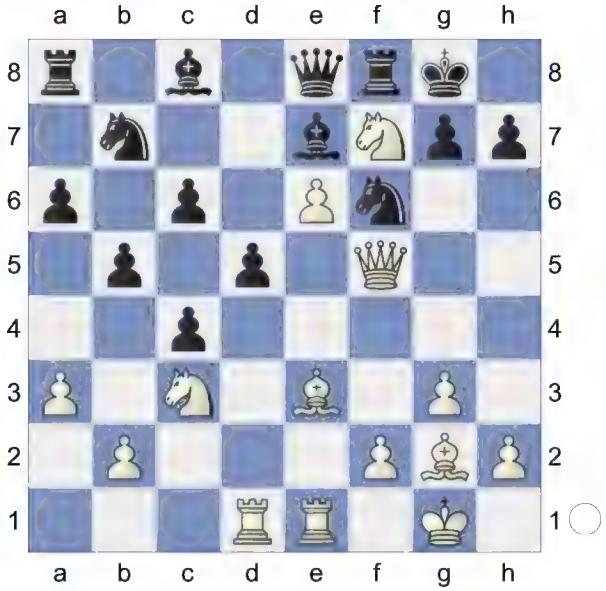
[19.Rfe1!∓ -0.36/17]

19...Bc8 20.Rfe1 Nb7 -0.28/20

[20...Rxf7 21.exf7+ Qxf7 was still good.]

[20...Bxe6?! 21.Nh6+ gxh6 22.Qxe6+ Qf7 23.Bxh6 Qxe6 24.Rxe6=]

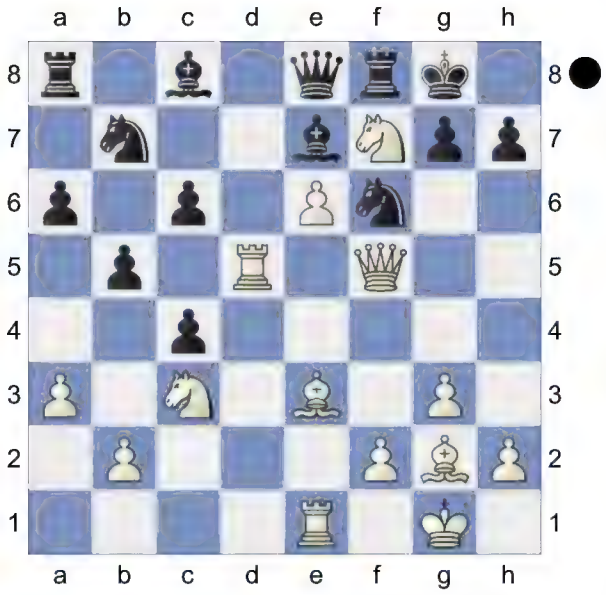
[20...Nb3∓ -1.10/22 21.h3 *(21.Rxd5 Rxf7 22.exf7+ Qxf7∓)* 21...Nc5 *(21...Bxe6 22.Nh6+ gxh6 23.Qxe6+ Rf7 24.Qf5∓)*]



21.Bg5

[21.Rxd5!

(Diagram)



would be answered by. and Rd2 should not be overlooked Rxf7! , winning for Black.]

21...Ra7 Really sharp!

[21...Nc5!? 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Nxd5 cxd5 24.Qxd5 Bxe6 *(24...Nxe6? 25.Nd6+-)* 25.Qxc5 Rc8 *(25...Kxf7? 26.Rxe6 Qxe6 27.Bd5+-* Pin *)* 26.Nh6+ Kh8= *(26...gxh6 27.Qb6=)*]

22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Bxd5! cxd5 24.Nxd5 A dynamic duo of knights. **24...Be7**

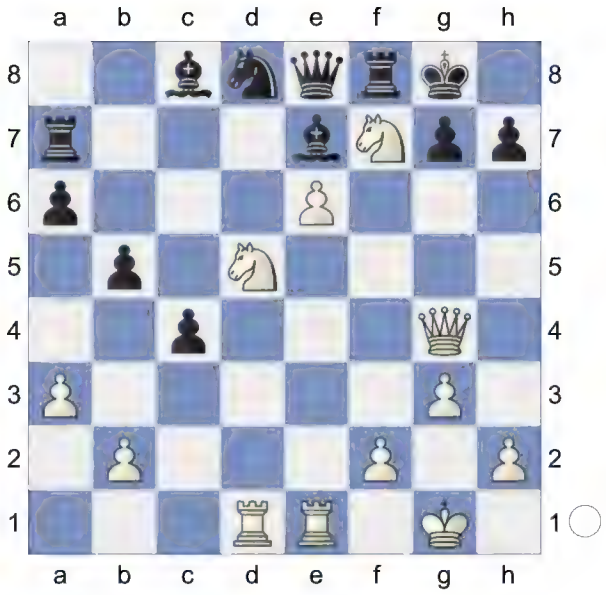
25.Qg4? -1.81/21

[White's best chance was 25.Nh6+! after which gxh6 *(25...Kh8!? 26.Nf7+□ Kg8 27.Nh6+ Kh8=)* 26.Qg4+ Bg5 Strongly threatening ... Nc5. 27.f4 keeps him well in the game.]

[25.Nh6+!= 0.00/22 and White has nothing to worry. gxh6 26.Qg4+ Bg5 27.f4 Pin]

25...Nd8-+

(Diagram)



26.Nxd8

[After 26.Qd4 there follows Nxe6 27.Nh6+ gxh6 28.Qxa7 Bd8 . This is good for Black, but better than the game from White's perspective.]

26...Bxd8 27.Qd4 Rb7 The position has clarified, and White has inadequate compensation for the piece. **28.Re4** -2.32/20

[28.Re5∓ -1.55/17]

28...Bf6

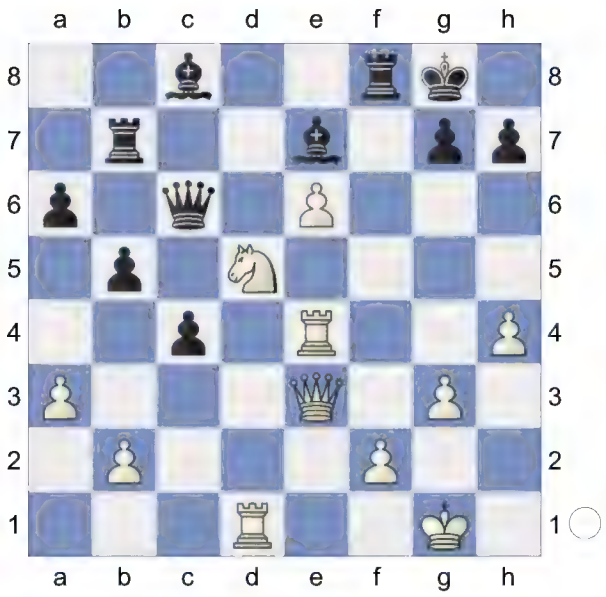
[Weaker is 28...Bxe6 29.Rde1∓]

29.Qe3 Be7

[29...Bxb2 30.e7 Rf7 31.Qc5±]

30.h4 Qc6

(Diagram)



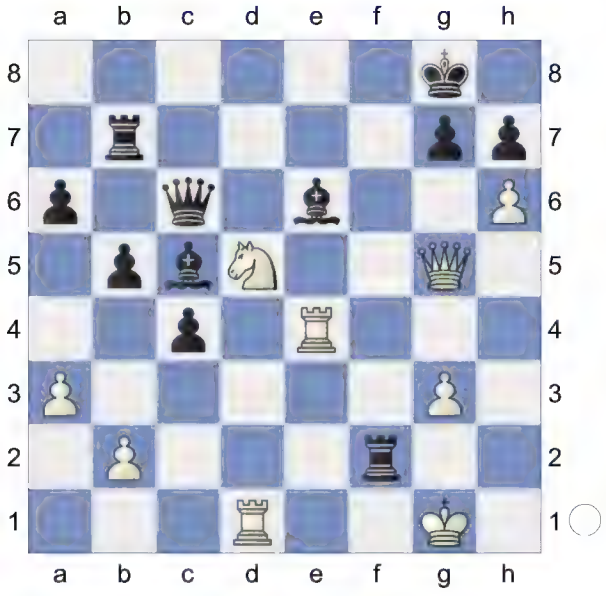
31.h5?! -4.67/21

[31.Re5 -2.16/20 was necessary.]

31...Bc5 Skewer. Black is clearly winning. **32.Qg5 Bxe6 33.h6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/ Black=0.19 (very precise)

33...Rxf2



A brilliant win by Gukesh, which set the stage for the entire tournament.

0-1

77 **E09**

□ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2715**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**

6th Prague Masters 2024 (9.2) 07.03.24

[Kitty Kat]

E11: Bogo-Indian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7

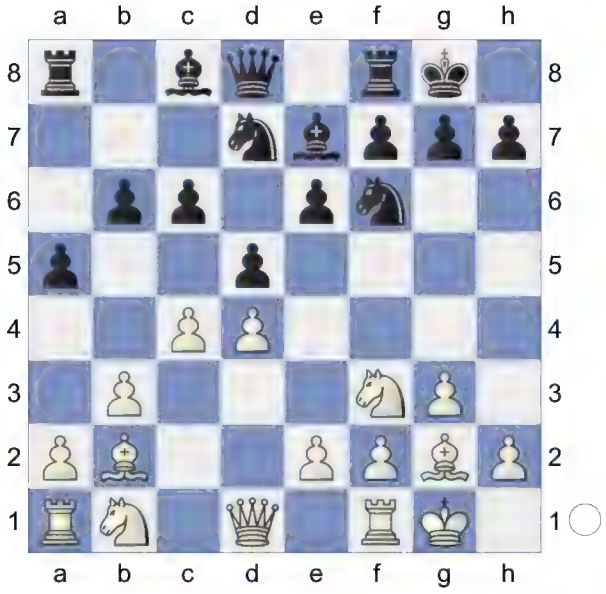
[5...Bd6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Qc2 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Rd1 Ne4 10.Nc3 f5 11.e3 Qe7 12.Ne2 Nxd2 13.Rxd2 Nf6 14.Rdd1 Bd7 15.Nf4 Be8 16.a3 Ne4 17.Ne5 g5 18.Nfd3 h5 19.b4 Kh8 20.f3 1-0 Topalov,V (2813)-Ponomariov,R (2727) Zuerich Champions rap rapid 2009 (6)]

6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0N

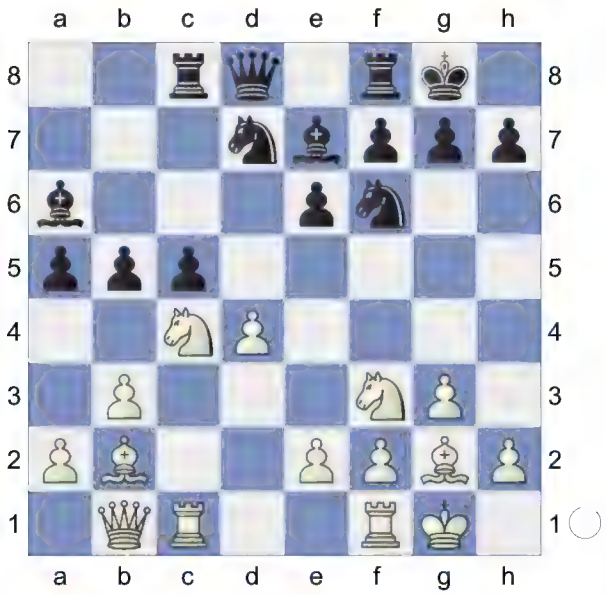
[7.Qc2 Ne4 8.0-0 c6 9.Nc3 f5 10.Bf4 Nd7 11.Ne5 Qe8 12.f3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd7 15.Rab1 b5 16.c5 Qg6 17.e4 fxe4 18.fxe4 Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Rf8 20.Rxf8+ Bxf8 21.Qe2 Be8 ½-½ Hampton,S (2426)-Kolb,W (2283) 103/229 London 2008 (3) 22.h4 Qh5 23.Bf3 Qh6 24.Bf4

Qg6 25.Kh2 h5 26.Bg5 Bf7 27.Qe3 Qh7 28.Qf4 Bg6 29.exd5 exd5 30.Qc7 Be4 31.Be2 Qf5 32.Qf4 Qg6 33.Kg1 Bd3 34.Bf3 Bc4 35.a3 Qb1+ 36.Kf2 Qc2+ ½-½ Grigorjev,I (2426)-Filgueira,H (2283) Titled Tuesday intern op 11th Apr Late blitz 2023 (3)]

7...c6 8.b3 b6 9.Bc1 Nbd7 10.Bb2 a5



11.Qc2 Ba6 12.Nbd2 c5 13.Rac1 Rc8 14.Qb1 dxc4 15.Nxc4 b5

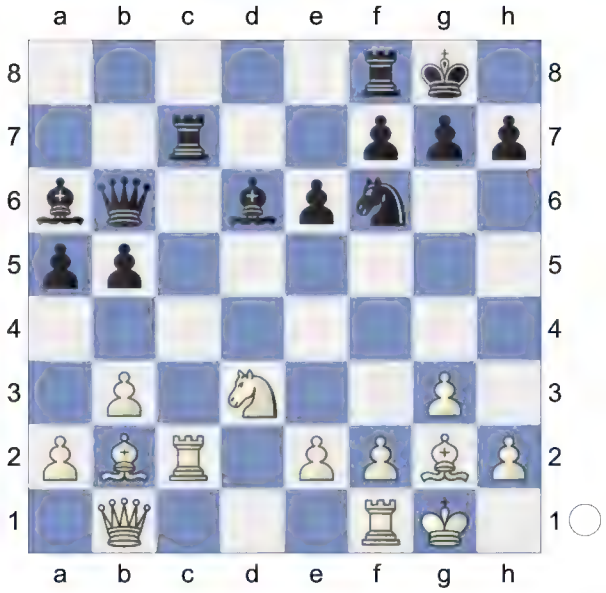


16.Nce5 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Qb6

Against Ne5-c6 **18.Rc2 Rc7** 1.00/21

[18...Rfd8!= 0.20/19 keeps the balance.]

19.dxc5!± Bxc5 20.Nd3 Bd6



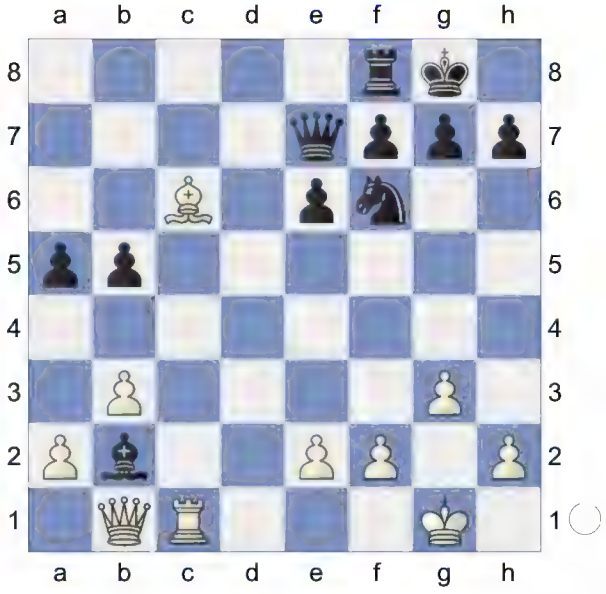
21.Rxc7! Qxc7 22.Rc1 Qe7 23.Ne5 Bb7 24.Bxb7 0.57/22

[24.Nc6± 1.14/20 Bxc6 25.Rxc6 *(25.Bxc6 Rb8±)*]

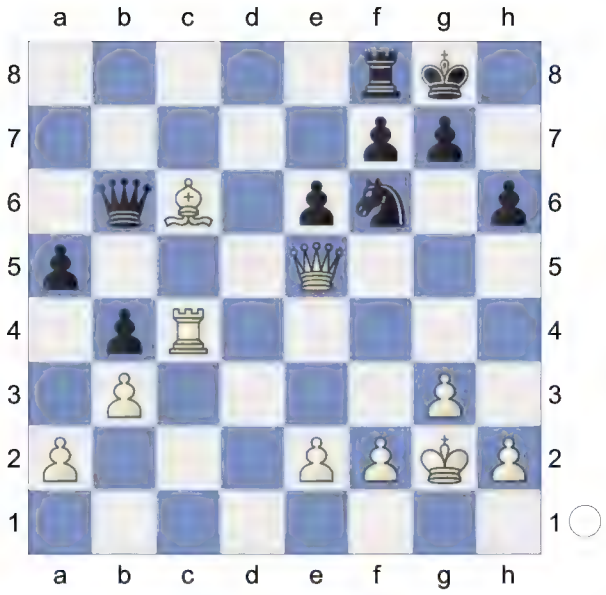
24...Bxe5 0.93/26

[24...Qxb7± 0.57/22 25.Nc6 Ra8]

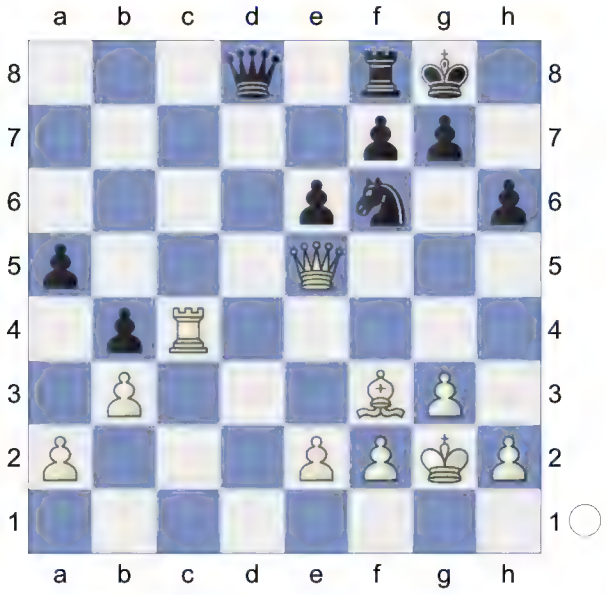
25.Bc6 Bxb2



26.Qxb2 b4 27.Qe5 Qd8 28.Rc4 h6 29.Kg2 Qb6



30.Bf3! Qd8 1.46/23



31.Rd4 0.81/22 White has more active pieces.

[⌓31.h4 1.46/23]

31...Qb6 32.Rc4 Against Rf8-c8

32...Qd8 1.52/24

[Black should play ⌓32...Nd7 0.97/23 33.Qc7 Rd8]

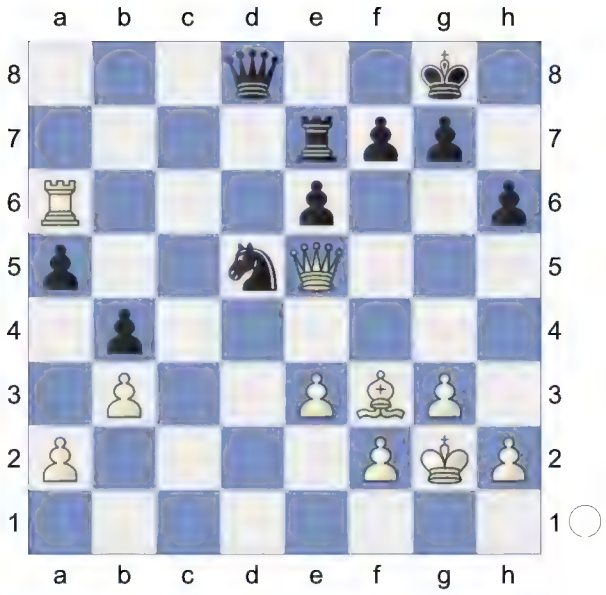
33.Rc6 Re8 1.86/23

[33...Nd5± 1.23/23 34.Bxd5 exd5]

34.Ra6 Nd5 35.e3 1.43/22

[35.h4+- 1.84/21]

35...Re7



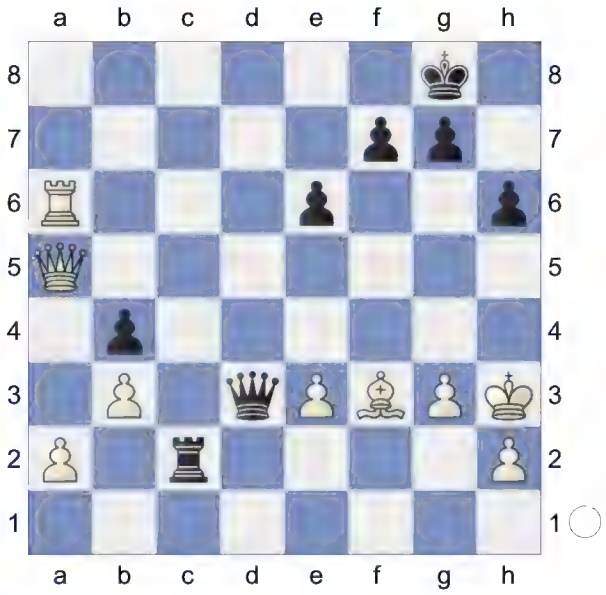
36.Qd4 1.29/21

[36.e4+- 1.68/20 Nc3 37.a4 *(37.Rxa5 Rc7±; 37.Qxa5 Qxa5 38.Rxa5 g6±)*]

36...Rd7 37.Qc5 Rc7? 2.57/23

[37...Kh7± 0.93/19 might work better.]

38.Qxa5+- Black must now prevent Ra6-a8. **38...Nxe3+ 39.fxe3 Rc2+ 40.Kh3 Qd3**



And now ...Qd3-f1+ would win. **41.Ra7?** 0.00/24

[41.Ra8+!+- 4.08/31 Kh7 42.Rh8+

Decoy, Clearance (*42.Qxb4? Qf1+ 43.Kg4 Rxh2-+*) 42...Kxh8 43.Qa8+ (*43.Qxb4? Qf1+ 44.Kg4 f5+ 45.Kf4 Rf2-+*) 43...Rc8 44.Qxc8+ Kh7 45.Qb7 Qf1+ 46.Bg2]

41...Qf1+=

[41...Qxe3? 42.Qd8+ Kh7 43.Rxf7+-]

42.Kg4 Rf2 0.37/25

[42...Qd3= 0.00/24 43.Qe5 (*43.Qxb4? Qf5+ 44.Kh4 Rxh2#*) 43...Rf2]

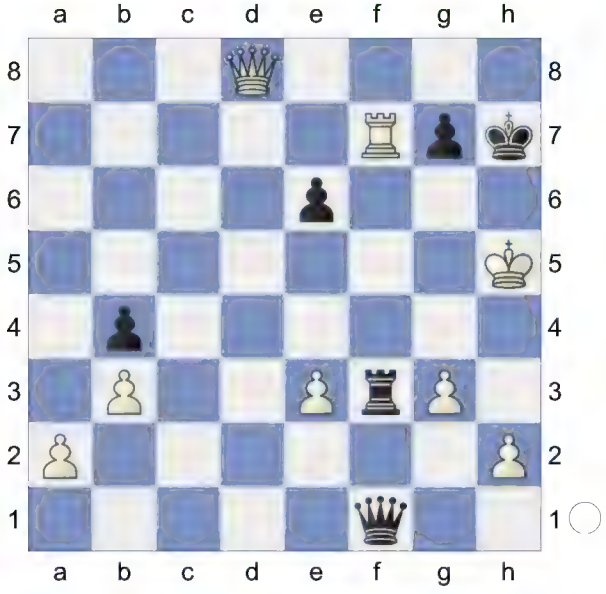
43.Qd8+± Kh7 44.Rxf7 h5+! Deflection

[44...Kg6 45.Rf6+ Kh7 46.Be4+ (*46.Rxe6 Rxf3 47.Qd5 Rf8±; 46.Rxe6 Rxf3 47.Qd5 Rf8=*)]

45.Kxh5 White threatens Rf7xg7+! and mate.

[45.Kh4 simplifies Rxf3 46.Rxf3 Qxf3 47.Qg5]

45...Rxf3



Endgame. KQR-KQR **46.Rf4**

[46.Rxf3 simplifies Qxf3+ 47.Kh4 Qxe3 48.Qg5]

46...e5⇄ Black puts up resistance

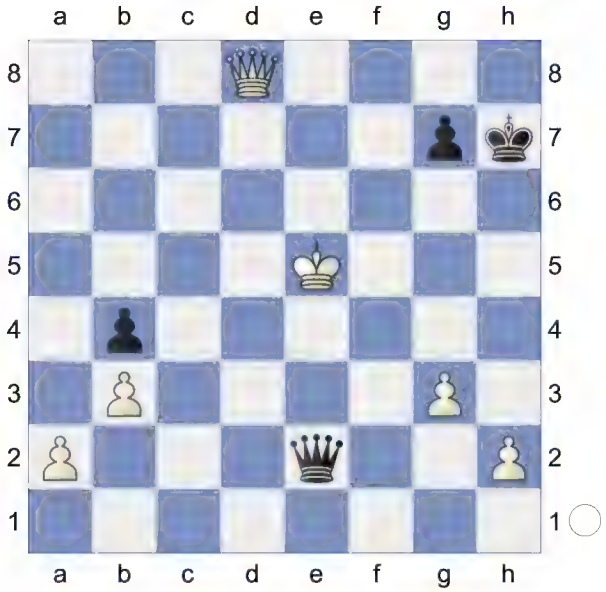
47.Rxf3

[47.Rxb4? gets mated. Qh3+ (*47...Rxe3?* is the wrong capture. *48.Kg5+-*) 48.Rh4 Qf5+ 49.Qg5 g6#]

[47.Rh4 Rxg3 48.Qd7 Qf6 (*48...Rxe3 49.Kg5+ Kg8 50.Qe8+ Qf8 51.Rh8+* Deflection *Kxh8 52.Qxf8+ Kh7 53.Qf5+ g6 54.Qd7+ Kg8 55.Kxg6; 48...Qd1+? 49.Qg4-+; 48...Rxe3 49.Kg5+ Kg8 50.Qe8+ Qf8 51.Rh8+* Deflection *Kxh8 52.Qxf8+ Kh7 53.Qf5+ g6 54.Qd7+ Kg8 55.Kxg6; 48...Qd1+? 49.Qg4-+*)]

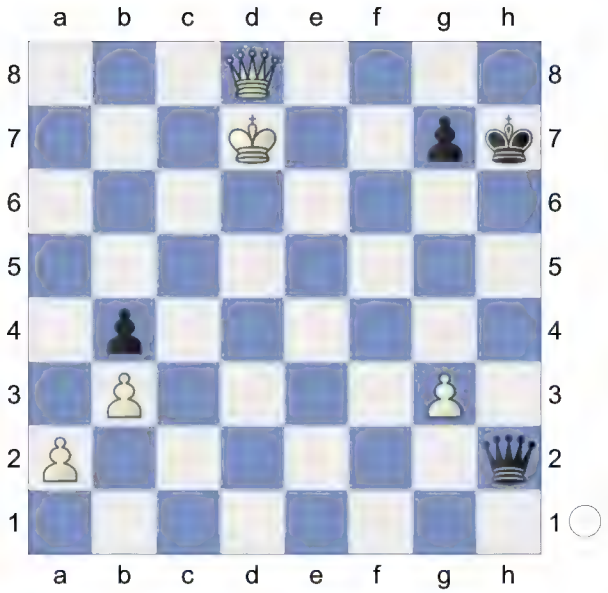
47...Qxf3+= KQ-KQ **48.Kg5! Qxe3+ 49.Kf5** Qd8-h4+ is the strong threat.

49...Qf3+ 50.Kxe5 Qe2+

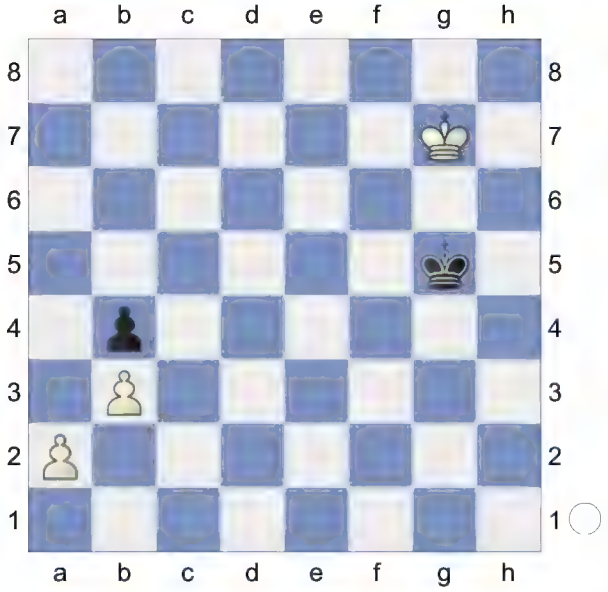


51.Kf5 aiming for Qd8-h4+. **51...Qf2+ 52.Ke6** Hoping for Qd8-h4+. **52...Qe2+ 53.Kf5 Qf2+ 54.Ke6** Qd8-h4+ would now be deadly. **54...Qe2+ 55.Kd7 Qxh2**

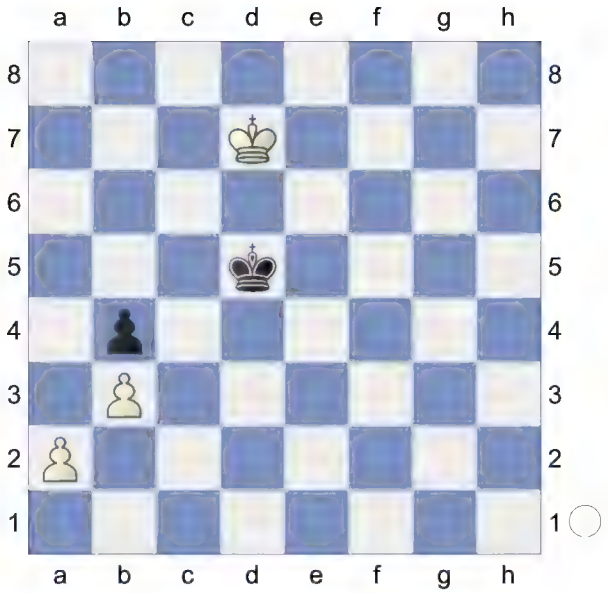
(Diagram)



56.Qh4+ 0.00/49
[56.Qb8± 0.42/23]
56...Qxh4 The position is equal. **57.gxh4** K3P-KPP **57...Kg6** Strongly threatening ...Kg6-h5. **58.Ke6**
[58.Kc6!? Kh5□ 59.Kc5 Kxh4 60.Kxb4=]
58...Kh5 59.Kf7 Kxh4 Threatens to win with ...g7-g5. **60.Kxg7**
[60.Kg6!?]
60...Kg5



61.Kf7 White wants to mate with Kf7-e7.
61...Kf5! 62.Ke7 Ke5 63.Kd7 Kd5!

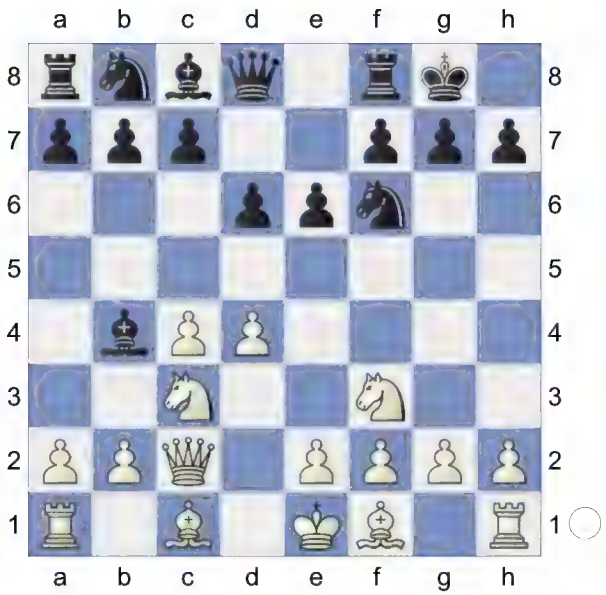


Black defended with fortune.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)
½-½

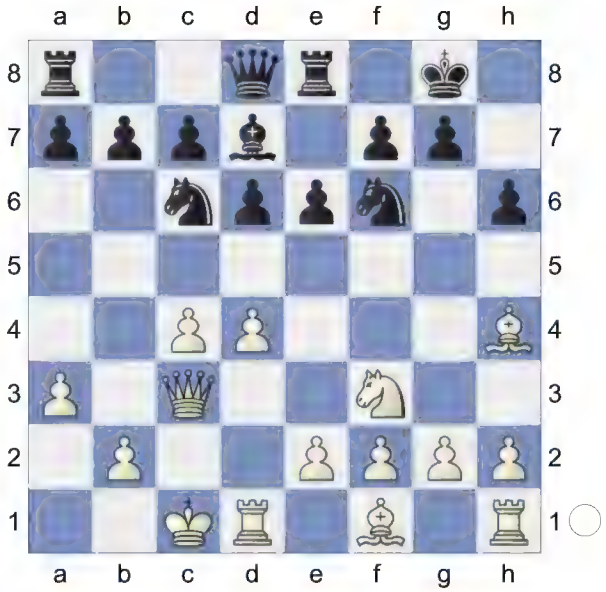
78 **E21**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2738**
6th Prague Masters 2024 (8.2) 06.03.24
[TA]

E33: Nimzo-Indian: Classical: 4...Nc6
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 d6 5.Qc2 0-0

(Diagram)



6.Bg5 Nc6N
[6...Nbd7 7.e3
A) 7...b6 8.Bd3
A1) 8...h6 9.Bh4 Bb7 10.0-0-0 Bxc3 11.Qxc3 c5 *(11...Rc8 12.Kb1 c5 13.d5 b5 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.cxb5 Qb6 16.Bc2 Be4 17.Bxe4 Nxe4 18.Qc4 d5 19.Rxd5 exd5 20.Qxd5+ Rf7 21.Qxe4 Qxb5 22.Rd1 c4 23.Rd5 Nc5 24.Qd4 Rb7 25.Nd2 Qa4 26.Qxc4 (27) Finegold Defence 2010)* 12.Bc2 Qc7 13.Bg3 Rfd8 14.Nd2 cxd4 15.exd4 Rac8 16.Kb1 Qc6 17.Qb4 e5 18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.f3 Nxc4 20.Nxc4 Qxc4 21.Qxc4 Rxc4 22.Rxd6 Rxd6 23.Bxd6 1-0 (54) 3.e5 ♗f5 4.h4 35813 (2550)-Everett,W (2470) USSR 40/250 1985;
A2) 8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 h6 10.Bh4 Bb7 11.0-0 c5 12.Nd2 Rc8 13.Qd1 Re8 14.f4 d5 15.Rc1 Rc7 E 32/04 Chess Informant ECO E4 2008;
B) 7...h6 8.Bh4 b6 9.Be2 Bb7 10.0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 e5 12.Nd2 Qe7 13.Rae1 Rae8 14.Bd1 e4 15.Qb1 Qe6 16.Ba4 c6 17.f3 g5 18.Bg3 d5 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.fxe4 dxe4 21.c4 ½-½ (70) Fedorowicz,J (2510)-Yermolinsky,A (2650) USA-ch G1 Chandler 1997 (4)]
7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Qxc3 h6 9.Bh4 Re8 0.59/8
[9...g5= 0.20/4 10.Bg3 Ne4]
10.0-0-0 -0.08/3
[10.e3± 0.59/8]
10...Bd7
[10...Ne4!? 11.Qc2 Nf6±]



The position is equal. **11.e3** -0.15/3
[11.Qc2 0.27/4]
11...e5 0.60/5
[11...Ne4!= -0.15/3 12.Qc2 Nf6]
12.Qc2 a6 0.76/6
[12...exd4= 0.27/14 feels stronger. 13.exd4 a6]
13.Bd3 -0.28/3
[13.d5!± 0.76/6]
13...g5 0.66/2
[13...e4!= -0.28/3 14.Bxe4 Rxe4 15.Bxf6 Qe8]
14.dxe5!± Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Rxe5

16.f4 Rc5 17.b4 Deflection **17...Rc6 18.fxg5 Ng4 19.Bh7+ Kf8 20.Rhf1** 0.36/3

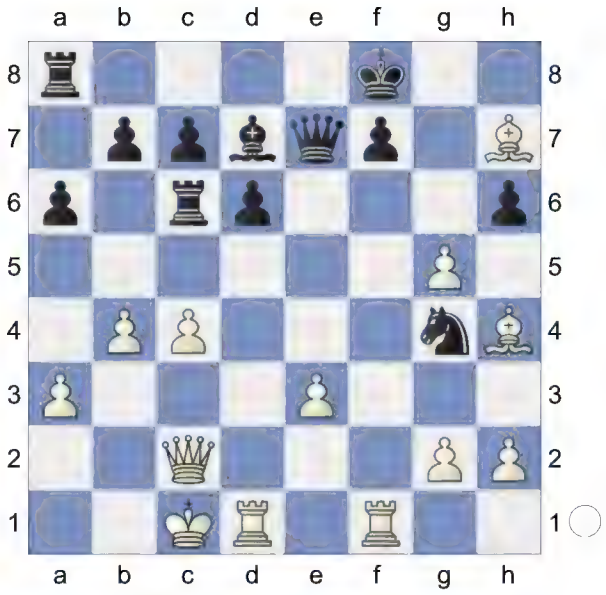
[White should try 20.Qc3± 0.72/3 Qh8+ would now be deadly. Ne5 21.c5 *(21.gxh6? Qxh4 22.Rd4 Qxh6-+)*]

20...Qe7? 3.09/3

[20...hxg5 21.Rxf7+ Ke8 22.Qg6 Rxc4+ 23.Kb2]

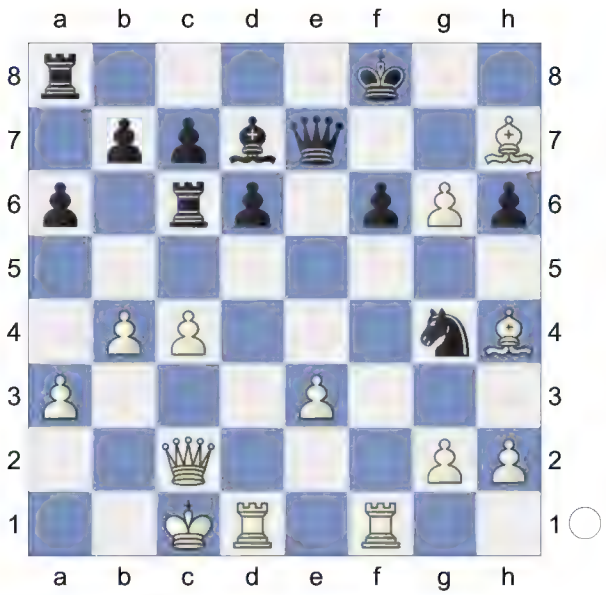
[Better is 20...Nxe3± 0.36/3 21.Rxf7+ Ke8 22.Qe4+ *(22.Qg6 Rxc4+ 23.Kd2 Rc2+ 24.Kxe3 Re2+* Decoy *25.Kxe2 Bg4+ 26.Kd2 Qe7)* 22...Kxf7 23.Qg6+ *(23.Qxe3 Rxc4+ 24.Bc2 Rxc2+* Remove Defender *25.Kxc2 Bf5+ 26.Kd2 hxg5±)* 23...Ke7 24.gxh6+ Discovered Attack (Check) Kf8 25.Qg8#]

(Diagram)



21.g6!+- f6

[21...Qxh4? 22.Rxf7+ Ke8 23.Qe4+ Ne5 24.Qxh4+-]



22.h3!↑ White is on the roll. Dancing on a razor blade. White is more active. Black cannot hold the game after this.

22...d5? 3.83/9

[22...Nxe3? 23.Bxf6 *(23.Rxf6+ Qxf6 24.Bxf6 Nxc2∓)* 23...Nxc2 24.Bxe7+ Kxe7 25.Rf7+ *(25.Kxc2 Rxc4+ 26.Kd3 d5+-)* 25...Ke6 26.c5 *(26.Kxc2 Rxc4+ 27.Kb2 Bc6+-)*

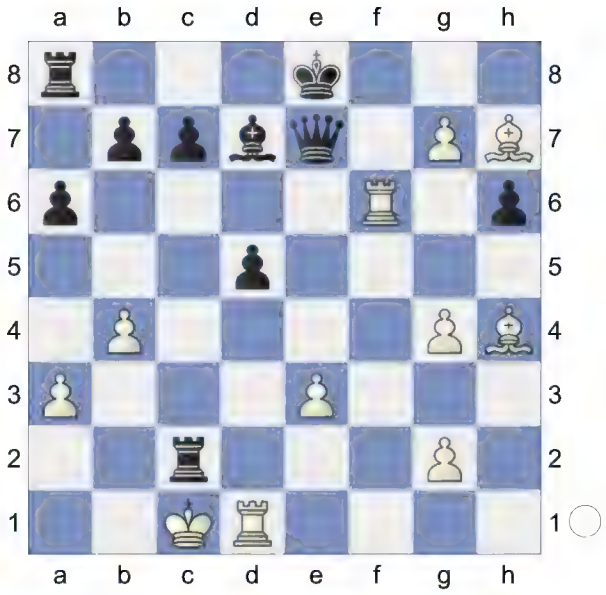
26...dxc5 *(26...Nxa3?* is the wrong capture. *27.Re1+* Deflection *Kd5 28.g7+-)* 27.Rdxd7 *(27.Kxc2 cxb4+ 28.Kb1 Be8+-)* 27...cxb4 28.g7 *(28.Rxc7 Ne3+ 29.Kb1 Rxc7+-; 28.Rde7+ Kd6+-)* 28...Nxa3+ 29.Kd1+- *(29.Kb2 Rc5+-)*]
[22...Qxe3+± 1.56/2 23.Kb2 Qe5+ 24.Kb1 Ne3 25.g7+ Decoy *(25.Rxf6+ Qxf6 26.Bxf6 Nxc2=)* 25...Kxg7 26.Qg6+ Deflection, Double Attack *(26.Bxf6+? Qxf6 27.Qd3 Nxf1-+)* 26...Kh8 27.Qxh6 *(27.Qxf6+ Qxf6 28.Rxf6 Kxh7-+)* 27...Ng4 28.hxg4 Bf5+ 29.Bxf5+ *(29.Rxf5 Qe4+ 30.Ka1 Qe7 31.Bxf6+ Qxf6+ 32.Qxf6+ Kxh7 33.Rh5+ Kg8 34.Rh8#)* 29...Kg8 30.Bh7+ *(30.Qxf6 Qxf6 31.Bxf6 Re8+-)* 30...Kf7 31.Rxf6+ *(31.Bxf6 Rg8 32.Bxg8+ Ke8 33.Bxe5 Ke7 34.Qg7+ Ke8 35.Rf8#; 31.Rde1 Rxc4 32.Rxe5* Pin *Rxb4+ 33.axb4 dxe5 34.Qxf6+ Ke8 35.Qf7#)* 31...Ke8 32.Qf8+ Skewer *(32.Re6+ Kd7 33.Rxe5 Rxc4 34.Qe6+ Kc6)* 32...Kd7 33.Rf7+ Ke6 34.Qe7#]

23.hxg4 Rxc4? 5.32/3
[23...Qxe3+ 3.03/1 24.Kb1 Qe5]

24.Rxf6+ White is clearly winning.

24...Ke8 25.g7! Rxc2+

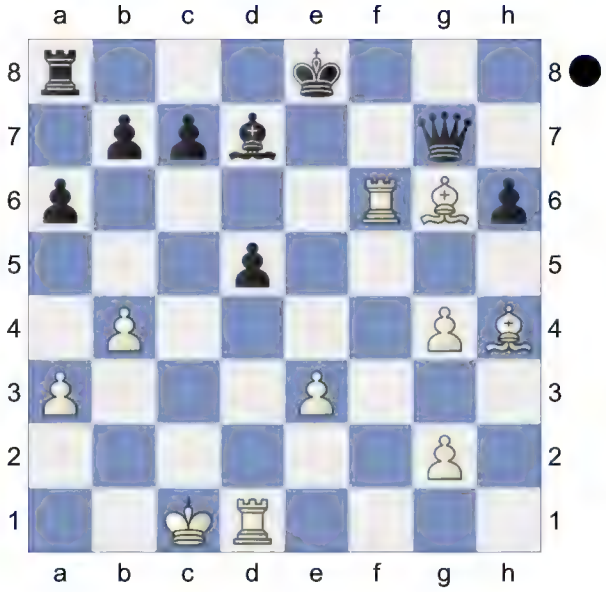
(Diagram)



26.Bxc2 Black is weak on the dark squares **26...Qxg7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.81

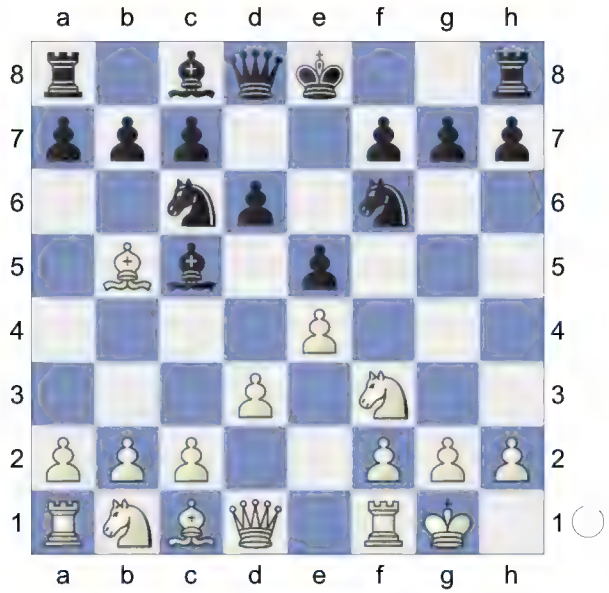
27.Bg6+



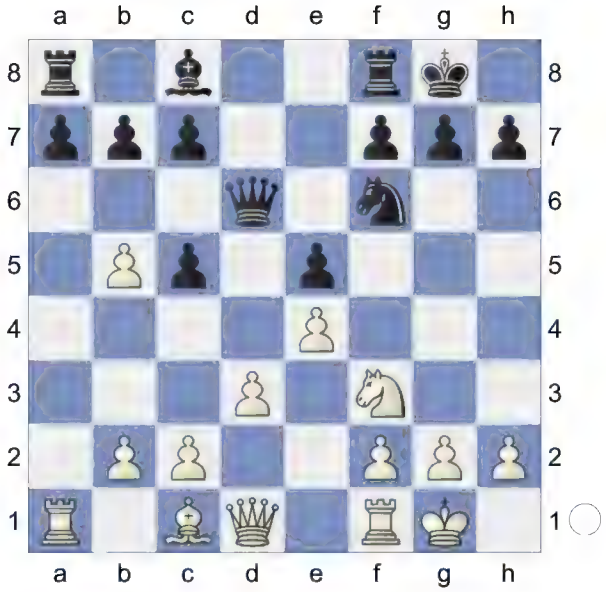
1-0

79 **C65**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**
■ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2747**
6th Prague Masters 2024 (3.4) 29.02.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C48: Four Knights: 4 Bb5, replies other than 4...Bb4
Inf 90/(286) **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.0-0 d6**

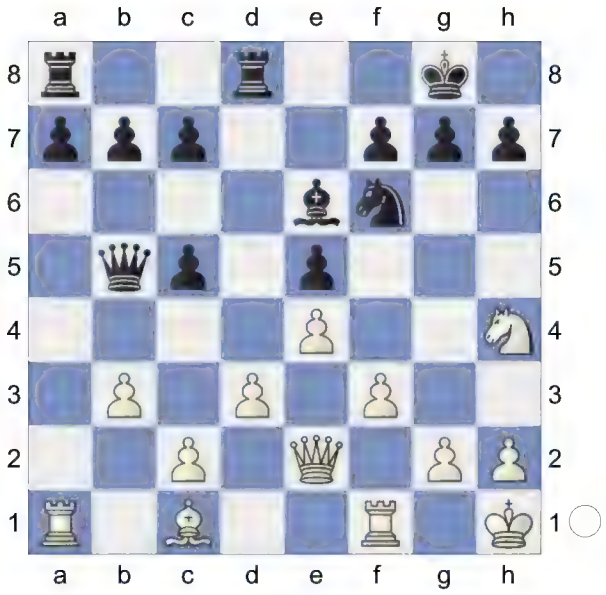


6.Nc3 0-0 7.Na4 Nd4 8.Nxc5 Black must now prevent Nxd4. **8...Nxb5 9.a4!** White is slightly better. **9...dxc5**
[9...Nd4 10.Nxd4 dxc5 11.Nb5 Ne8 12.f4 c6 13.Nc3 exf4 14.Bxf4 Nc7 15.Be3 Ne6 16.Ne2 Nd4 17.Bxd4 cxd4 18.Qe1 Qd6 19.Qh4 Qe5 20.Rf3 Bd7 21.Raf1 c5 22.b3 Rae8 23.Nf4 f6 24.Nh5 1-0 (61) Svidler,P (2747)-Kramnik,V (2777) Monaco (rapid) 2004]
10.axb5 Qd6N
[10...Re8 11.Be3 b6 12.Qd2 Bg4 13.Ne1 Bd7 14.c4 c6 15.bxc6 Bxc6 16.b4 cxb4 17.Qxb4 Ng4 18.Bd2 a5 19.Qb2 Qc7 20.Bc3 f6 21.Nc2 Reb8 22.f3 Nh6 23.Na3 b5 24.cxb5 Bxb5 25.Nxb5 ½-½ (40) Hetenyi,G (2388)-Kublis,A (2501) Dorpat-Tallinn match 1885 (1) Qc5+ 26.d4 exd4 27.Bxd4 Qxb5 28.Qxb5 Rxb5 29.Ra4 Nf7 30.Bc3 Nd6 31.Rfa1 Nb7 32.Kf2 Kf7 33.g4 h5 34.h3 hxg4 35.hxg4 Kg6 36.Ke2 Ra6 37.R1a2 Ra8 38.Kf2 Ra6 39.Kg2 Ra8 40.Ra1 1-0 Cornette,M (2565)-Fantinel,T (2401) Montendre Blitz op 2023 (4)]

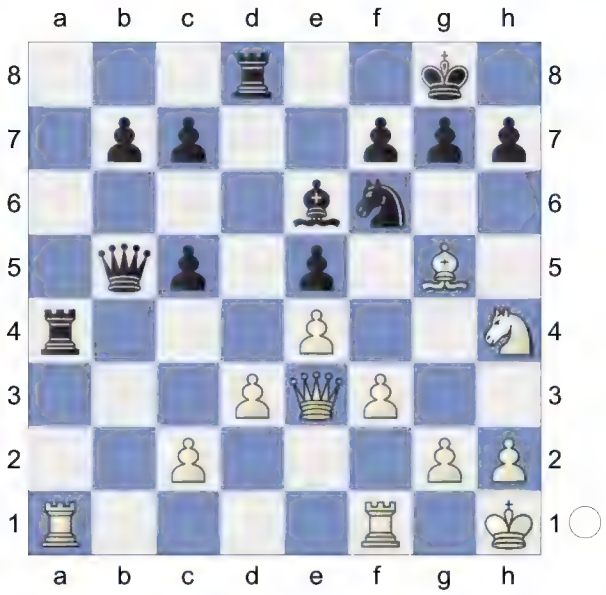


11.Nh4 Rd8 12.Qe2 Bg4 13.f3 Be6 14.b3 Qb6 15.Kh1 Qxb5 1.16/19
[Black should play 15...Ne8± 0.45/22]

(Diagram)



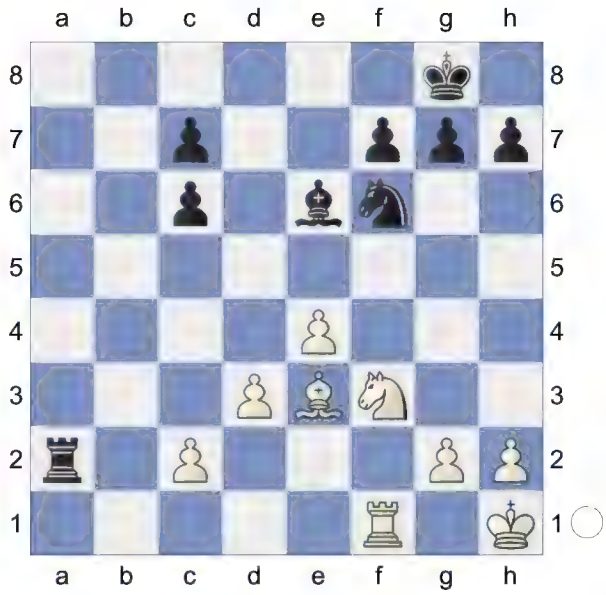
16.Bg5!± a5 17.Qe3 a4 18.bxa4 Rxa4



19.Rxa4 0.32/15
[19.Rab1!± 1.29/20 Qd7 20.Qxc5 *(20.Rxb7 Qc6±)*]
19...Qxa4± 20.Qxc5 Qc6

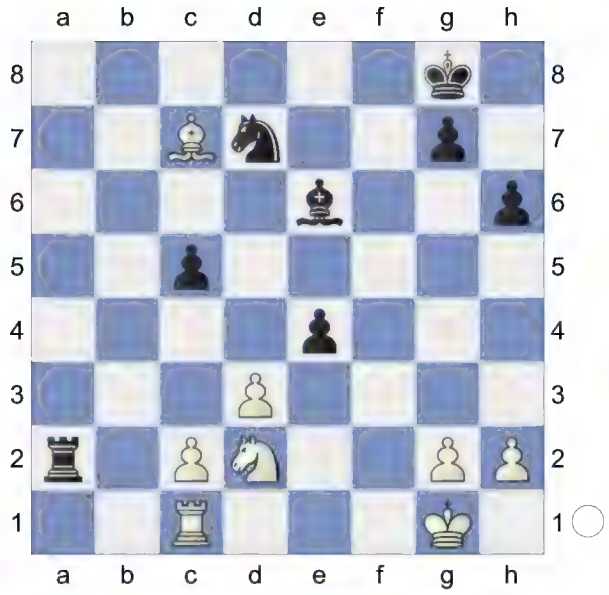
(Diagram)

21.Qxc6 bxc6 22.f4 exf4 23.Bxf4 Rc8 24.Be3 Ra8 25.Nf3 Ra2

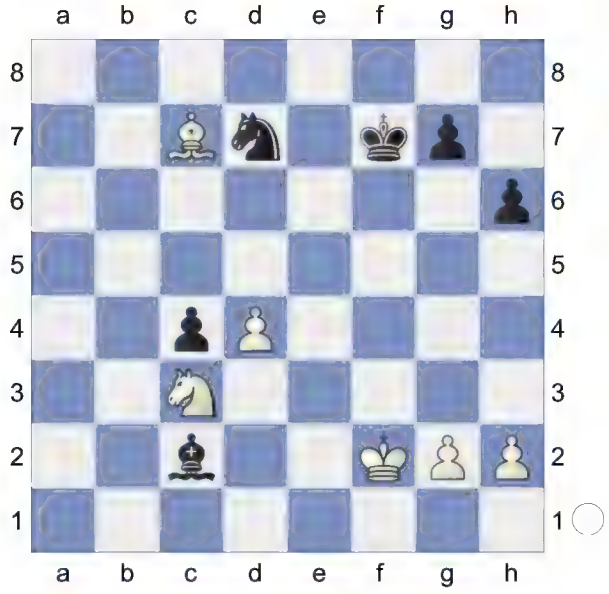


26.Rc1 Nd7 27.Bf4 c5 28.Bxc7 h6 29.Kg1 f5 30.Nd2 fxe4

(Diagram)



The position is equal. **31.Nxe4 c4 32.d4 Bf5 33.Nc3 Rxc2 34.Rxc2 Bxc2 35.Kf2 Kf7**

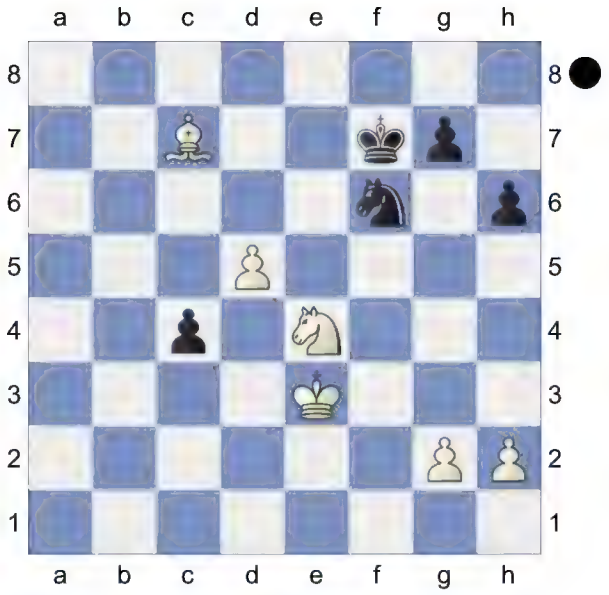


36.Ke3 Nf6 37.d5 Be4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)

38.Nxe4

(Diagram)



½-½

80 **A13**

□ **Nguyen,Thai Dai Van** **2630**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**

6th Prague Masters 2024 (2.1) 28.02.24

[David Cummings]

A13: English Opening: 1...e6

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 d4 4.Nf3 c5

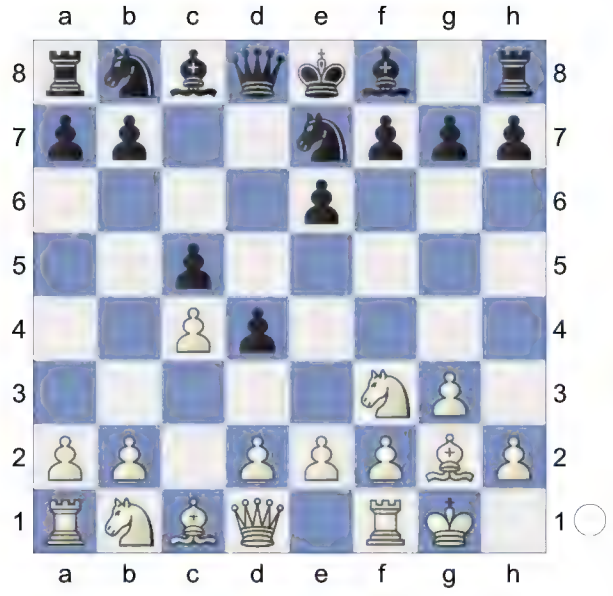
Black plays a Reversed Benoni, where the omission of an early ...Ng8-f6 gives extra flexibility. A similar theme is evident after:

[4...Nc6 5.0-0 Nh6!? which is covered in Matlakov-Maghsoodloo in the Archives.]

5.0-0 Ne7N

[5...Nc6 6.e3 Nf6 7.exd4 cxd4 8.d3 is analyzed in Aronian-Robson and other games in the PGN Archives. Bd6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Nbd2 Qe7 12.Re1 *(12.a3 a5 13.Rc1 0-0 14.Ne4 Bc7 15.c5 f5 16.Nd6 Bxd6 17.cxd6 Qxd6 18.Nd2 Ra6 19.Nc4 Qe7 20.Qb3 a4 21.Qb5*

Bd7 22.Nb6 Ra5 23.Qc4 Be8 24.Rfe1 Bf7 25.Bxc6 bxc6 26.Qxd4 Rd8 ½-½ (86) Tatar Kis,S (2253)-Rodshtein,T (2384) corr 1898 (4)*)* 12...0-0 13.a3 *(13.Nb3 Qf6 14.Nfd2 Bc7 15.a3 a5 16.Nc5 Qe7 17.Na4 Bd7 18.Nb3 b6 19.Bxc6 Bxc6 20.Nxd4 Bb7 21.Nb5 Qd7 22.Qe2 Rad8 23.d4 Qc6 24.f3 Rd7 25.Kg2 Bd8 26.Nac3 Bf6 27.Rad1 Qc8* 1-0 (52) Aronian,L (2768)-Jakovenko,D (2760) Jermuk FIDE GP 2009 (10)*)* 13...a5 14.Rc1 Rd8 *(14...Bd7 15.Ne4 Bc7 16.c5 Ra6 17.Nfd2 f5 18.Nd6 Bxd6 19.cxd6 Qxd6 20.Qb3 Qb8 21.Qb5 a4 22.b4 axb3 23.Nxb3 Rxa3 24.Nc5* 2) ...e6 -...d5 Setups-1...e6 - 2...d5 #10*)* 15.c5 Bxc5 16.Ne5 Nxe5 17.Rxe5 Bd6 18.Rb5 a4 19.Nc4 2) ...e6 -...d5 Setups-1...e6 - 2...d5 #8]



Leaving standard theoretical paths. Black usually follows up with ...Ne7-c6, leaving the b8-knight the choice of development via the a6- or the d7-square. Instead: **6.d3** White can also try:

[6.e4 -0.34/25 6.b4 0.23 is perhaps best met by Nbc6 *(6...Nec6* in this case can be met by *7.e5* with a good KIA structure for White*)* 7.d3 -0.63/22 *(7.e5 Ng6 8.Re1 f6* is roughly balanced*; 7.e5=* -0.22/24 *)* 7...Ng6∓ 8.h4 Glud,J (2550)-Pavlidis,A (2556) Germany 2021 \ -\ (66) and now e5 gives Black a central space advantage in a reversed KID setup.]

[6.b4 cxb4

A) 7.Qa4+ -0.36/24 7.Bb2 0.06 Nec6! 8.Ne5 -1.19/23 *(8.Bb2∓* -0.33/22 *)* 8...Qc7 left White without enough for the pawn in Jakits,L (2175)-Kilgus,G (2420) Austria 2019 0-1 (28);

B) 7.Bb2 Nec6 8.a3 e5 9.e3 Black should prevent exd4. Na6 with approximately level chances]

6...Nec6 7.e3 transposes to the game **7...Be7! 8.Re1** A new move, varying from:. The position is equal.

[8.Na3 0-0 9.Nc2 a5 and now:

A) 10.Re1 Na6 11.Rb1 Re8 -0.04/18 *(11...f6∓* -0.46/21 *)* 12.b3 Bf8 13.exd4 cxd4 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Rxe5 f6 16.Re1 e5 17.a3 Nc5?! 0.51/21 *(17...Rb8 18.b4 Bf5* maintains the balance*; 17...Bf5=* -0.17/21 *)* 18.b4± axb4 19.axb4 Na4 20.Bd2 was clearly better for White in Iljin,A (2528)-Riazantsev,A (2662) Sochi 2018 \ -\ (33);

B) 10.exd4= -0.12/22 cxd4 11.Qe2;

C) 10.e4 -0.75/20 10...e5∓ 11.Nd2 a4 12.f4 exf4 13.gxf4 f5 leaves Black slightly for choice, Kaustuv,K (2301)-Narayanan,S (2618) Dhaka 2021 \ -\ (26)]

[8.exd4 cxd4 leads to a regular

(reversed) Modern Benoni structure, which should be fine for Black given a correct follow-up. Now:

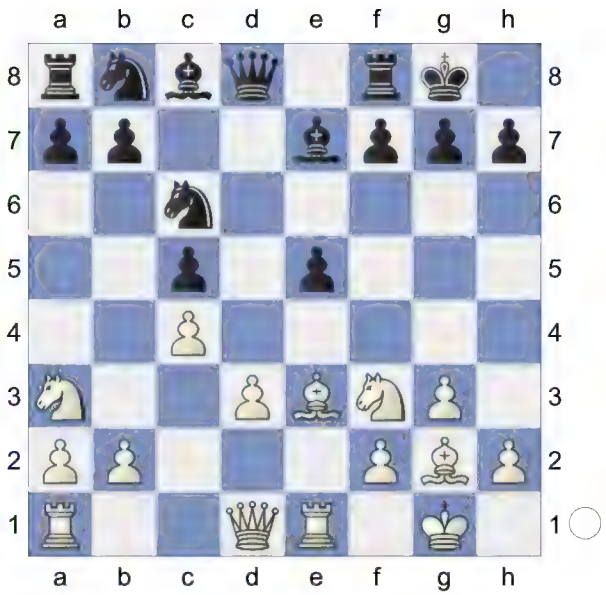
A) 9.Re1 Nd7 0.15/20 *(⌓9...f6* -0.25/23 *)* 10.Na3= e5 11.Nc2 a5 12.a3 0-0 0.40/20 *(12...f6!* bolstering the centre, leaves everything to play for; *12...f6!=* -0.21/21 *)* 13.Bd2± Nc5? 0.91/17 *(13...Re8=* 0.28/20 *)* 14.Nxe5± Nxe5 15.Rxe5 ended badly for Black in Shetty,A (2447)-Niemann, H (2526) Bassano del Grappa 2021 1-0 (46), since Nxd3 1.71/19 *(15...Be6±* 0.97/17 *)* 16.Rd5 picks up the d4-pawn;

B) 9.Na3 0-0 10.b3 e5 11.Nc2 a5 12.Re1 f6 13.a3 Na6 0.33/18 was played in Lupulescu,C (2584)-Samani,Y (2346) Arad 2023 \ -\ (23) *(13...Bg4* or another bishop move along the c8-h3 diagonal is OK for Black.*; 13...Bg4∓* -0.36/20 *)* 14.b4!± takes advantage of the x-ray along the a-file, and now axb4 15.axb4 Ncxb4 16.Nfxd4! is possible, since exd4? 1.06/19 *(16...Rb8±* 0.31/20 *)* 17.Ba3± leaves Black under pressure, and Rb8 18.Rb1! Nc6 19.Bxc6 Bxa3 20.Bd5+ favours White]

8...0-0 9.Na3 Passing up a last chance for e3xd4, which would lead to play similar to that in the previous notes.

9...dxe3 10.Bxe3 e5

(Diagram)



Black plays ambitiously, aiming to capitalize on White's backward d3-pawn.

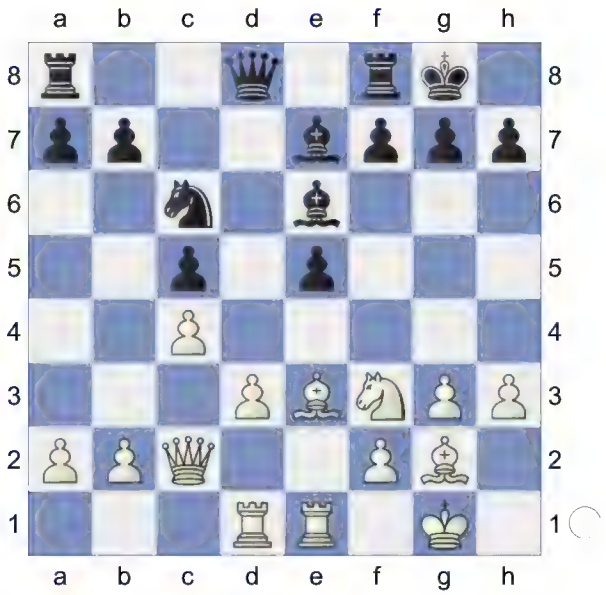
11.Qb3 -0.64/18 White's queen doesn't find gainful employment on the queenside.

[11.Nb5 Bg4 12.Nc3 is equal.]

[11.Nb1= -0.12/21]

11...Na6!∓ 12.Rad1 Nab4 13.Nc2 Nxc2 14.Qxc2 Bg4 15.h3 Be6 -0.10/19

[15...Bd7∓ -0.50/19]



16.Qc3?! -0.62/21 Continuing to spend

time on rather aimless queen moves. White may not be playing for an advantage anymore, but:

[16.Bd2 -0.49/21 16.b4 -0.10 f6 17.Bc3 -0.82/18 *(17.b4!=* -0.06/18 keeps the balance.*)* 17...Qc7 18.Nh4 should still chances to both sides.]

[16.b4= -0.10/19]

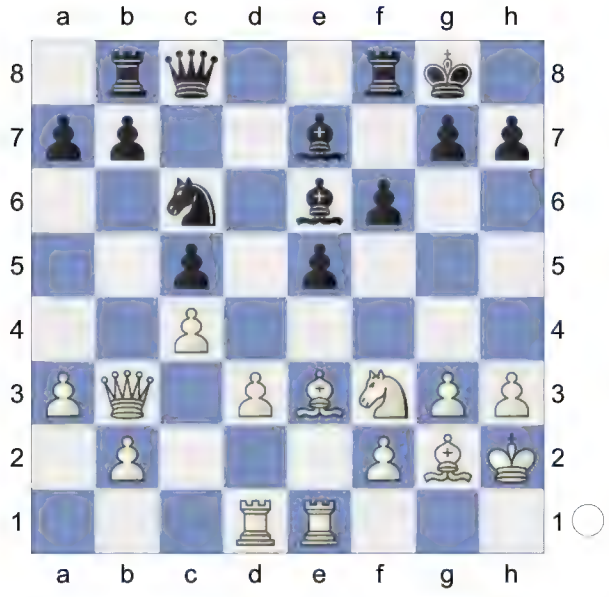
16...f6 17.Qa3 -0.82/19

[17.b4∓ -0.41/19]

17...Nb4

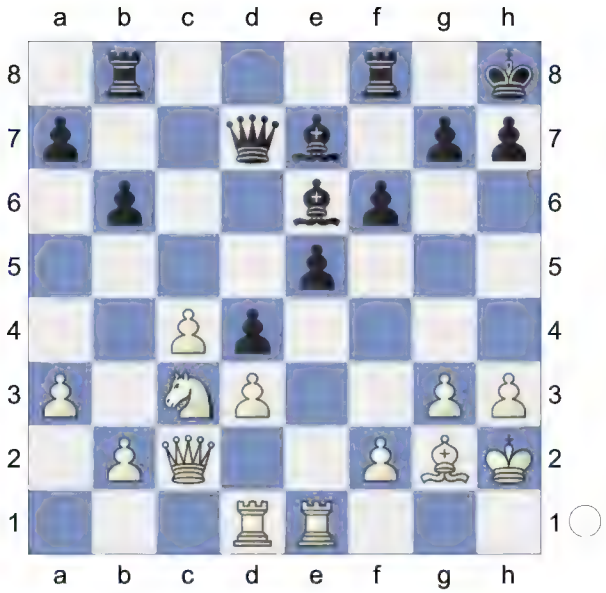
[17...b6 can also be considered, since 18.Ng5! fxg5 19.Bxc6 Bxh3! grabs the loose h3-pawn.]

18.Qb3 Prevents Nc2 **18...Qc8 19.Kh2 Rb8 20.a3 Nc6**



Black remains slightly for choice, since White is a bit stuck for an active plan. **21.Nd2 Kh8 22.Qc2 Qd7 23.Ne4 b6 24.Nc3** White gets to occupy the d5-square, but this not the most critical feature in the position. **24...Nd4 25.Bxd4 cxd4**

(Diagram)



26.Nd5 Bd6 Black has the bishop pair, with looming kingside pressure, and can play "around" the d5-knight. **27.b4 f5** -0.57/19

[27...b5 is another strong move, undermining the d5-knight, which is also possible over the next several moves.]

[27...Rbc8∓ -1.03/20]

28.Qe2 -0.96/17

[28.Rc1∓ -0.57/19 deserves consideration.]

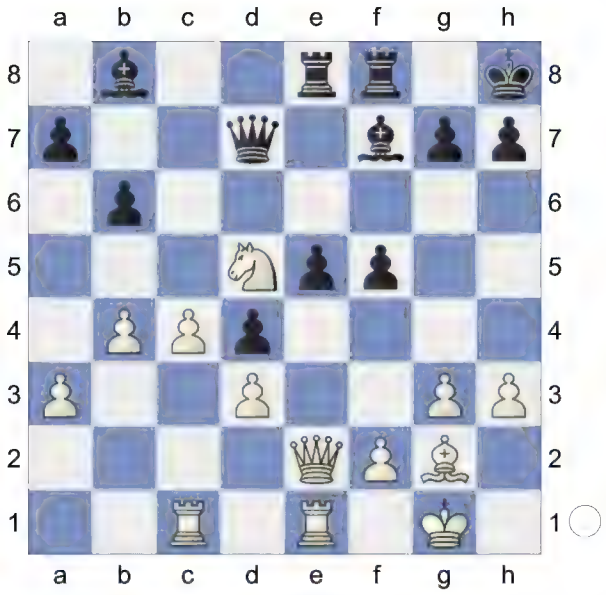
28...Rbe8∓ 29.Rc1 Bb8 30.Kg1 -1.65/19

[30.b5∓ -1.00/19]

30...Bf7 -0.84/20

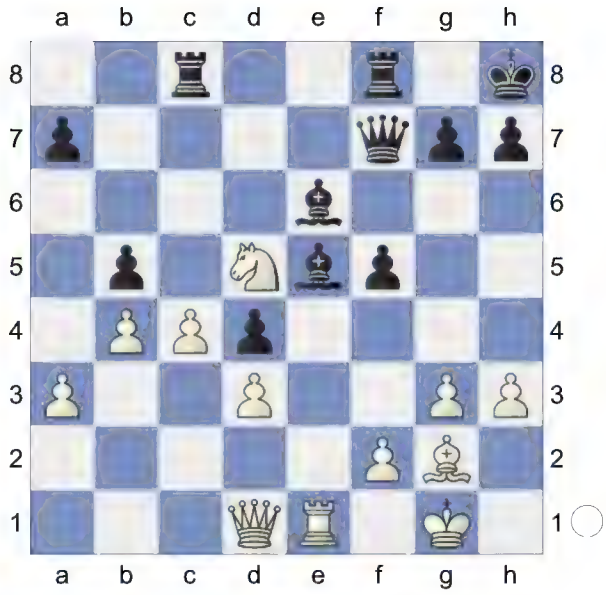
[30...b5-+ -1.65/19 31.Rcd1 g6]

(Diagram)

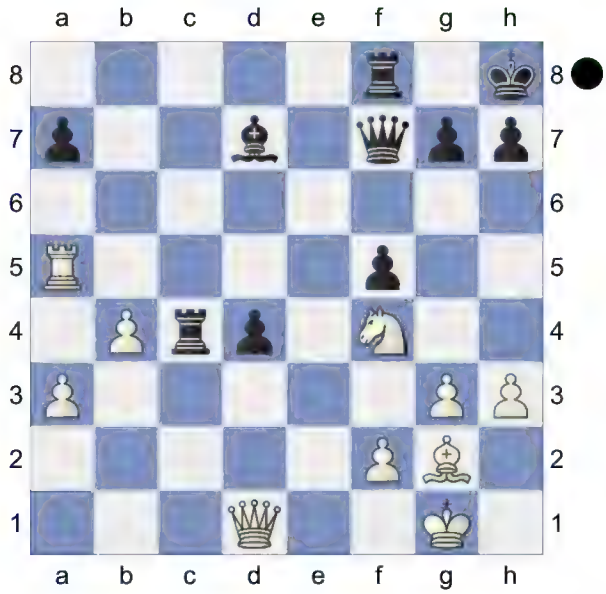


31.Qd2 Be6 32.Qd1 -1.65/19
[32.f4!∓ -0.60/18]
32...Qf7 -1.11/19
[32...b5-+ -1.65/19 33.Rf1 f4 34.gxf4 Bxh3]
33.Rc2 b5 Finally gets this thrust in. A later ...b5xc4, d3xc4 will give Black two unopposed central pawns. **34.Rce2 Rc8** -0.81/21 Black can keep the pressure up with:
[34...g5 and if 35.Rxe5 -2.40/21 *(35.a4∓* -1.24/20 *)* 35...Bxe5-+ 36.Rxe5 f4 leaves White busted.]
[⩲34...g5 -1.35/20 35.Bf3 *(35.Rxe5 Bxe5 36.Rxe5 f4∓)* 35...bxc4 36.dxc4 Qg7]
35.Rxe5! The best practical chance.
35...Bxe5

(Diagram)



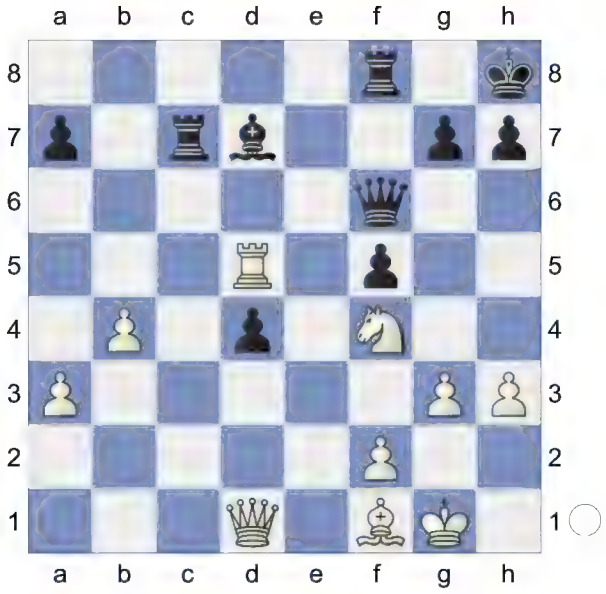
36.Rxe5 bxc4 37.Nf4 -1.13/21
[White should play 37.dxc4∓ -0.70/21 Rxc4 38.Nf4]
37...Bd7 38.dxc4 Rxc4
[38...Qxc4 39.Kh2 d3 is more clear cut, according to the engine]
39.Bf1 Here:
[39.Ra5!



Hoping for Bd5!. Bc6! Strongly threatening ...Bxg2. 40.Nd3! was more tenacious]
39...Qf6 -0.69/20
[Black should try 39...Rcc8∓ -1.11/19

40.Qxd4 Bc6]

40.Rd5 Rc7

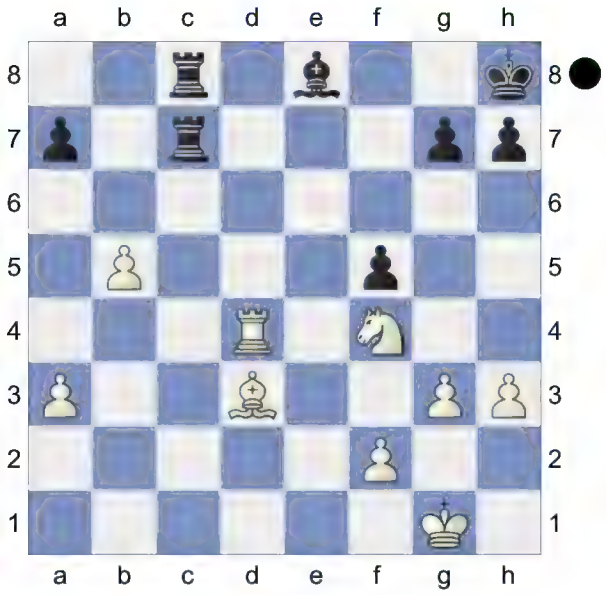


41.b5 Rfc8 42.Qxd4 -1.93/18

[42.a4∓ -0.91/18]

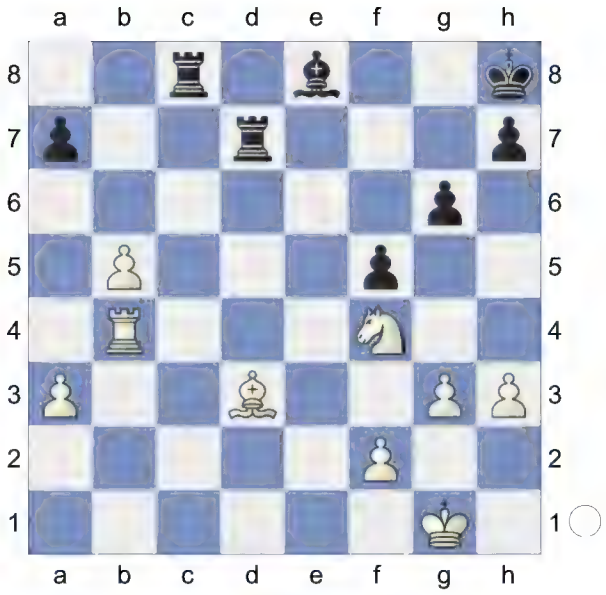
42...Qxd4-+ 43.Rxd4 White has won the d-pawn but the resulting position is technically won for Black. **43...Be8 44.Bd3** -2.50/19

[44.h4∓ -1.57/18 was worth a try.]



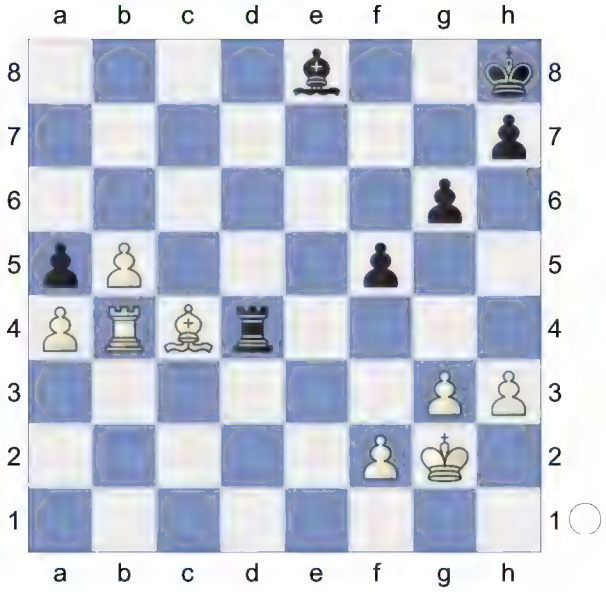
44...Rd7! 45.Rb4 g6

(Diagram)



46.a4 Rcd8 Black has a decisive advantage. **47.Bc4 Rd1+ 48.Kg2 R8d4 49.Ne6 a5 50.Nxd4 Rxd4**

[Weaker is 50...axb4 51.Nb3=]



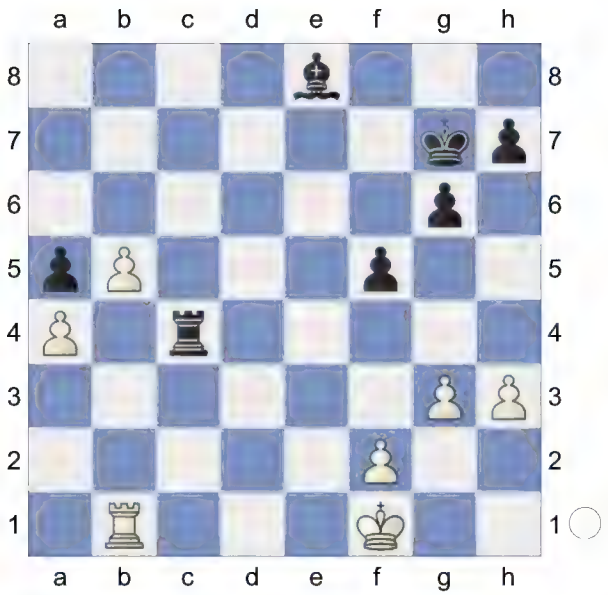
51.Rb1 Rxc4 52.Kf1

Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

52...Kg7

[Less strong is 52...Rxa4 53.b6 Bc6 54.b7 Bxb7 55.Rxb7=]

(Diagram)



0-1

81 **B67**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2743**
■ **Rapport,Richard** **2717**
6th Prague Masters 2024 (1.2) 27.02.24
[Kitty Kat]

B67: Sicilian: Richter-Rauzer: 7...a6 8 0-0-0 Bd7, lines without 9 f4 Be7

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6

(Diagram)

6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 e6 9.f3 Nxd4N

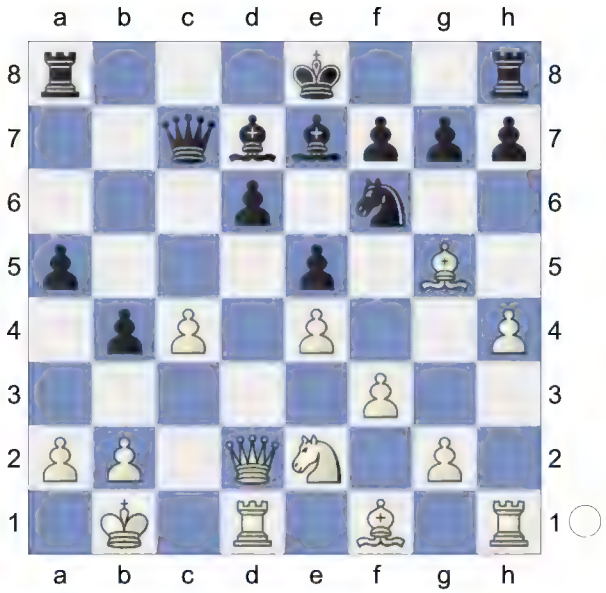
[9...h6 10.Be3 b5
A) 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Kb1 Qc7 *(12...Be7 13.Ne2 Rc8 14.Nd4 Bb7 15.g4 Nd7 16.h4 Ne5 17.Be2 Nc4 18.Bxc4 Rxc4 19.g5 h5 20.g6 Bxh4 21.b3 Rc8 22.e5 Be7 23.Qg2 Bd5 24.Nf5 f6 25.Nxg7+ Kd7 26.Rxd5 exd5 27.e6+* 1-0 (41) Brochet,P (2525)-Paolozzi,M (2511) Khanty-Mansiysk (m/3-rapid) 97/(18) 2005 (5)) 13.h4 Rc8 14.Bd3 h5 15.Rhe1 b4 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.Bxa6 Nxe3 19.Rxe3 Rb8 20.c4 bxc3 21.Rxc3 Sicilian Rauzer-6.♗g5 ♗d7 Survey 2021;
B) 11.g4 Ne5 12.Bd3 Qc7 13.Kb1 b4 14.Nce2 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5 16.Nf4 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 Bc5 18.Qe4 Rd8 19.Rhe1 Nxd3 20.Nxd3 Bxd4 21.Qxd4 0-0 22.Qxb4 1-0 Andersen,R (2246)-Gabrielsen,T (2328) corr 19. LagNM, 3. bord 2004]
[9...b5 10.Kb1 h6 11.Be3 Ne5 12.Bd3 Rb8 *(12...Qc7 13.Rhe1 Rb8*

14.f4 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Qxc4 16.b3 Qc7 17.e5 Rc8 18.exf6 Qxc3 19.Qxc3 Rxc3 20.Nf5 gxf6 21.Nxd6+ Bxd6 22.Rxd6 Rc6 23.Rd3 Bc8 24.Bd4 e5 25.fxe5 Re6 26.Bc5 Rxe5 27.Red1 (30) 15.♘c4 0-0 16.♕e5 ♖ab8 (2702)-Deslandes,P (2646) Game No. 77 1911) 13.g4 Nxd3 14.cxd3 a5 15.h4 g6 16.Nb3 a4 17.Nc1 b4 18.N3e2 Bg7 19.d4 h5 20.g5 Ng8 21.d5 e5 22.Nd3 b3 23.a3 Ne7 24.f4 ½-½ (44) Caruana,F (2757)-Anand,V (2780) Grenke Chess Classic 1st 2013 (7)]

10.Qxd4 Be7

11.Kb1 Qc7 12.Qd2 b5 White is slightly better. **13.h4 b4 14.Ne2 a5 15.c4 e5**

(Diagram)



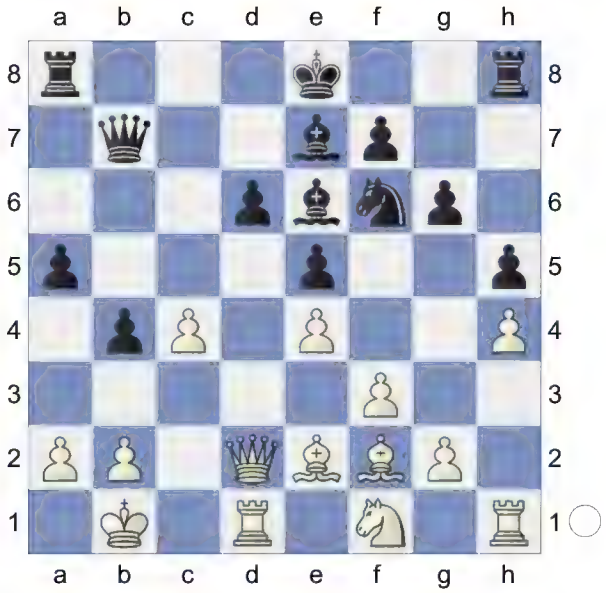
Repels Nd4 **16.Ng3! h6 17.Be3** -0.18/17

[17.Bxf6± 0.78/19 gxf6 18.Nf5]

17...h5 0.63/20

[Black should play 17...0-0= -0.18/17]

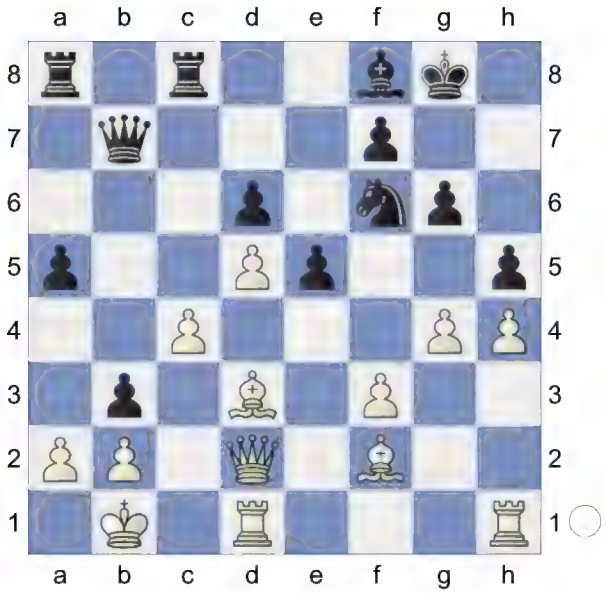
18.Be2 g6! 19.Nf1 Be6 20.Bf2 Qb7



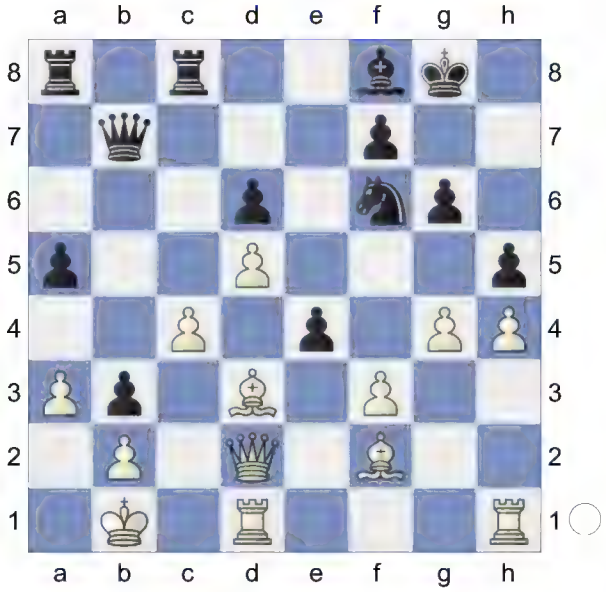
21.Ne3 0-0 22.Bd3 Rfc8 23.Nd5 Bxd5 24.exd5 Bf8 25.g4 b3 0.96/17

[25...a4= 0.30/18 keeps the balance.]

(Diagram)

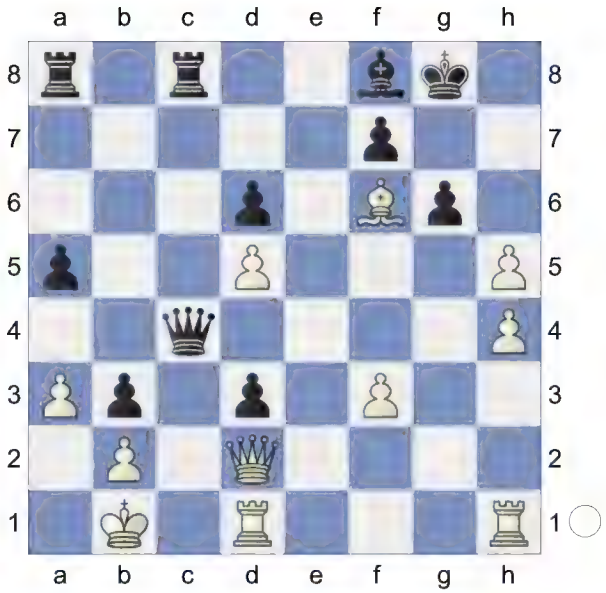


26.a3!± e4 1.48/19
[⌓26...a4 0.96/19]



27.Bd4! exd3 28.Bxf6 Qa6 29.gxh5 White is more active.
[Don't play 29.Qxd3 Qxc4 30.gxh5 Qc2+ 31.Ka1 Qxd3 32.Rxd3 a4±]
29...Qxc4

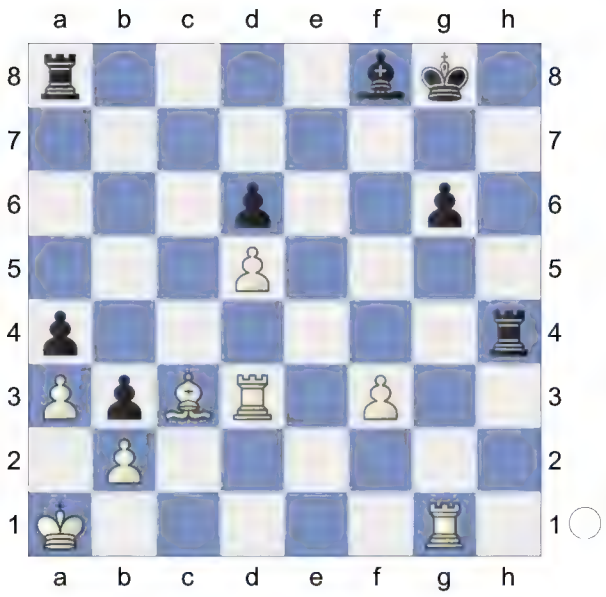
(Diagram)



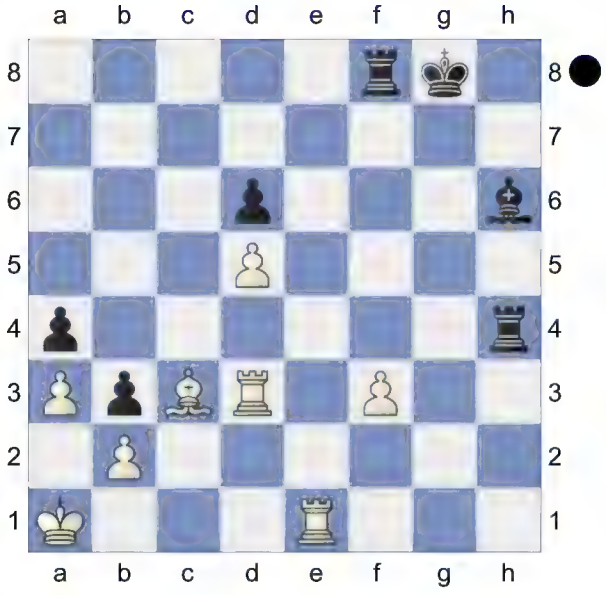
30.Qxd3 0.10/20
[30.Qe3!± 1.15/19]
30...Qc2+=

The position is equal. **31.Ka1** Dancing on a razor blade. **31...Qxd3 32.Rxd3** aiming for hxg6. **32...a4 33.Rg1 Rc4 34.Bc3 Rxh4 35.hxg6 fxg6**

(Diagram)



36.Rxg6+ Kh7! 37.Rg1 Bh6
Prevents f4 **38.Re1 Rf8 39.Re7+ Kg8**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)
40.Re1



Against Rh1
½-½

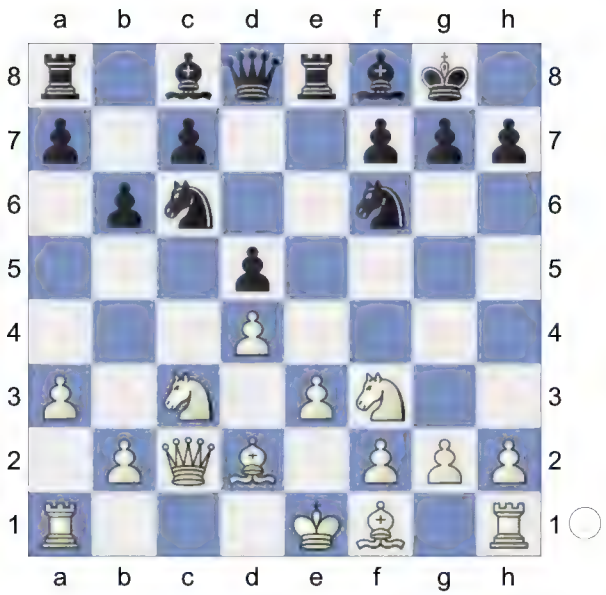
82 **D38**
□ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2740**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
86th Tata Steel Masters (13.2) 28.01.24
[Kitty Kat]

D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4)

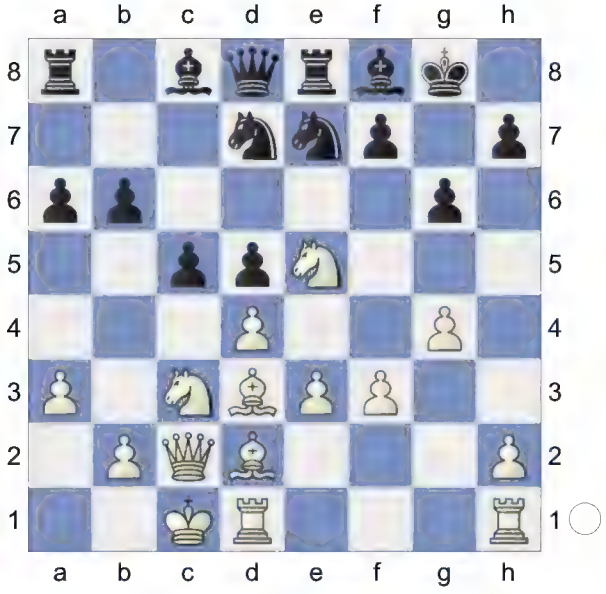
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qa4+ Nc6

6.e3 0-0 7.Qc2 b6 8.Bd2 Re8 9.a3
White has an edge. **9...Bf8 10.cxd5 exd5**

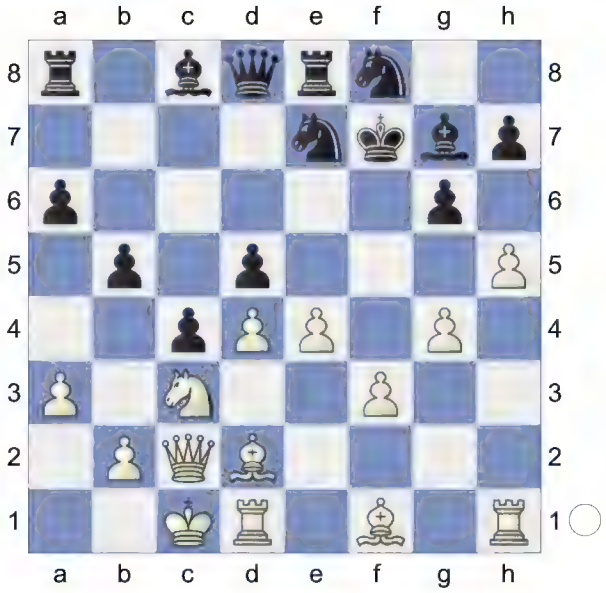
(Diagram)



11.Bd3 -0.06/22
[11.Bb5± 0.34/21 Bd7 12.0-0]
11...Ne7= 12.Ne5 a6 Prevents Bd3-b5
13.g4 g6 14.f3 c5 15.0-0-0! Nd7N
[15...c4 16.Be2 b5 17.h4 Qb6 18.h5 a5 19.hxg6 hxg6 20.e4 b4 21.Na4 Qxd4 22.Bf4 Qf2 23.Rdf1 Qa7 24.Bd1 Chapter Ragozin-7... Re8 9.a3 b6/a6 2020]



16.Nxf7 -1.13/20 **Kxf7∓ 17.h4 b5 18.h5 c4 19.Bf1** -1.21/19
[⌓19.hxg6+ -0.78/21 hxg6 20.Bf1]
19...Bg7 20.e4
[20.hxg6+ Nxg6 *(20...hxg6 21.e4∓)* 21.f4 Nf6∓]
20...Nf8



21.hxg6+ hxg6 22.Be3 Rb8 23.Qh2 Rb7 Strongly threatening ...b5-b4.
24.Be2? -2.57/18
[24.Bh6∓ -0.77/17]
24...b4-+ 25.axb4 Rxb4

26.Bh6 Bxh6+ 27.Qxh6 Qa5! ...Qa5-a1+ is the strong threat. **28.Kc2 Qb6 29.Qf4+ Ke6?** -0.42/21
[29...Kg8 30.Kc1∓]

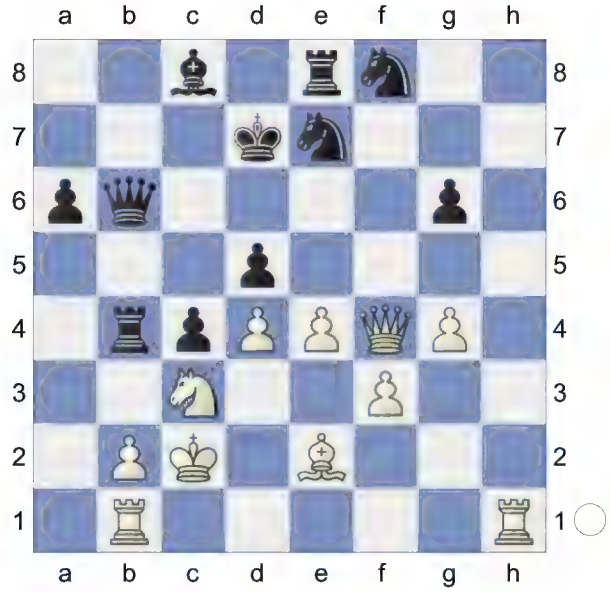
[29...Bf5-+ -2.57/19 30.Rb1 g5 *(30...Qxd4 31.gxf5 Nxf5 32.Nxd5=; 30...Ne6 31.Qe5=)*]

30.Rb1 -1.30/26

[30.b3∓ -0.42/21 cxb3+ *(30...Rxb3? 31.Na4∓)* 31.Kb2]

30...Kd7∓

[30...Qxd4? 31.exd5++-]

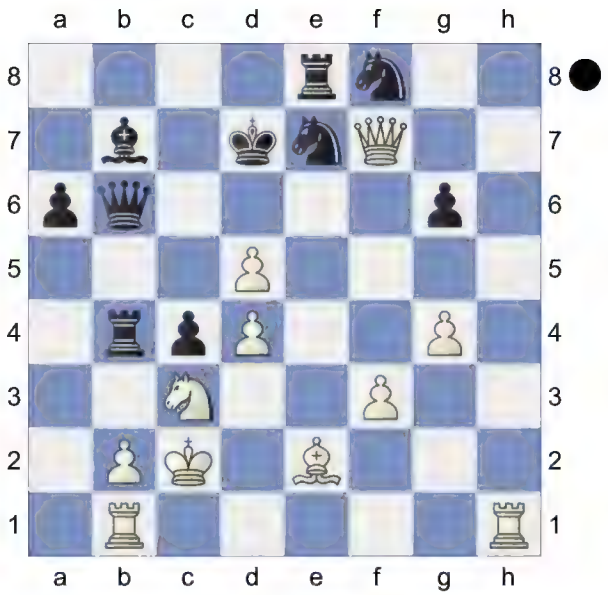


31.exd5 Bb7

[31...Nxd5 32.Nxd5 *(32.Qf7+ Ne7±)* 32...Rxe2+ *(32...Rxb2+? 33.Rxb2 Rxe2+ 34.Kd1+-)* 33.Kd1+-]

32.Qf7

(Diagram)



Rb8! And now ...Rb4xb2+! would win.

[32...Qxd4? 33.Rhd1 Qc5 34.d6+- *(34.Ne4 Qe3+-)*]

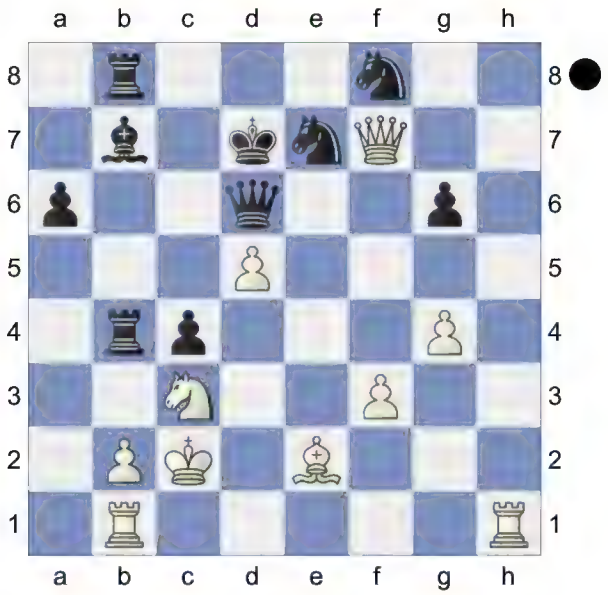
33.d6 -2.27/19

[33.b3∓ -1.55/18 is a better defense. cxb3+ *(33...Rxb3 34.Bxc4 Rxb1 35.Rxb1+-)* 34.Kb2]

33...Qxd6-+

[33...Kxd6 34.Bxc4 *(34.Qf4+? Kd7-+)* 34...Rxc4 *(34...Qxd4? 35.Rhd1+- Pin)* 35.Qxc4=]

34.d5

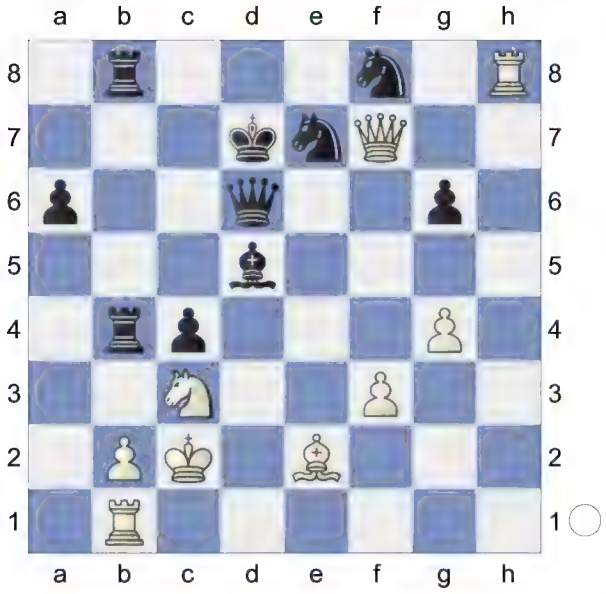


Wards off Nf8-e6 **34...Ba8** -0.93/20

[Stronger than 34...Bxd5 35.Nxd5 Qe5 *(35...Qxd5 36.Rhd1+- Pin)* 36.Qxe7+ *(36.Nxb4 Qxe2+ 37.Kc1 Qe3+ 38.Kd1 Rxb4=)* 36...Qxe7 37.Nxe7 Kxe7 38.Kc3=]
[34...g5!-+ -2.37/19 35.Ne4 Qg6 *(35...Qxd5? 36.Nf6+ Kd6 37.Nxd5+-)*]

35.Rh8? -4.69/22
[35.Rhd1∓ -0.93/20]

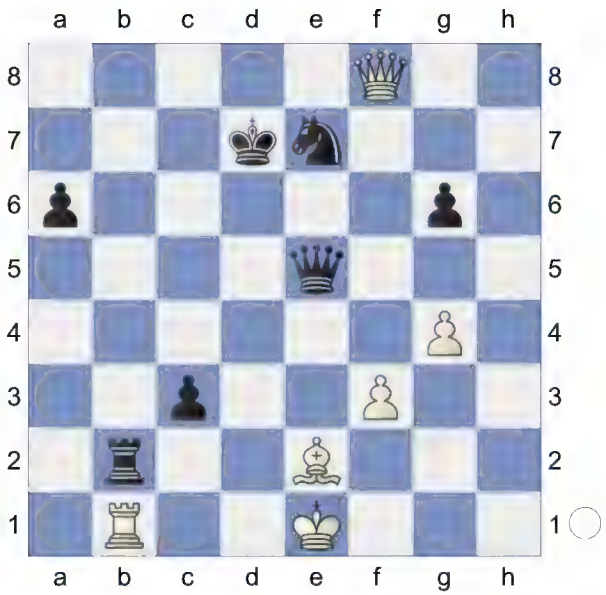
35...Bxd5
[Weaker is 35...Qb6 36.Rxf8 Rxb2+ 37.Rxb2 Qxb2+ 38.Kd1 Rxf8 39.Qxf8∓]



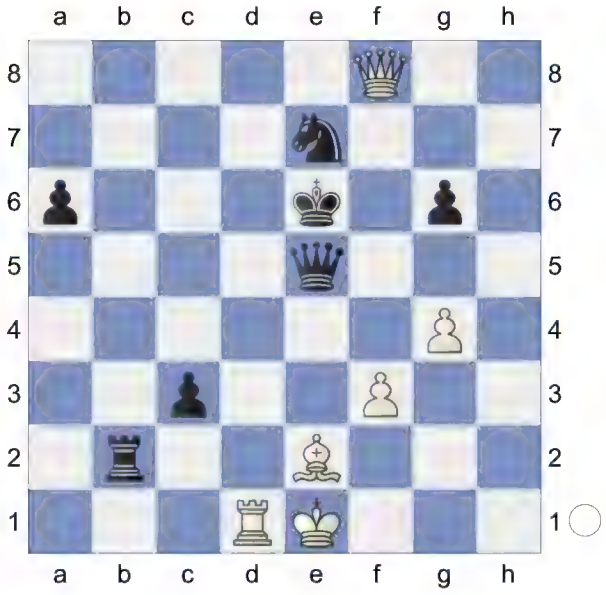
36.Nxd5 Qxd5 37.Rxf8 Qe5 38.Kd1 Rxf8 39.Qxf8 c3 (-> ...c3-c2+)
[Less strong is 39...Rxb2 40.Rxb2 Qxb2 41.Qf4=]

40.Ke1 Rxb2

(Diagram)



41.Rd1+ Ke6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/ Black=0.24 (precise)

0-1

83 **D38**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2740**
Tata Steel Masters TB blitz (2.1) 28.01.24
[TA]

D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qb3 a5

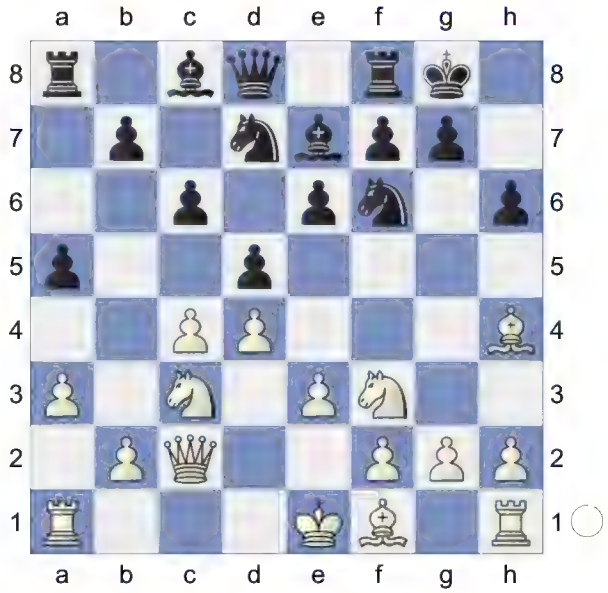
6.Bg5 c6 0.55/21

[6...c5= 0.18/20 7.dxc5 *(7.a3 a4 8.Qc2 Bxc3+ 9.Qxc3 cxd4 10.Nxd4 e5 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Nb5 d4 13.Qd2 Qa5 14.e3 dxe3 15.fxe3 Qxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Na6 17.Bd3 Be6 18.e4 0-0-0 19.Ke3 Nc5 20.Be2 Rhg8 21.g3 Bg4* ½-½ (30) Mikaelyan,A (2507)-Burke,J (2573) North American op 34th 2024 (7)*)* 7...Na6 8.a3 Nxc5 9.Qc2 Bxc3+ 10.Qxc3 Nce4 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Qxf6 Nxf6 13.cxd5 Nxd5 14.e4 Nf6 15.Bd3 Bd7 16.Ne5 Ke7 17.Rc1 Rhc8 18.Kd2 Be8 19.f4 Nd7 20.Nxd7 Bxd7 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 ½-½ (31) Wang,H (2726)-Carlsen,M (2876) FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss 2019 (8)]

7.e3± h6N

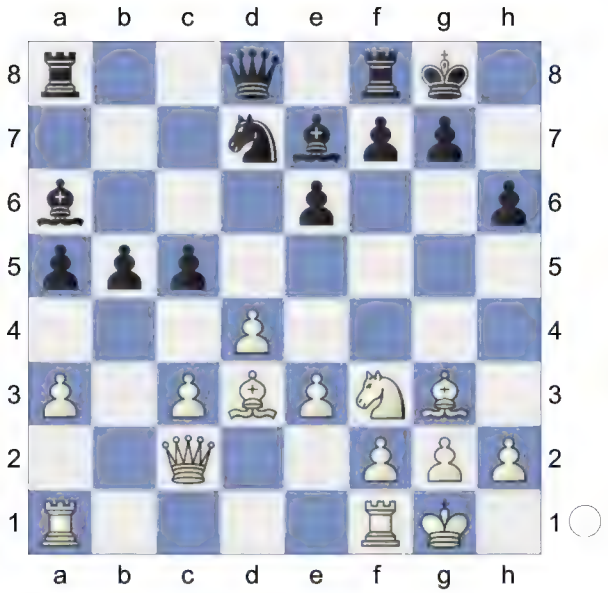
[7...Nbd7 8.a3 Be7 9.Be2 h6 10.Bh4 0-0 11.0-0 Ne4 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Qc2 f5 14.Rab1 Nd6 15.Nd2 f4 16.Bd3 dxc4 17.Nxc4 f3 18.gxf3 Rxf3 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.Ne4 Qe7 21.Be2 Rh3 22.Ng3 0-1 (54) Grandelius,N (2557)-Topalov,V (2774) EU-chT (Men) 19th 2013 (8.11) Qh4 23.Bc4 Nb6 24.Nf5 Qg4+ 25.Ng3 Bd7 26.f3 Rxg3+ 27.hxg3 Qxg3+ 28.Kh1 Qh3+ 29.Kg1 Qg3+ 30.Kh1 Qh4+ 31.Kg1 Qg5+ 32.Kf2 Rf8 33.Ke2 Qf6 34.Rf2 Be8 35.Qb3 Nxc4 36.Qxc4 Bh5 37.Rbf1 0-1 (54) Winkler,T (2557)-11... ♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2774) USSR 54/ (161) 1991 (8.11)]

8.Bh4 White is slightly better. **8...Nbd7 9.a3 Be7 10.Qc2 0-0**



11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bg3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 b5 14.Bd3 Ba6 15.0-0 c5

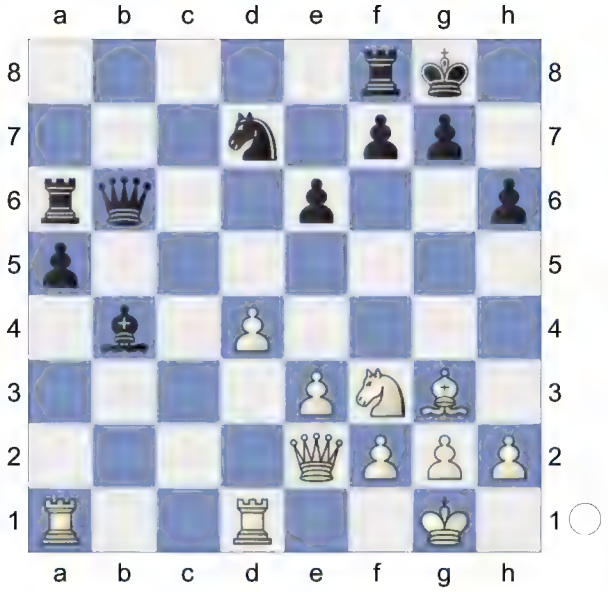
(Diagram)



16.Rfd1 0.28/22 White is much more active.

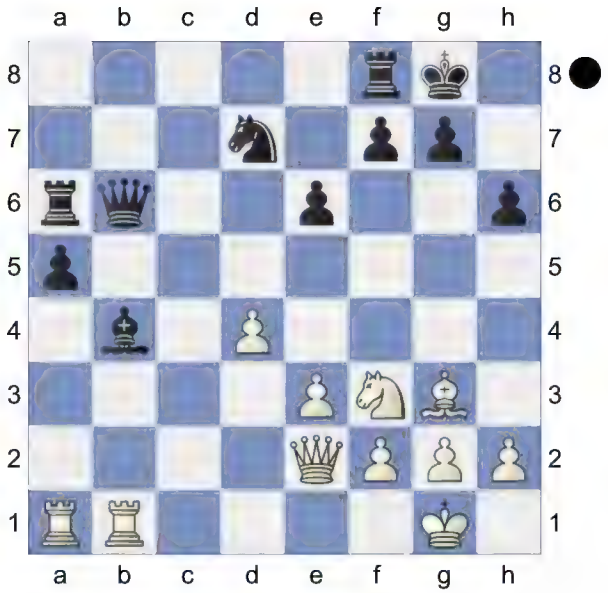
[16.Rfb1⩲ 0.65/22]

16...Qb6= 17.Qe2 b4 18.Bxa6 Rxa6 19.axb4 cxb4 20.cxb4 Bxb4



21.Rdb1

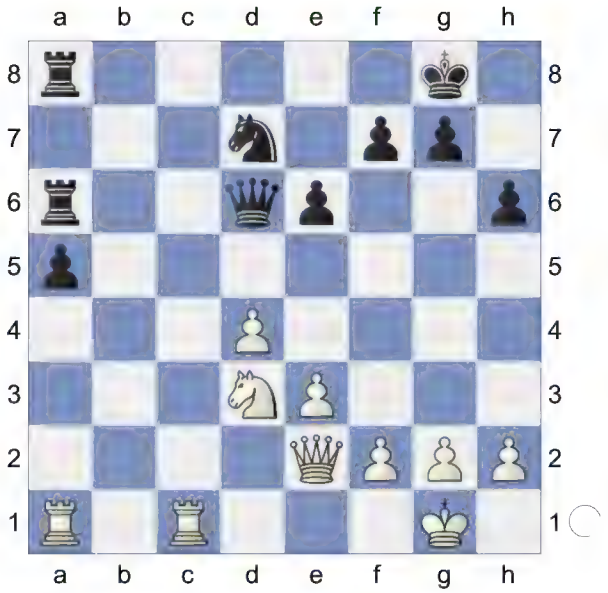
(Diagram)



Rfa8 22.Ne1 Qc6 23.Rc1 Qd5 24.Nd3 Bd6 0.00/22

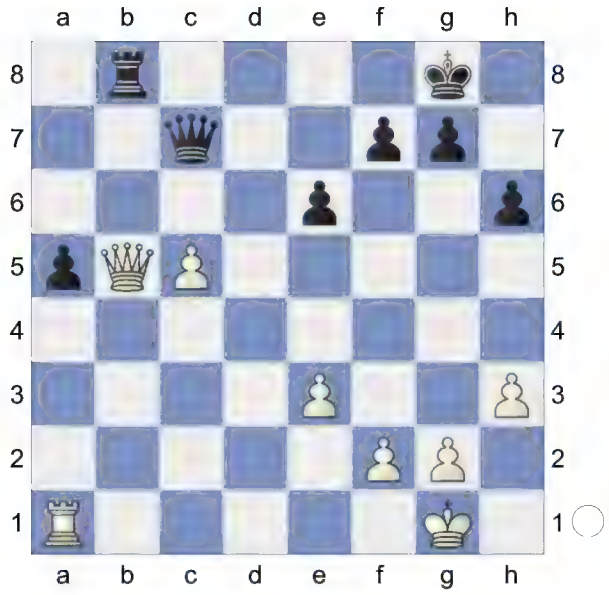
[Black should play 24...Bf8∓ -0.64/20]

25.Bxd6 Qxd6



26.Nc5 Rc6 27.Qb5 Black must now prevent Nxd7. **27...Qc7 28.h3 Nxc5 29.Rxc5 Rxc5 30.dxc5** Endgame KQR-KQR **30...Rb8**

(Diagram)

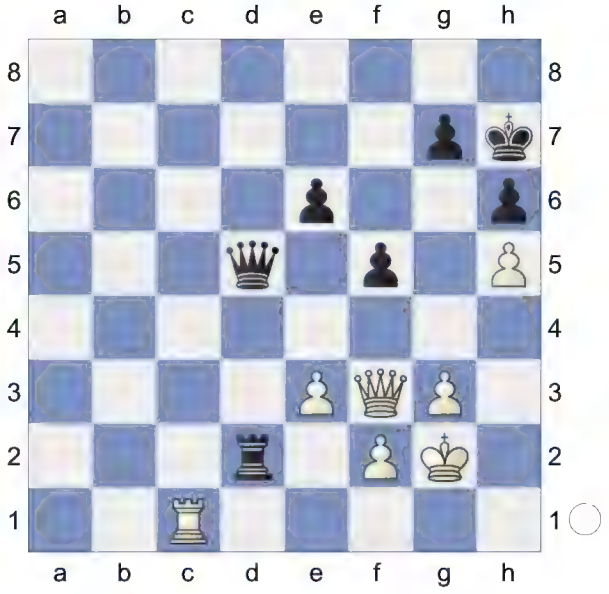


31.Qa6
[31.Qxa5? too greedy. Rb1+ 32.Rxb1 Qxa5-+]
31...Qxc5 32.Qxa5 Rb1+

Deflection **33.Kh2! Qd6+ 34.g3 Rb2 35.Qa8+ Kh7**

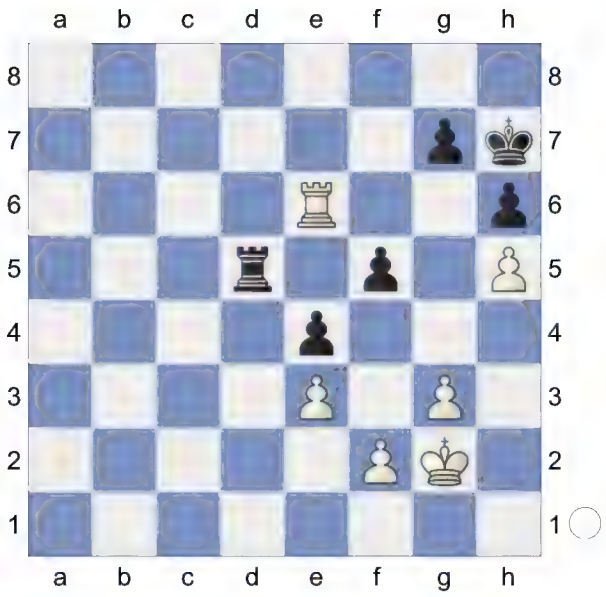
(Diagram)

36.Qf3 f5 37.Kg2 Qe5 38.Rc1 Ra2 39.h4 Rd2 40.h5 Qd5



41.Qxd5 Rxd5 KR-KR **42.Rc6 e5 43.Kf3 Rd2** 0.56/8
[43...Kg8= 0.04/5]
44.Re6 0.07/7
[44.Rc5± 0.56/8]
44...e4+ 45.Kg2 Rd5

(Diagram)

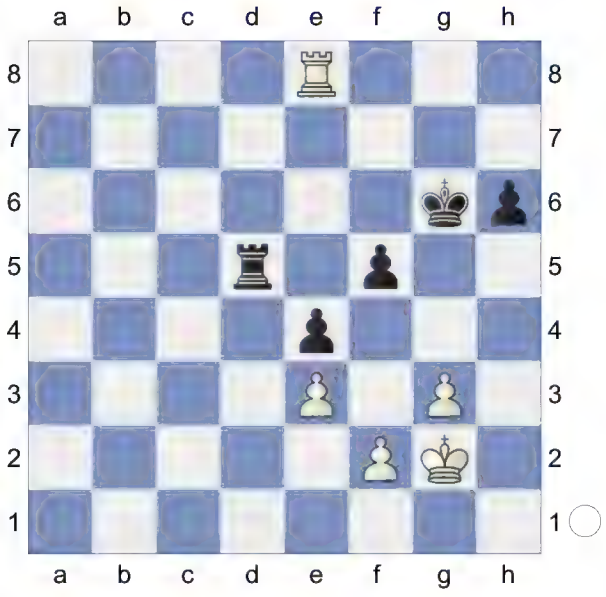


Inhibits Re5. **46.Re8 g5 47.hxg6+** 0.01/31

[47.g4± 0.37/19 might be stronger.]

Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

47...Kxg6



½-½

84 **D78**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**

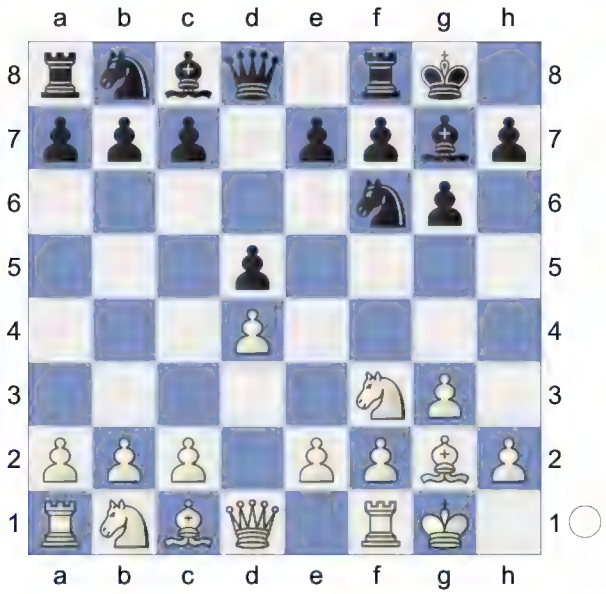
■ **Giri,Anish** **2749**

Tata Steel Masters TB blitz (1.3) 28.1.24

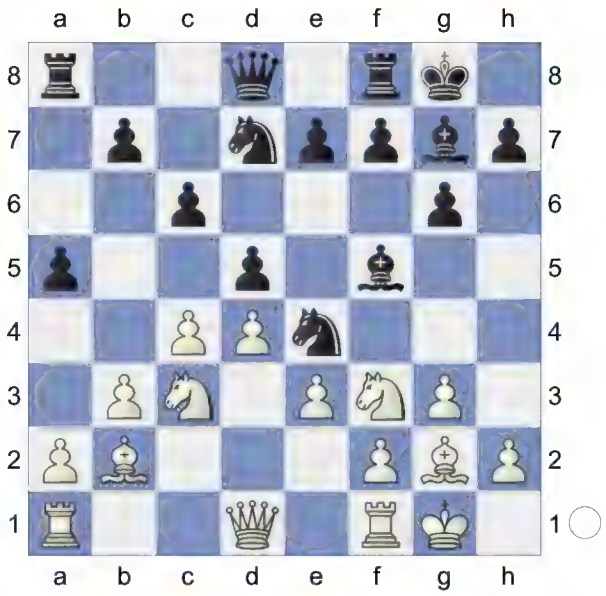
[TA]

D78: Fianchetto Grünfeld: 6 0-0 c6

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0

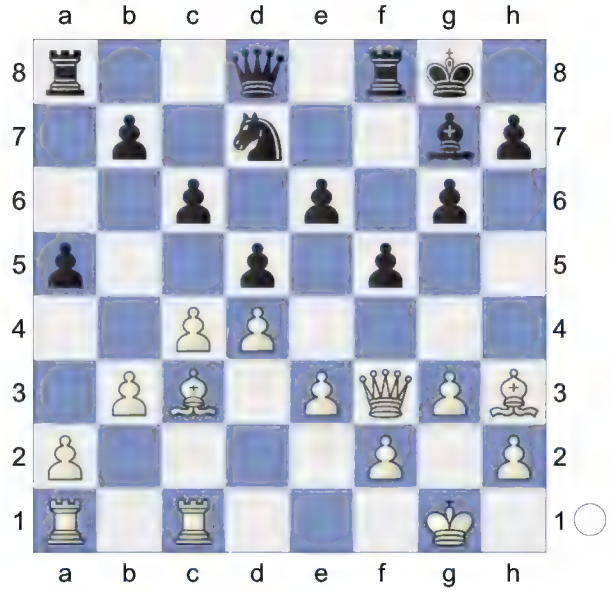


6.c4 c6 7.b3 Bf5 8.Bb2 Nbd7 9.e3 a5 10.Nc3 Ne4

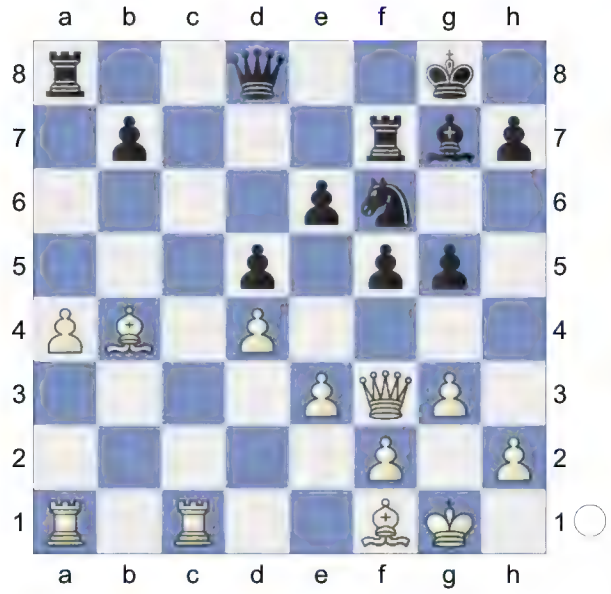


11.Qe2 White has an edge. **11...Nxc3**

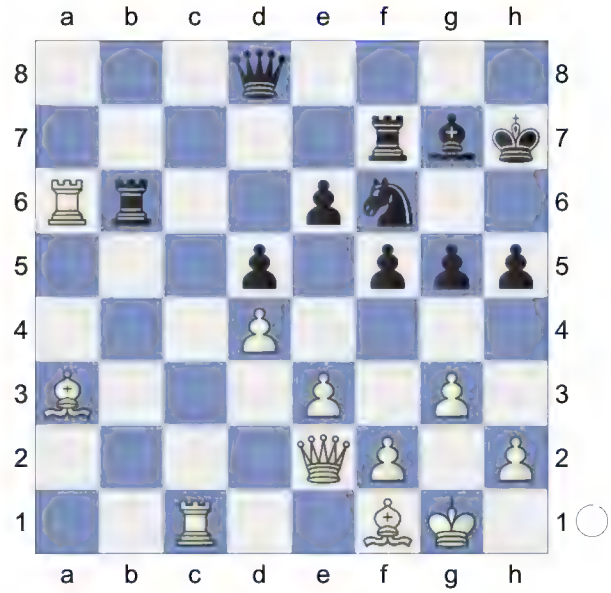
12.Bxc3 Be4 13.Bh3N -0.01/8
[13.a4± 0.42/5]
[13.Rfc1 e6 14.Bf1 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 f5 16.cxd5 exd5 17.b4 axb4 18.Bxb4 Rf7 19.a4 Nb8 20.a5 Na6 21.Bd2 Bf8 22.Rab1 Ra7 23.Bd3 Ba3 24.Rc2 Qf8 25.Rb6 Chapter-Solid Variation B6142) 12...♗e4]
13...Bxf3 14.Qxf3 e6 15.Rfc1 f5



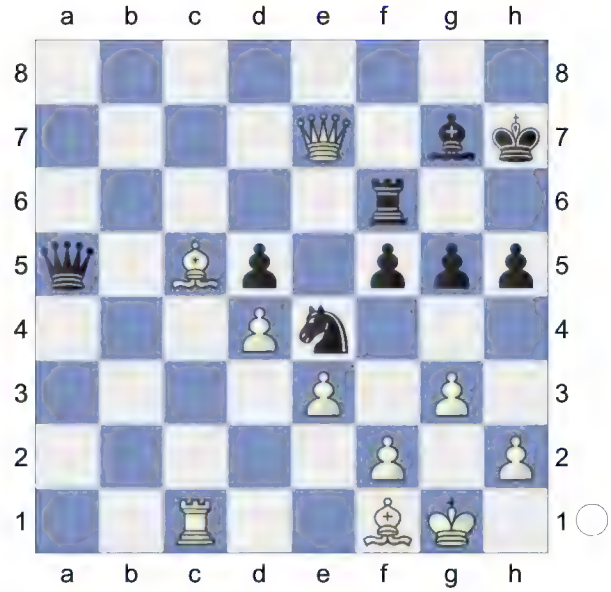
16.Bf1 Nf6 17.b4 axb4 18.Bxb4 Rf7 19.a4 g5 0.84/5
[19...Ne4± 0.36/10]
20.cxd5 cxd5



21.a5 h5 22.Qe2 Kh7 1.12/6
[Black should play 22...h4± 0.58/4]
23.a6 bxa6 24.Rxa6 Rb8 1.46/4
[⌓24...Rb7 0.97/3]
25.Ba3 Rb6

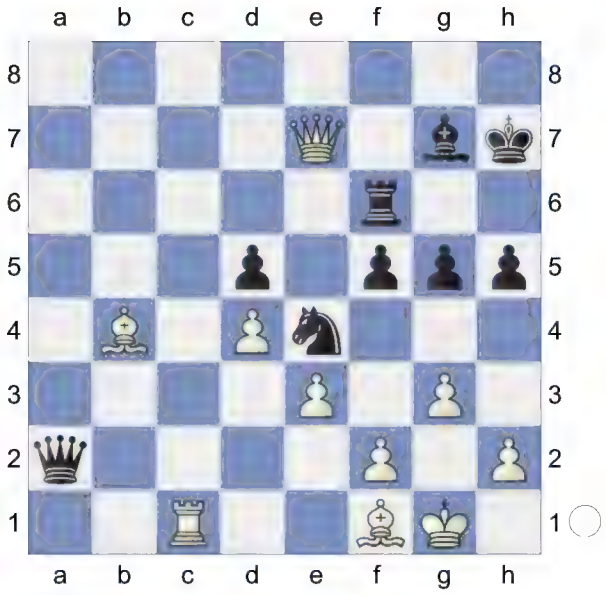


26.Bc5 Rxa6 27.Qxa6 Ne4 28.Qxe6 Rf6 29.Qe7 Qa5 2.07/19
[29...Qxe7± 1.18/16 30.Bxe7 Rf7]

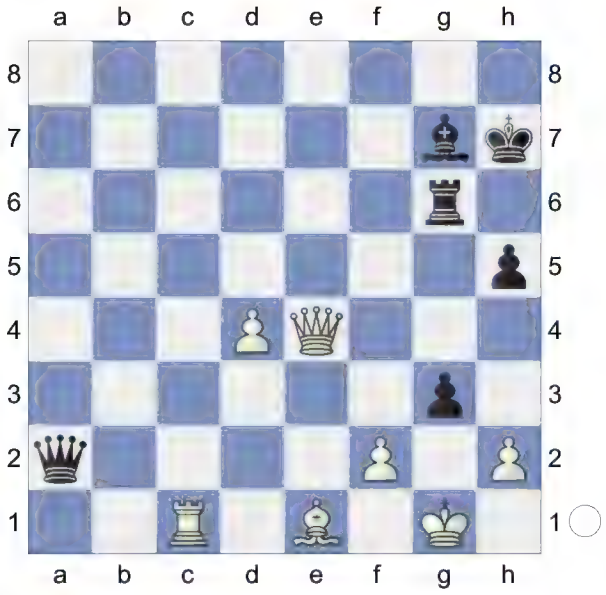


30.Bb4!+- This pair of bishops is nice. This costs Black the game. **30...Qa2**

(Diagram)

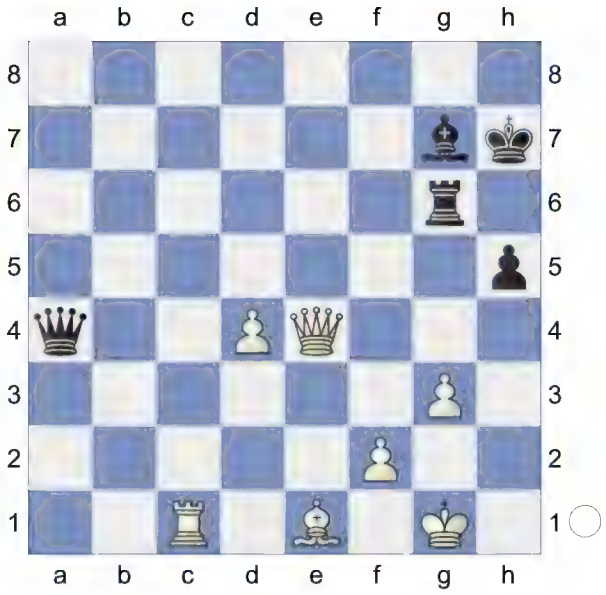


31.Be1 aiming for Rc7. Active counter play! **31...f4** 3.63/5
[31...Rg6 2.32/5 might work better. 32.Qd7 Qb2]
32.exf4 gxf4 33.Bd3 Rg6 34.Bxe4 dxe4 35.Qxe4 fxg3

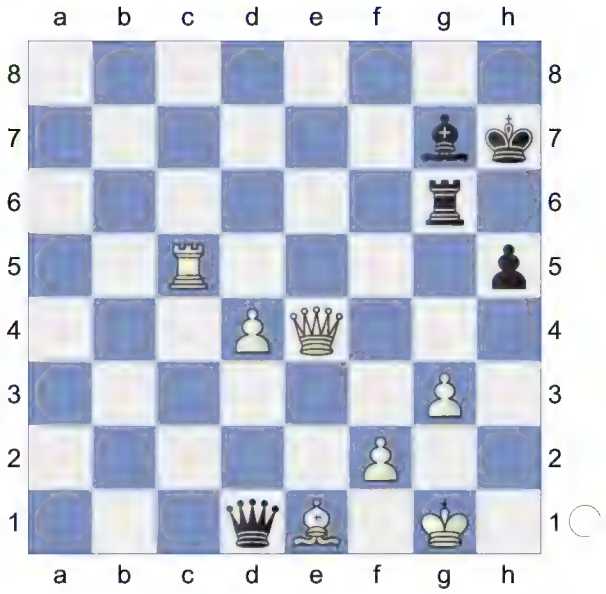


36.hxg3 Qa4? 4.66/3
[36...Qe6 2.43/3 37.Qxe6 Rxe6]

(Diagram)



37.Rc5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.34
37...Qd1

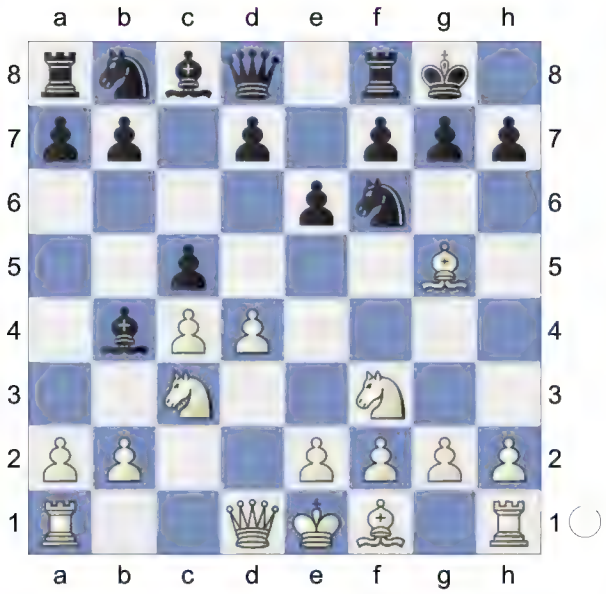


1-0

85 **E21**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2743**
86th Tata Steel Masters (12.5) 27.01.2024
[TA]

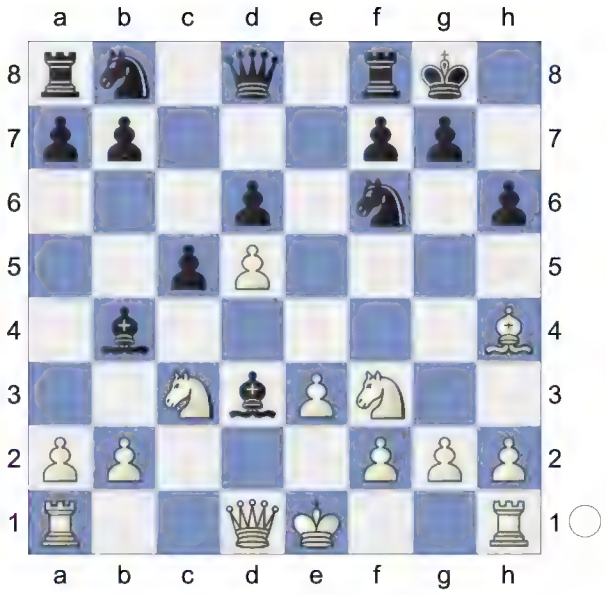
E31: Nimzo-Indian: Leningrad Variation: 4...h6 5 Bh4 c5 6 d5 d6

1.d4 4 **Nf6** 51 **2.c4** 10 **e6** 4 **3.Nc3** 35 **Bb4** 7 **4.Nf3** 28 **0-0** 53 **5.Bg5** 7 **c5** 50

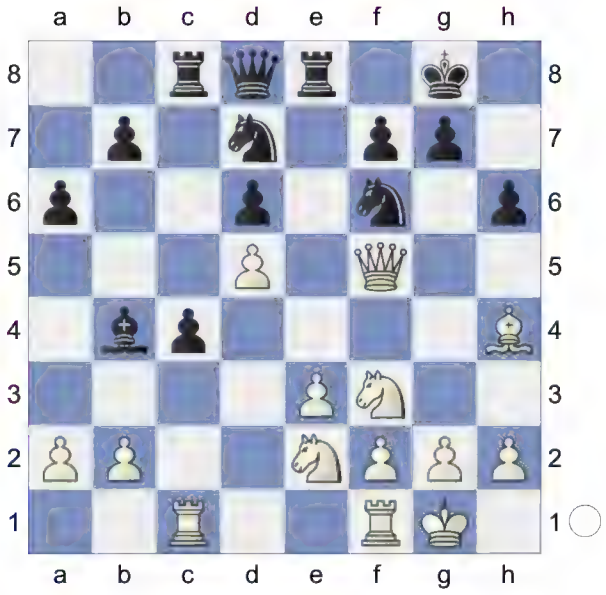


6.d5 48 **exd5** 7:17 **7.cxd5** 13 **d6** 3:45 **8.e3** 9 **h6** 5:30 **9.Bh4** 7 **Bf5** 0.10/18 54
[9...Nbd7!∓ -0.39/19]
10.Bd3= 48 **Bxd3** 22

(Diagram)

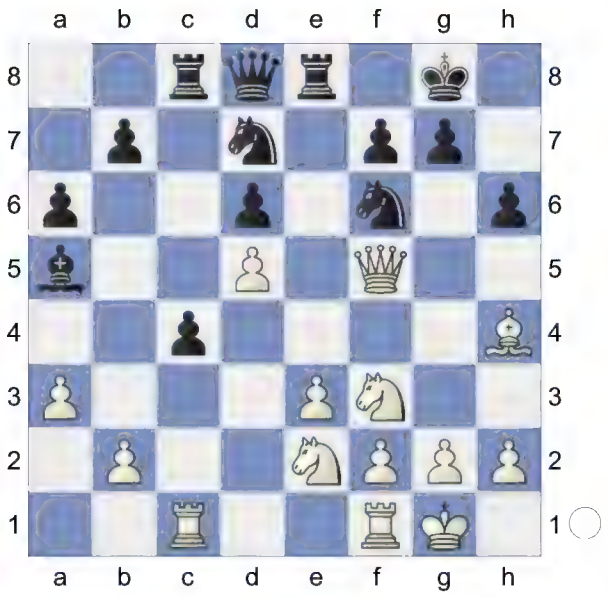


11.Qxd3 6 **Nbd7** 30 The position is equal. **12.0-0** 10 **Re8** 8:40 Wards off Ne4 **13.Ne2** 11 **a6** 14:45 **14.Qf5** 8:14 **c4** 0.52/18 15:01
[14...Ba5= 0.07/19]
15.Rac1± 37:01 **Rc8** 4:16

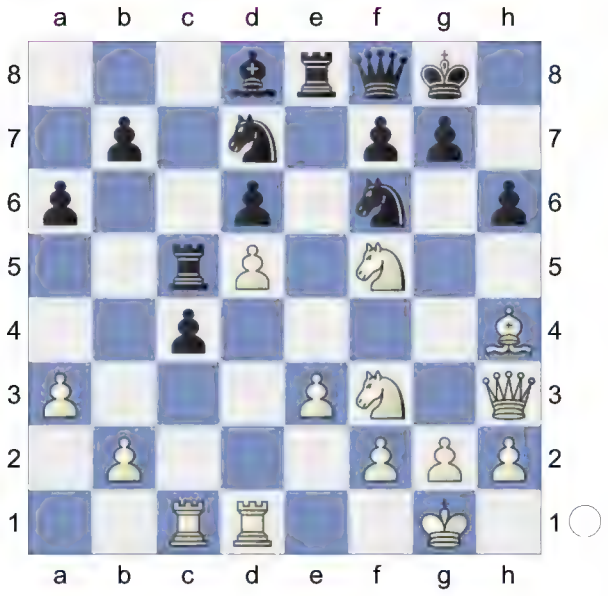


16.a3 3:24 **Ba5** 29

(Diagram)

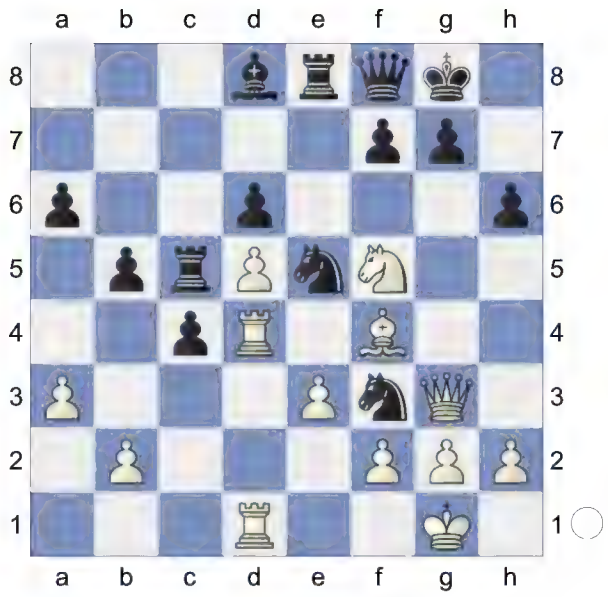


17.Ng3! 1:09 **Qe7** 4:34 **18.Qh3** 11:13 **Rc5** 3:44 **19.Nf5** 3:31 **Qf8** 18 **20.Rfd1** 4:20 **Bd8** 10:50

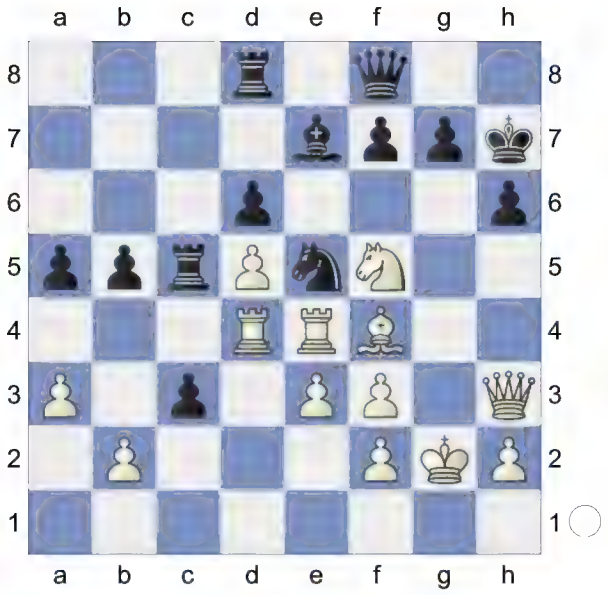


21.Rd4 7:38 **b5** 2:16 **22.Bg3** 11:58 **Ne5** 3:05 **23.Rcd1** 4:41 **Nh7** 0.63/22 7:05
[23...Kh8= 0.26/19]
24.Bf4 4:21 **Ng5** 1:11 **25.Qg3** 1 **Ngxf3+** 5:09

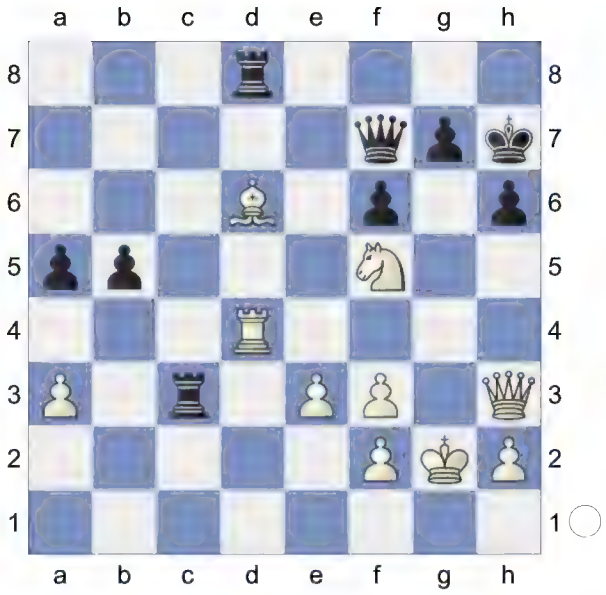
(Diagram)



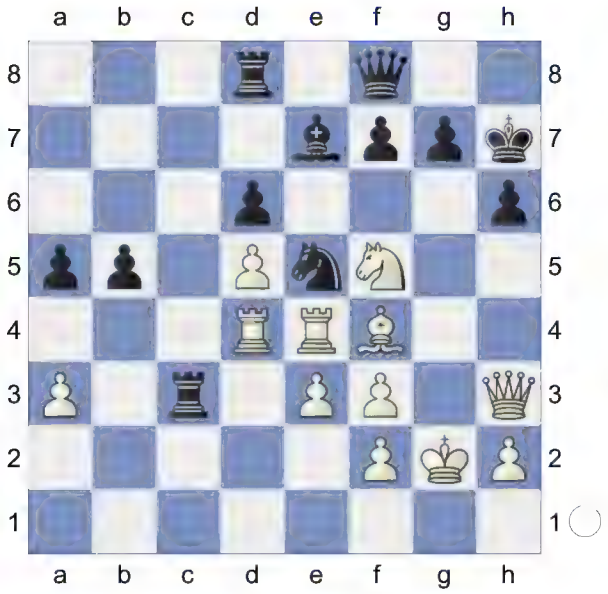
26.gxf3 1 **Kh7** 0.91/22 9
[26...Bg5!± 0.46/19]
27.Qh3 0.00/18 2:57
[27.Re4± 0.91/22]
27...Be7 3:06 **28.Re4** -0.30/23 5:20
[28.Kh1 0.16/20 is more appropriate.]
28...Rd8 0.44/23 13
[28...Nd3!= -0.30/23 29.Bxh6 *(29.Nxe7 Nxf4 30.Qf5+ Ng6=)* 29...gxh6 30.Nxe7 Qg7+ *(30...Rxe7 31.Qf5+ Kg7 32.Rg4+ Kh8 33.Qf6+ Kh7 34.Qf5+ Kh8 35.b4=)* 31.Kf1 Qf6]
29.Kg2 -0.15/20 1:09
[29.Nxe7± 0.44/23 Qxe7 30.Bxe5 dxe5 31.Qf5+ g6 32.Qxe5 Qxe5 33.Rxe5]
29...a5 0.99/22 3:26
[29...Ng6!= -0.15/20 remains equal.]
30.Rdd4 0.03/21 1:49 White is much more active.
[30.Bxe5± 0.99/22 dxe5 31.Nxe7 *(31.Rxe5? too greedy. Bf6-+ Skewer)* 31...Qxe7 32.Qf5+ g6 33.Qxe5 Qxe5 34.Rxe5]
30...c3 1.31/22 4:01
[30...Ng6!= 0.03/21]



31.bxc3± 4 Rxe5 is the strong threat. **31...Rxc3?** 3.60/20 1
[31...Ng6± 1.21/18]

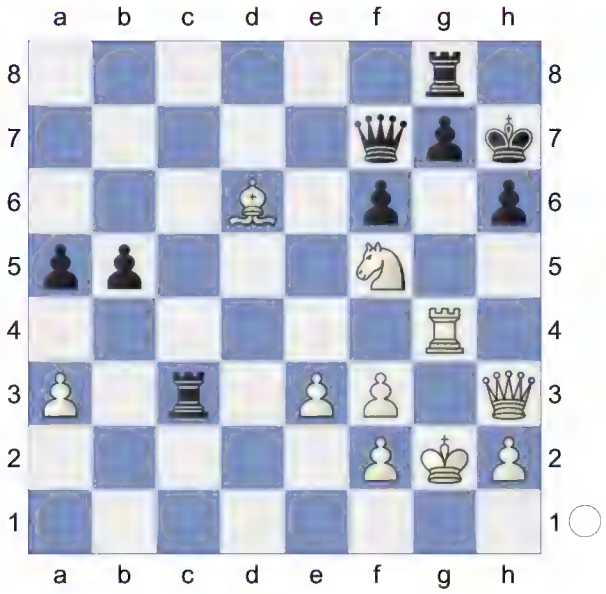


36.Rg4 37 Wards off Qg6 **36...Rg8** 12 **37.Bf4** 33 **Qf8** 1:07 **38.Bd6** 1:47 **Qf7** 15 **39.Bf4** 4 White wants to mate with Bxh6!. **39...Qf8** 3 **40.Bd6** 1:47 **Qf7**



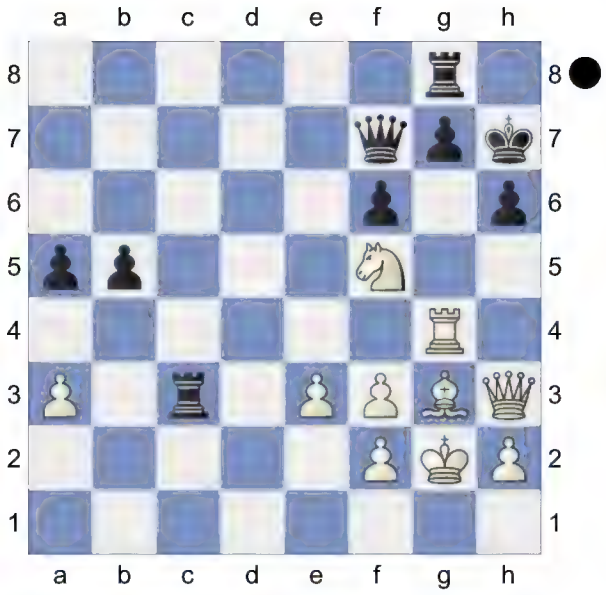
32.Rxe5!+- 1:24 **dxe5** 6 **33.Bxe5** 2 **f6** 1:50 **34.d6** 45 **Bxd6** 3 **35.Bxd6** 4 **Qf7** 5

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/ Black=0.28 (precise)
41.Bg3N

(Diagram)



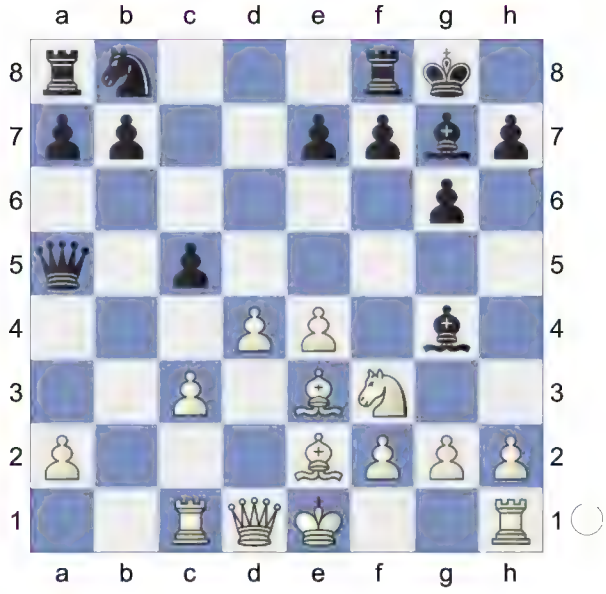
An unexpected result.
½-½

86 **D85**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2759**
86th Tata Steel Masters (11.4) 26.01.24
[Naruemon]

D85: Exchange Grünfeld: Unusual White 7th moves and lines with 7 Nf3 **1.d4** 6 **Nf6** 5 **2.Nf3** 30 **g6** 16 **3.c4** 1:11 **Bg7** 8 **4.Nc3** 9 **d5** 5 **5.cxd5** 10:53 **Nxd5** 27

(Diagram)

6.e4 6 **Nxc3** 4 **7.bxc3** 4 **c5** 7 **8.Be3** 1:46 **Bg4** 17 **9.Rc1** 3:57 **0-0** 3:14 **10.Be2** 10:20 **Qa5** 29



11.Qd2 1:53 **e6** 5:01 **12.h3N** 16:21
[12.dxc5 Rd8 13.Qb2 Nd7=]
[12.d5 exd5 13.exd5 c4 14.0-0 Nd7 15.h3 *(15.d6 Rad8 16.Bg5 Nf6 17.h3 Be6 18.Qd4 Nd5 19.Bxd8 Rxd8 20.Qh4 Bf6 21.Ng5 h5 22.Qg3 Nf4 23.Qxf4 Bxg5 24.Qd4 Bxc1 25.Rxc1 Qxa2 26.Qe5 Rd7 27.Bxh5 gxh5 28.Qg5+ Kf8 29.Qh6+ Kg8* Edouard,R (2652)-Vachier

Lagrave,M (2686) Pau 2012 ½-½ (32)) 15...Bxf3 16.Bxf3 *(16.gxf3 Rfd8 17.Bxc4 Ne5 18.Qe2 Nxc4 19.Qxc4 Rxd5 20.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Qxc3* 0-1 (21) Hausner,I (2365) -Wittmann,W (2360) Hradec Kralove 1979*)* 16...Ne5 17.Be2 Rfd8 18.Rfd1 Nd3 19.Bxd3 Rxd5 20.Qb2 Rb5 21.Qc2 cxd3 22.Rxd3 Rd5 23.Rxd5 Qxd5 24.Qb3 Qc6 25.c4 h5 26.Qb5 Rc8 Andersen,H (2228)-Michalski,D (2112) Amsterdam 2015 ½-½ (31)]

[12.0-0 cxd4 13.cxd4 Qxd2 14.Bxd2 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Bxd4 16.Bb4 Rd8 17.e5 Nc6 18.Bxc6 bxc6 19.Bd6 c5 20.Rc4 f6 21.Be7 fxe5 22.Bxd8 Rxd8 23.Rb1 Rd7 24.a4 Kf7 25.a5 Ke7 26.Rcc1 Kd6 Nguyen,L (1934)-Horvath,J (2479) Bangkok 2019 0-1 (48)]

12...Bxf3 23 **13.Bxf3** 11 **Nc6** 6:09 **14.d5** 16 Black has an edge.

[14.dxc5 keeps more tension. Rfd8 15.Qb2 Bf8 16.Qxb7 Ne5 17.Be2]

14...exd5 8:17 **15.exd5** 11 **Ne5** 6

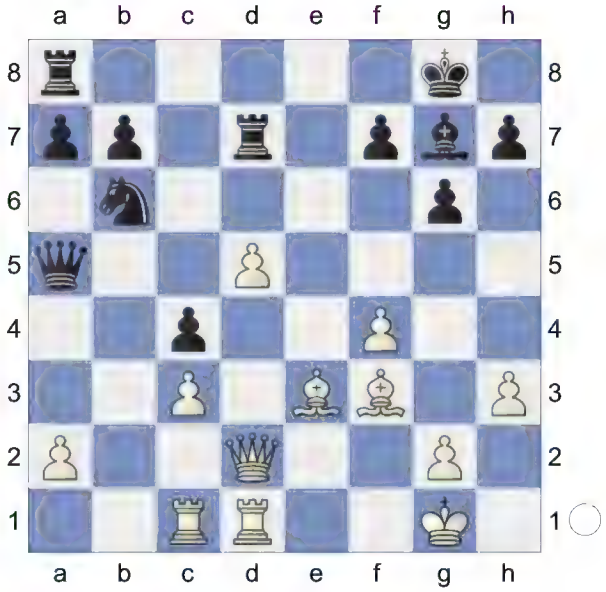
16.Be2 11 Wards off Nc4 **16...c4!** 1:28 next ...Ra8-d8 is good for Black. Black wants to play ...Rfd8. **17.f4** 1:39 **Nd7** 28

[17...Nd3+ 18.Bxd3 cxd3 19.c4± *(19.Qxd3 Rfd8=)*]

18.0-0! 13

[Don't play 18.Bxc4 Rac8 19.Bb3 Bxc3 20.Rxc3 Qxc3 21.Qxc3 Rxc3∓]

18...Nb6 4:29 **19.Rfd1** 7:37 **Rfd8** 3:51 **20.Bf3** 1:41 **Rd7** 2:10



21.f5 8:29 **Rad8** 27:40 **22.Bg5** 1:51 **f6** 24 **23.Bh4** 40 **Nxd5** 2:15 **24.Qe1** 8:31 **Kf8** 3:02

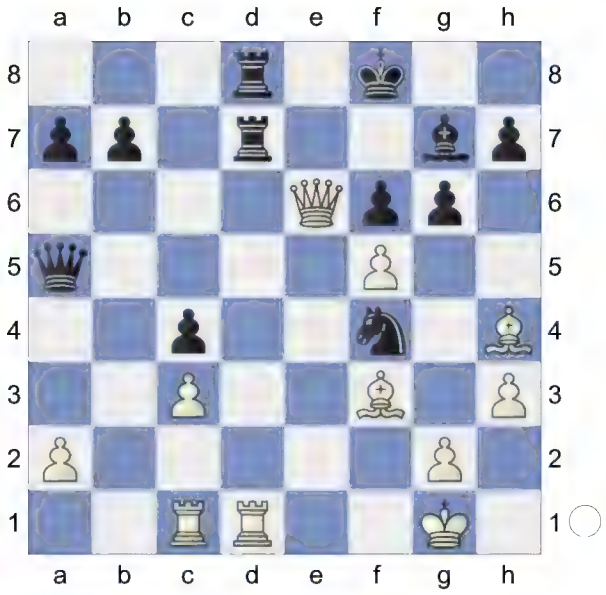
[24...Qxa2? 25.Rxd5 *(25.Bxd5+ Kh8+-)* 25...Rxd5 26.Bxd5+ *(26.Qe6+ Kh8+-)* 26...Kh8 27.Qe7!+- '+-' *(27.Bxb7 Qa4+-)*]

[24...Kh8 simplifies 25.Rc2 Nb6 26.Rxd7 Nxd7 27.Rd2 Nf8]

25.Qe6! 17:22 **Nf4?** 1.76/22 16:57

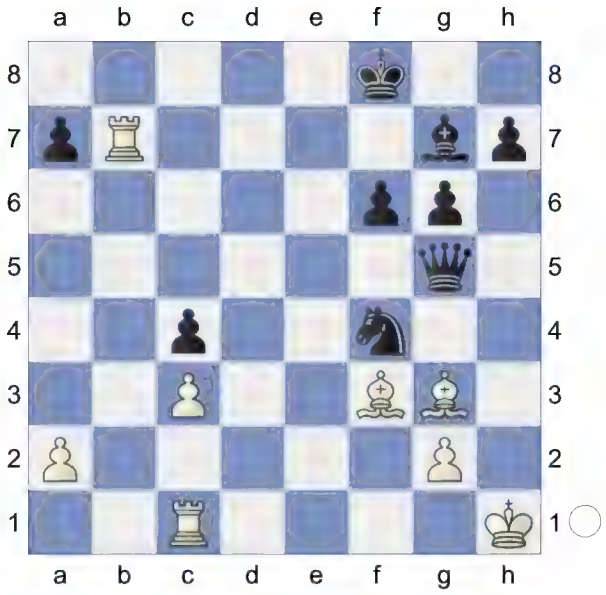
[25...Rd6= 26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.Bxf6 Qb6+ 28.Qxb6 axb6 29.Bxd8 Rxd8]

(Diagram)

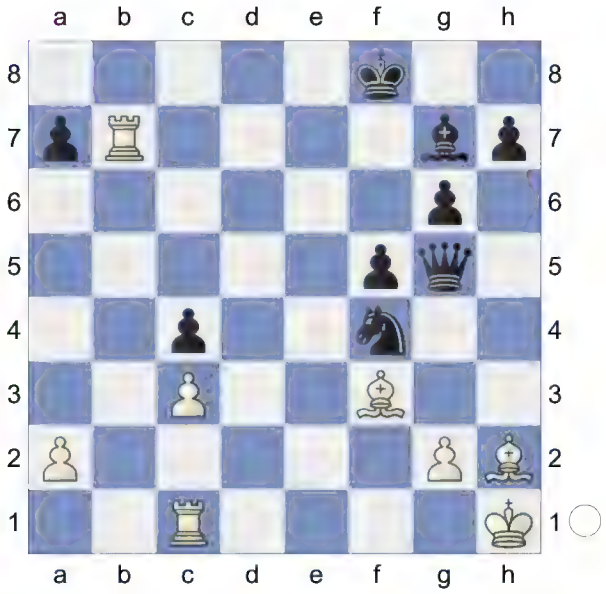


26.Qxd7? 0.01/22 10:43
[26.Rxd7!+- 1.76/22 '+-' Nxe6 27.fxe6]
26...Rxd7= 1:13 '±' **27.Rxd7** 2 Black must now prevent Bh4-g3.
27...Qxf5 1.24/22 7:17
[27...Nd3!= 0.22/21 '±!' 28.Rb1 b6 *(28...gxf5? 29.Rbxb7+-)*]
[27...gxf5?! 28.Rxb7 Nd3 29.Rcb1±]
28.Rxb7± 34 And now Bh4-g3 would win. '+-' **28...Nxh3+** 1:20 **29.Kh1** 35 aiming for Rc1-d1. &Bianco is more active. '!' **29...Nf4** 2.14/23 1:22
[29...Ng5± 1.49/23 '⩲' 30.Rd1 Ne6 31.Rxa7 Bh6]
30.Bg3 0.96/24 2:09 '?'
[30.Re1+- 2.14/23 is more deadly. '+-!']
30...Qg5 0.59/24 8:41
[30...Kg8± 0.96/24 '±!']

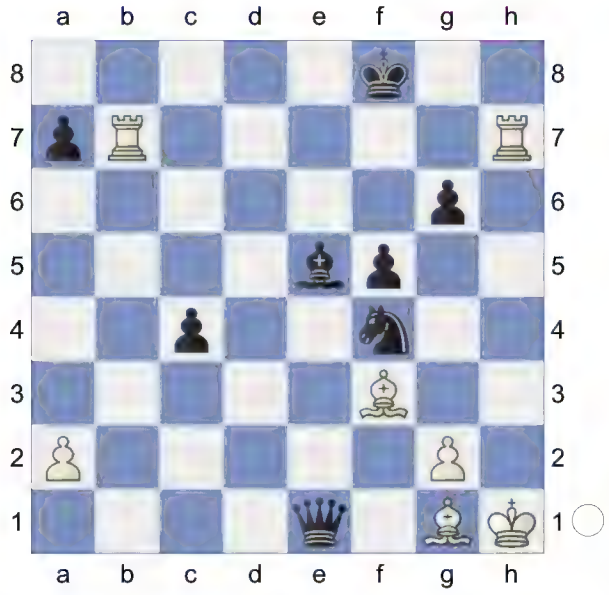
(Diagram)



31.Bh2→ -0.01/21 1:17 White is up to no good. '?' A strong pair of Bishops.
[31.Bxf4± 0.59/24 '+-!' Qxf4 32.Rd1 Qh4+ 33.Kg1]
[Weaker is 31.Rd1 Nd3 *(31...Qxg3 32.Rd8#)* 32.Bd6+ Kg8=]
31...f5 0.71/23 2:54
[31...Nd3= -0.01/21 keeps the balance. 32.Rf1 Nf2+ 33.Rxf2 Qc1+ 34.Bg1 Qh6+ 35.Bh2 Qc1+ 36.Bg1 Qh6+ 37.Bh2 Qc1+]
[31...Kg8= 32.Re1 Bf8]

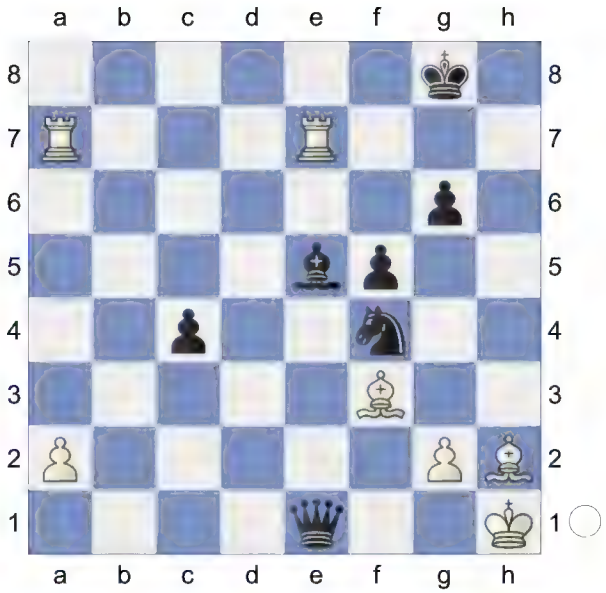


32.Re1 -0.01/23 3:43
[Much worse is 32.Rb8+ Kf7 33.Rb7+ Kf6∓]
[White must play 32.Rcb1± 0.71/23 '±!' Qh6 *(32...Bxc3? perishes. 33.Rc7+-)* 33.Rxa7]
32...Qh4 4:47 The position is equal. **33.Ree7** 1:06 Threatens to win with Re7-f7+. Intending Rf7+ and mate.
[33.g3!? Qh3□ 34.Bc6= *(34.Rxa7? loses. Bxc3 35.Rb1 Be5-+)*]
33...Bxc3 27 **34.Rxh7** 38 Rb7-b8+ would kill now. Really sharp! Threatening mate with Rb8+. **34...Qe1+** 5 The position is equal. **35.Bg1** 2 Chess con chili. **35...Be5** 1:27



Inhibits Rb7-b8+. (→ ...Nf4-h5!) Dodges Rb8+. (→ ...Nh5!) **36.Rxa7** 32 Threatening mate with Ra7-a8+. White threatens Ra8+ and mate. **36...Kg8** 9 Strongly threatening ...Be5-d4. ...Bd4 would now be deadly. **37.Rhe7** 57 **Qh4+** 37 **38.Bh2** 1 This bishop pair is nice. **38...Qe1+** 39

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) / Black=0.24 (precise) Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.35. Missed win: White=2 --- Mistake: White=2 Black=5 Inaccurate: --- Black=1 OK: White=9 Black=9 Best: White=3 Black=2 Strong: White=1 Black=1
½-½

87 **E48**
□ **Donchenko,Alexa** **2643**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
86th Tata Steel Masters (10.5) 24.01.24
[Naruemon]

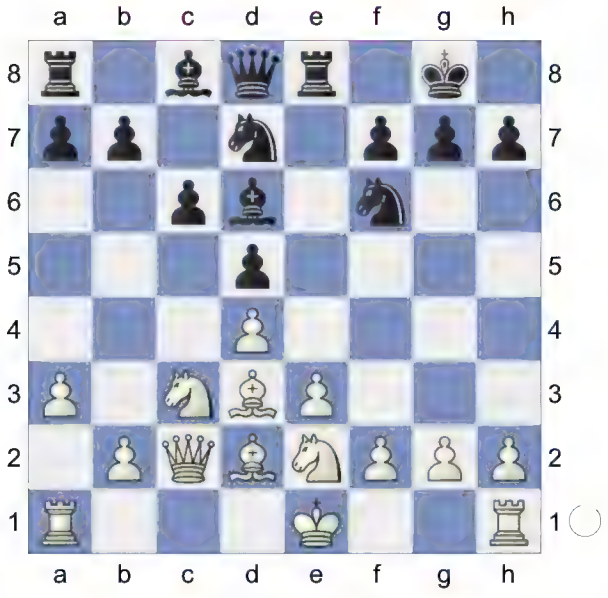
E48: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: 5 Bd3 d5 including 6 Ne2, but excluding 6 a3 **1.d4** 4 **Nf6** 9 **2.c4** 16 **e6** 7 **3.Nc3** 20 **Bb4** 1:29 **4.e3** 16 **0-0** 15 **5.Bd3** 17 **d5** 2:21

(Diagram)

6.cxd5 23 **exd5** 7 **7.a3** 6 E48: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: 5 Bd3 d5 including 6 Ne2, but excluding 6 a3. John Emms: 'This move became popular in 2022. Chasing the bishop now doesn't give Black the option of ...Re8 followed by ... Bf8.'

[7.Nge2 has traditionally been White's move of choice.]

7...Bd6 35 **8.Qc2** 12 **c6** 4:29 **9.Nge2** 45 The position is equal. **9...Re8** 5:10 **10.Bd2** 17 **Nbd7** 2:07



11.f3 27 John Emms: 'Donchenko goes for the most aggressive option involving kingside pawn action.' **11...c5** 7:28

[11...Nf8 is an alternative which we covered in So,W-Anand,V/ Warsaw 2022.]

12.h4 24

[Bluebaum played 12.0-0-0 g6 (threatening ...c4) 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.g4 - see the analysis in the notes to Bluebaum,M-Kuzubov,Y/ Terme Catez 2022.]

12...Nb6N 0.24/22 16:06 John Emms: 'Gukesh aims for counterplay with ...Nc4. Black has other options here.'

[⌓12...a6 -0.27/19 '=' John Emms: 'preparing ...b5 was my earlier suggestion.'

A) 13.g4! c4! Aiming to exchange White's strong bishop. *(13...g6?! 14.h5! c4?* is too late: *15.Bxg6!)* 14.Bf5 g6 15.g5! *(15.Bxd7 Bxd7 16.h5 b5!* with good counterplay*)* 15...gxf5 16.gxf6 Nxf6 17.0-0-0 looks interesting. With e4 ideas in the air, perhaps prepared by Rdf1, White certainly has some compensation here.;

B) 13.h5 h6!;

C) 13.0-0-0 b5 14.g4 b4 John Emms: '!' 15.axb4 cxb4 16.Na4 Bb7 17.Kb1 Rc8 18.Qb3 Qa5 John Emms: 'Predke,A-Petrosyan,M/Warsaw 2021, with good counterplay for Black' 19.Qa2 Bc6 20.b3 Bxa4 21.Qxa4 Qxa4 22.bxa4 Nb6 23.Bxa6 Ra8 24.Bb5 Reb8 25.Rc1 Nxa4 26.Bxa4 Rxa4 27.Rc6 Bf8 0-1 Predke,A (2682)-Petrosyan,M (2620) Wch Blitz Warsaw 2021 (16)]

[12...h5 John Emms: '!?' John Emms: 'virtually forces White to sacrifice a

pawn to continue the attack with g2-g4. See the notes to So,W-Sevian,S/Saint Louis 2022.' 13.0-0-0 a6 14.g4 hxg4 15.fxg4 Nxg4 16.h5 *(16.Rhg1 Ndf6 17.h5 Qe7 18.Kb1 c4 19.Bf5 Nxe3 20.Bxe3 Qxe3 21.Bxc8 Raxc8 22.Qf5 Re6 23.Ka1 Kh8 24.Rg5 Rce8 25.Rg2 b5 26.Rdg1 Qd3 27.Qg5 Bf8 28.Nf4 Re1+ 29.Ka2 Qh7 30.Nfxd5 a5* 1-0 Tsvetkov,A (2398)-Rozum,I (2530) RUS-ch Higher League 75th Obninsk 2022 (3) *)* 16...Nf8 17.Rdg1 Nf2 18.dxc5 Be5 19.h6 g6 20.h7+ Kh8 21.Rh6 Bg7 22.Rh2 Ng4 23.Rh3 Ne5 24.Rhg3 Ne6 25.Nf4 Nxf4 26.exf4 Nxd3+ 27.Qxd3 0-1 So,W (2778)-Sevian,S (2693) American Cup-ch Saint Louis 2022 (1.1)]

[12...g6 13.h5 John Emms: '!' Nf8 *(13...c4? 14.Bxg6!* demonstrates a key point behind 12 h4.*)* 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.dxc5 Bxc5 16.0-0-0 Bxe3 17.Bxe3 Rxe3 18.Qd2 d4 19.Bc4 Re5 20.Nxd4 Qe7 21.Qh6 N6h7 22.Ne4 Rxe4 23.fxe4 Qc5 24.Nc2 Bg4 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.Qf4+ Nf6 27.Rdf1 1-0 Lumachi,G (2399)-Gavrilin,R (2156) Wch U20 60th Mexico City 2023 (5)]

[12...c4 13.Bf5 g6 is met by 14.Bh3! Black normally waits for g4 before forcing the bishop to f5.]

[12...Rb8!? has similar goals to 12...a6, and play could run along the same lines after 13.g4 c4 14.Bf5 g6 15.g5 gxf5 16.gxf6 Nxf6 17.0-0-0 Perhaps Black's counterplay with ...b5-b4 is a bit quicker here.]

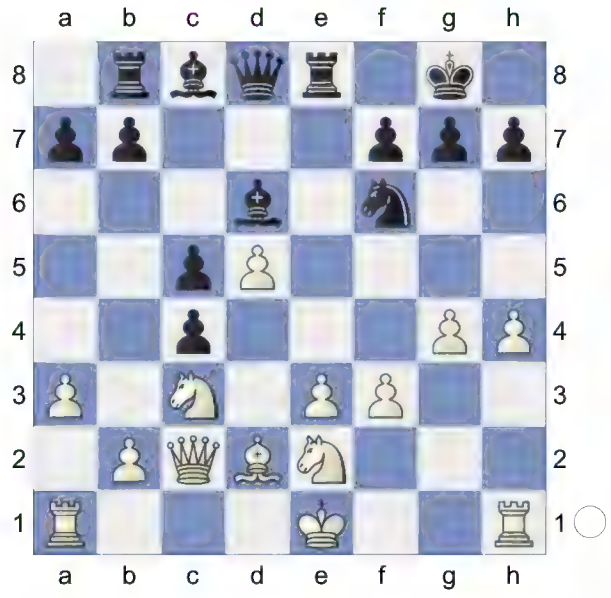
13.g4= 28:38 '!' John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'Donchenko presses ahead, ready for an exchange on c4.' **13...Nc4** 15:34 **14.Bxc4** 4:37 '!' John Emms: '!'

[14.g5 can be met by cxd4! *(or 14...Nxd2!* intending *15.Kxd2 Qe7!)* 15.gxf6 Qxf6 with excellent play for the piece, for example 16.Nxd5 *(16.exd4? Bg3+ 17.Kd1 Qxf3 18.Rg1 Bf2 19.Rf1 Qxd3 20.Qxd3 Nxb2+ 21.Kc2 Nxd3 22.Kxd3 Bf5+)* 16...Qxf3 17.0-0-0 Nxd2]

14...dxc4 18 **15.d5** 24 John Emms: '?' John Emms: 'The positions in this line tend to become critical at an early stage, and this natural-looking move tilts the balance firmly in Black's favour.'

[15.0-0-0± John Emms: '!' cxd4 16.Nxd4 is promising for White. Black can try Nd7 intending ...Nc5 to eye the d3-square, but White can play around this. After 17.Kb1 Nc5 18.h5 Be5 19.Be1 Nd3 20.h6! g6 21.Ne4 White is for choice, although the position remains extremely complicated.]

15...Rb8 7:06

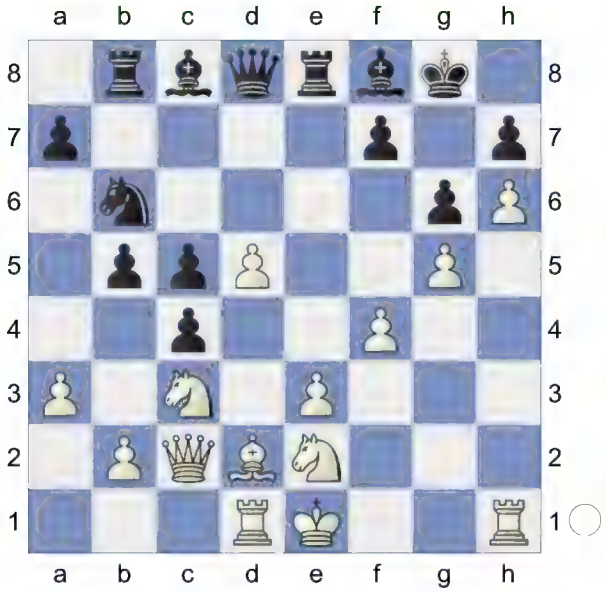


John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'Now ...b5 is coming.' **16.h5** -0.82/22 24:47

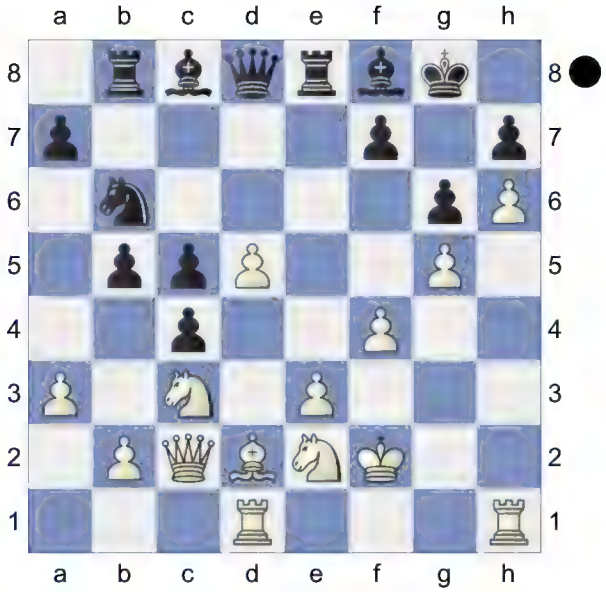
[16.a4= 0.11/18 keeps the balance. '∓!']

16...b5∓ 1:18 Black is more active. **17.g5**

-1.14/21 2:55
[17.e4!∓ -0.44/19]
17...Nd7 2:01 **18.f4** 59 Prevents Ne5. John Emms: 'White had to prevent ...Ne5. ' **18...Bf8** -0.44/19 10:04
[18...Qe7!∓ -1.10/20 19.e4 b4]
19.h6 13:34 hxg7 is the strong threat.
19...g6 6 '!' John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'It's not clear how White's attack on the kingside can progress, and meanwhile Black's counterplay looks dangerous.'
20.Rd1 -1.26/20 25
[White should try 20.e4∓ -0.43/19]
[20.0-0∓]
20...Nb6 7:44
[20...b4! is even stronger, with the double pawn sacrifice after 21.Ne4 c3! 22.bxc3 b3! 23.Qd3 c4! 24.Qxc4 Qb6 activating Black's pieces to great effect. Gukesh's choice, however, is very sensible.]



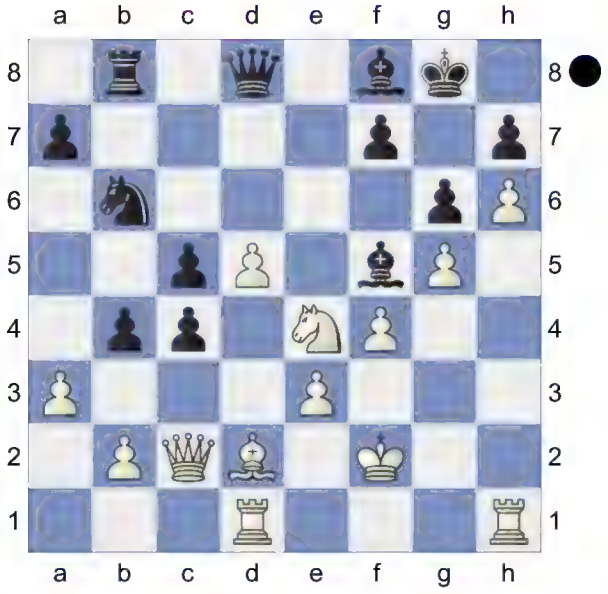
21.Kf2 7:08
[John Emms: 'White's best chance is' 21.Ng3∓ might work better. John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'planning' Nxd5 *(21...f5!?)* 22.0-0 when the threat of Bc1 keeps White in the battle.]



21...b4! 6:54 John Emms: 'Now Gukesh gains a decisive advantage.'
[Worse is 21...Nxd5 22.Bc1 Bf5 23.e4 Nxc3 24.Nxc3±]
22.Ne4 -1.82/24 32
[22.axb4∓ -1.19/24 is the only way for White. cxb4 *(22...Nxd5? 23.Bc1+-)* 23.Ne4]
22...Bf5-+ 18
[22...Nxd5 23.Bxb4
A) 23...cxb4? is the wrong capture. 24.Rxd5 Qe7 25.Nf6+ *(25.Re5+-)* 25...Kh8 26.Re5+-;
B) 23...Bb7 24.Rxd5 *(24.Bxc5? perishes. Bxc5 25.Nxc5 Qe7-+; 24.Nf6+? Nxf6 25.Rxd8 Ng4+ 26.Kg1 Rbxd8-+)* 24...Bxd5 25.Nf6+±;
C) 23...Rxe4 24.Qxe4±]
23.N2g3 24

(Diagram)

Strongly threatening Nxf5. **23...Rxe4!** 1:59 John Emms: 'This was the key idea. ' **24.Nxe4** 19



Qe7↑ 1:22 White is under strong pressure. '!'

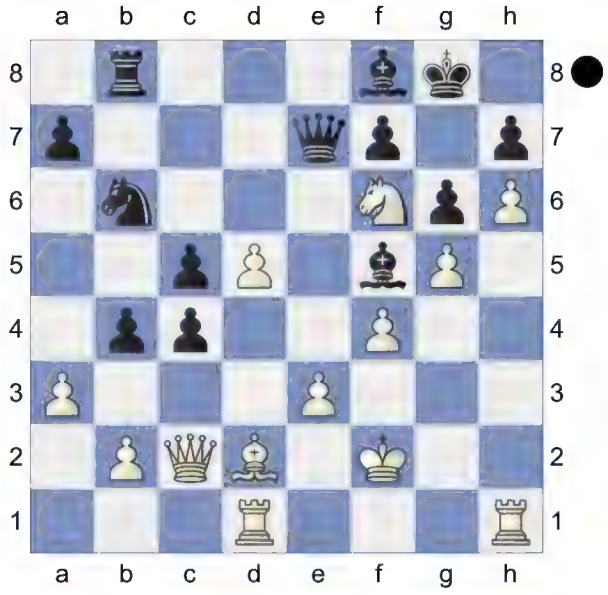
[Less strong is 24...c3

A) 25.bxc3 Nxd5 26.cxb4 Qe8-+ *(26...Qe7∓)*;

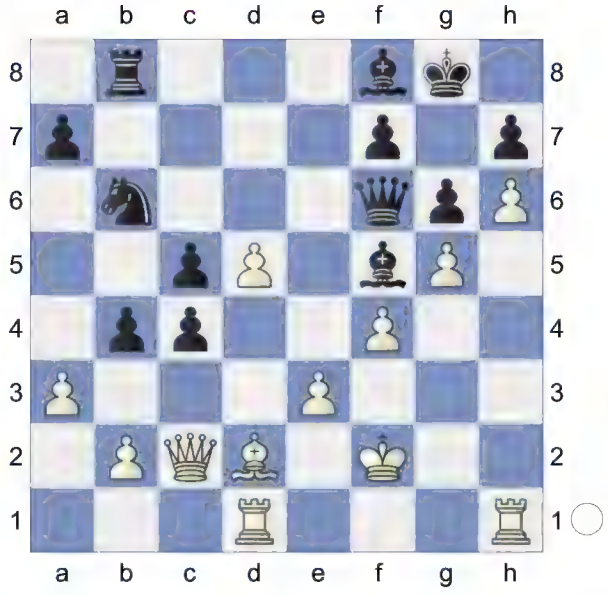
B) 25.Bc1 b3 *(25...Nxd5 26.Rxd5* Remove Defender *Qxd5 27.Nf6+ Kh8 28.e4±)* 26.Qd3∓]

25.Nf6+ 3:08

[D o c h n i c h t 25.Kf3? Nxd5 *(25...Re8? 26.Nf6+-+)* 26.Qxc4 Nb6 '-+' 27.Nf6+ *(27.Qc2? Qb7-+)* 27...Qxf6-+]

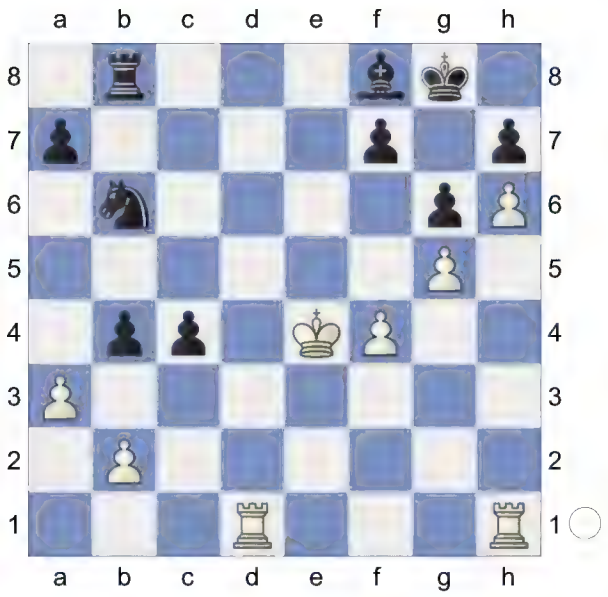


25...Qxf6!! 7

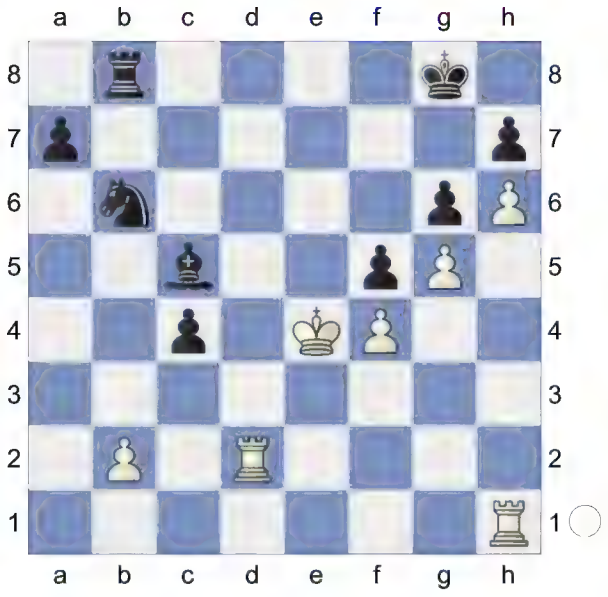


26.e4 6 **Qd4+** 23 **27.Kf3** 7 **Qxd5** 43 John Emms: '!' **28.Bxb4** 49 **Bxe4+** 2:58 **29.Qxe4** 6 **Qxe4+** 3 **30.Kxe4** 7 **cxb4** 2

(Diagram)

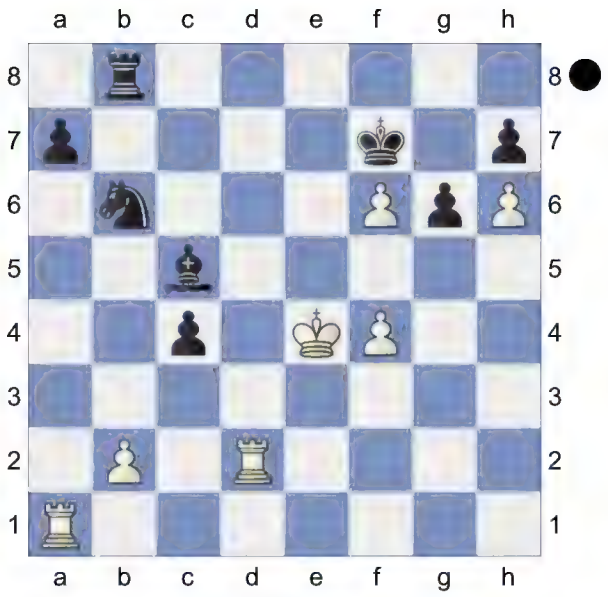


31.axb4 7 **Bxb4** 2:10 **32.Rd4** 6 **Bc5** 1:31 **33.Rd2** 7 **Bb4?** -0.01/20 5:20
34.Rd4= 7 **Bc5?** -0.01/20 46
[34...f5+-+ -2.45/22 35.gxf6 Kf7]
35.Rd2! 6 **f5+-+** -2.34/24 1:43

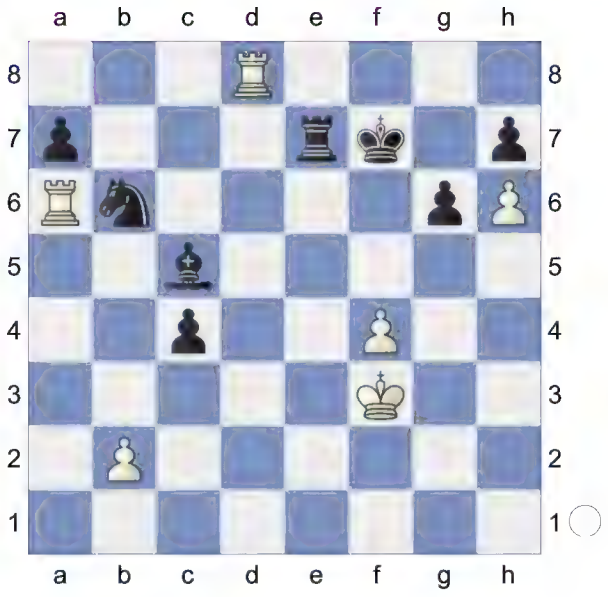


36.gxf6 20 **Kf7** 2:04 **37.Ra1** 15

(Diagram)

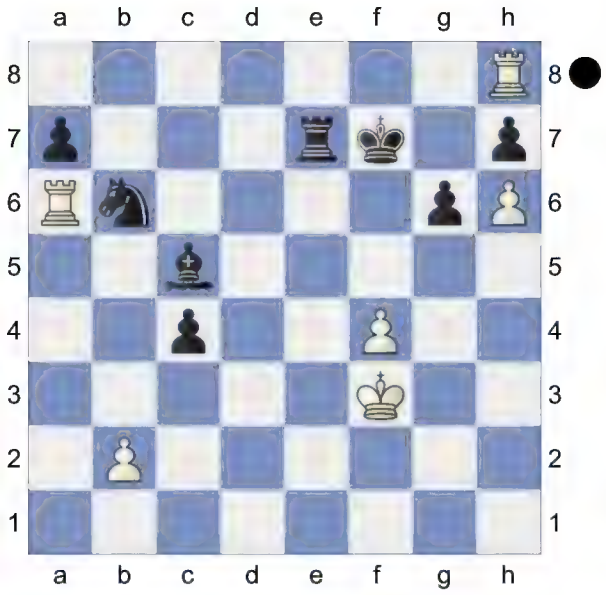


Rb7 1:33 '!'
[Jedoch nicht 37...Kxf6 38.Rxa7 Re8+ 39.Kf3 '-+']
38.Rd8 2:11 **Kxf6** 5 **39.Ra6** 7 **Re7+** 1:48 **40.Kf3** 2 **Kf7** 3:29

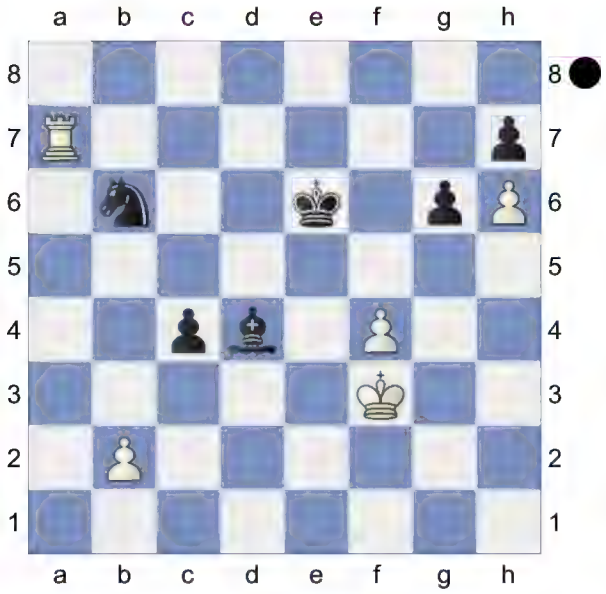


41.Rh8 52:05

(Diagram)

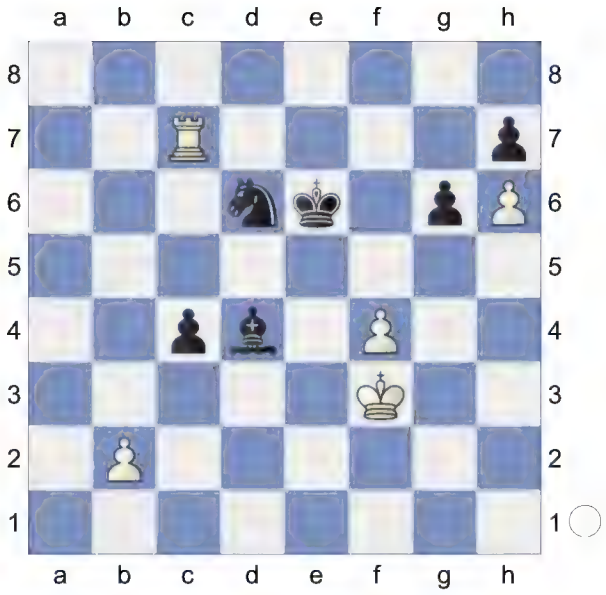


Ke6! 11:10 **42.Ra8** 0 **Bd4** 3:52
[42...Kd5 43.R8xa7 Nd7 is also winning.]
43.R8xa7 0 **Rxa7** 21 **44.Rxa7** 0

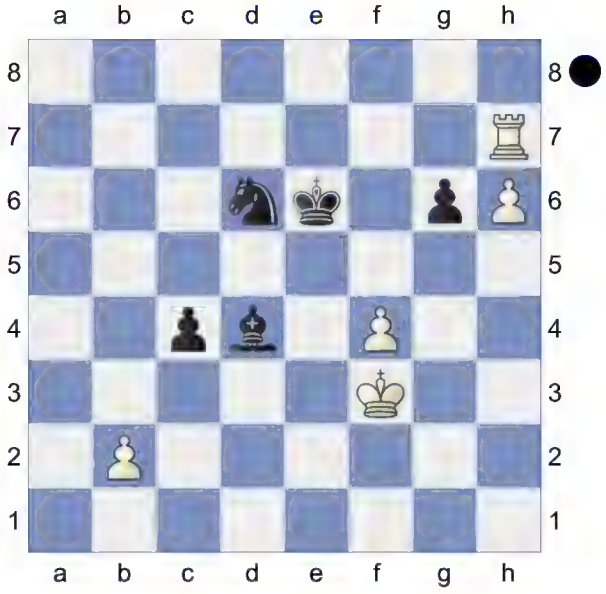


Nc8! 4:50
[Not 44...Bxb2 45.Rb7 Na4 *(45...Kd5 46.Rxb6=)* 46.Rxh7=]
45.Rc7 0
[45.Rxh7 Ne7 traps the rook.]
45...Nd6 2:41

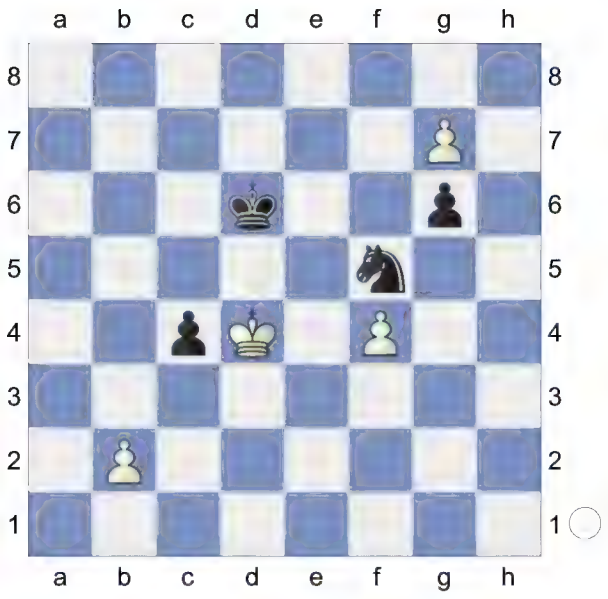
(Diagram)



John Emms: '!' **46.Rxh7?** -10.12/28 0
[46.Ke2 -2.78/26]



46...Nf7-+ 6 '!' John Emms: '!' John Emms: 'The rook is trapped anyway!'
[Stronger than And not 46...Bxb2 47.Rc7=]
47.Rg7 0 **Bxg7** 3
[Inferior is 47...Bxb2 48.Rxg6+ Kf5 49.Rc6=]
48.hxg7 0 Endgame. KN-K3P **48...Nh6** 3 Hoping for ...Kd5. **49.Ke4** 0 **Kd6** 20 **50.Kd4** 0 **Nf5+** 13

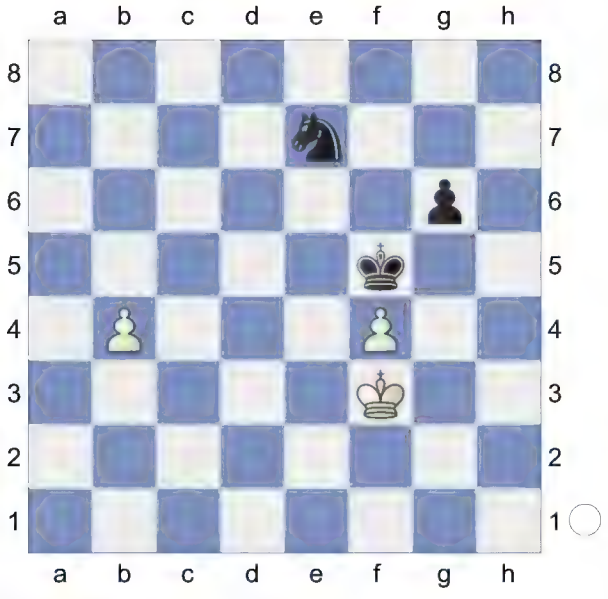


51.Kxc4 0 **Nxg7** 3 KN-KPP **52.Kd4** 0 **Nf5+** 1:19 **53.Ke4** 0 **Ke6** 18 (→ ...Ne7) **54.b4** 0 **Ne7** 27 Black mates. **55.Kf3** 0 **Kf5** 18

[Worse is 55...Nc6

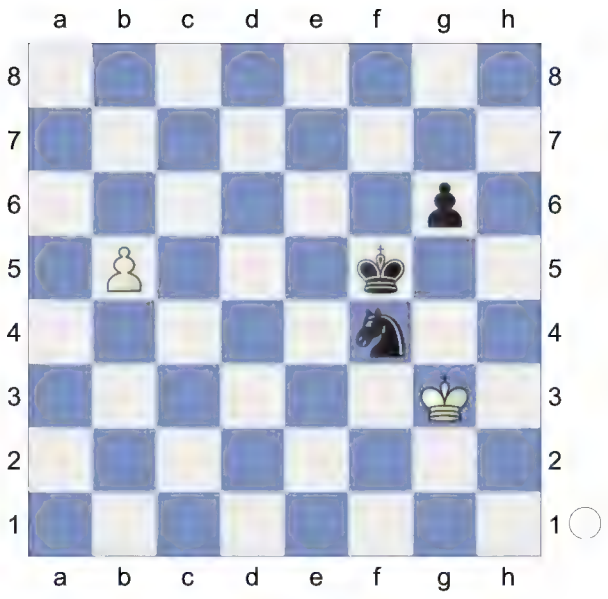
A) 56.b5 Na5 *(56...Nd4+ 57.Kg4=)* 57.Kg4=;

B) 56.Kg4=]



56.b5 0 **Nd5** 4 **57.Kg3** 0 **Nxf4** 25

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise) . Missed win: --- Black=2 Mistake: White=5 Black=2 Inaccurate: White=1 --- OK: White=11 Black=17 Best: White=4 Black=2 Strong: White=1 Black=1 Brilliant: --- Black=2

0-1

88 **E11**

□ **Ju,Wenjun** **2549**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**

86th Tata Steel Masters (8.3) 21.01.2024

[Naruemon]

E11: Bogo-Indian **1.d4** 3 **Nf6** 8 **2.c4** 3 **e6** 15 **3.Nf3** 4 **Bb4+** 37 **4.Bd2** 10 **Be7** 11 **5.Nc3** 2:16 **0-0** 28

(Diagram)

6.e4 1:17 E11: Bogo-Indian. **6...d5!** 29 6...d5 is better than 6...d6. **7.Bd3** 17:41

[7.e5 Ne4 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 Nxd2 10.Qxd2 Nc6 11.0-0 Bg4 12.Be2 f6 13.h3 Bh5 14.Rad1 Kh8 15.Rfe1 Bf7 16.Bb5 Bh5 17.Be2 a6 18.Qc2 Bf7 19.a3 Bg8 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.Na4 Qd6 Yakubboev,N (2616) - Abdusattorov,N (2716) Doha 2023 1-0 (49)]

7...dxe4 25 **8.Nxe4** 4 **c5N** 4

[Predecessor: 8...Nbd7 9.0-0 b6 10.Bc3 Bb7 11.Qe2 c5 12.Rfd1 cxd4 13.Bxd4 Qc7 14.b3 Rfd8 15.Rac1 Rac8 16.Bb2 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bxe4 18.Qxe4 Nf6 19.Qe2 Rxd1+ 20.Rxd1 Rd8 21.h3 Rxd1+ 22.Qxd1 Qd7 23.Qe2 h6 24.Ne5 Qd6 25.Nd3 Nd7 26.b4 Qc6 27.Ne5 Nxe5 28.Qxe5 f6 29.Qb8+ Kh7 Salcedo Perez,P (2193)-Fernandez,V (2011) Medellin 2018 1-0 (41)]

[8...Nxe4 9.Bxe4 f5 10.Bc2 c5 11.Bc3 cxd4 12.Qxd4 Qxd4 13.Nxd4 e5 14.Nb5 Nc6 15.0-0-0 e4 16.f3 Bg5+ 17.Kb1 e3 18.Nc7 Rb8 19.g3 f4 20.Nd5 Bf5 21.h4 Bxc2+ 22.Kxc2 Be7 23.gxf4 Olivas,C-Putten,F ICCF 2014 1-0 (56) b5 24.cxb5 Rxb5 25.Nxe7+ Nxe7 26.Rd7 Nf5 27.Rxa7 Rd5 28.Rd1 Rdd8 29.a4 Rfe8 30.Ra5 Rxd1 31.Kxd1 e2+ 32.Ke1 Nxh4 33.Kf2 Ng6 34.Ra7 Nxf4 35.Rxg7+ Kf8 36.Rd7 Re6 37.Rd4 Nh3+ 38.Ke1 Olivas Montiel,C-Van Putten,F (1876) ICCF 2014 1-0 (56)]

9.Bc3 57

[9.Nxc5? -2.00/22 9.Bd2-c3 0.37 perishes. Bxc5 Pin 10.Bxh7+ Nxh7-+]

9...cxd4! 2:39 **10.Nxd4** 4

[But not Reject 10.Bxd4 -0.36/21 10. Nf3xd4 0.37 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Bb4+ 12.Kf1 *(12.Bc3 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Nd7∓)* 12...f5!=]

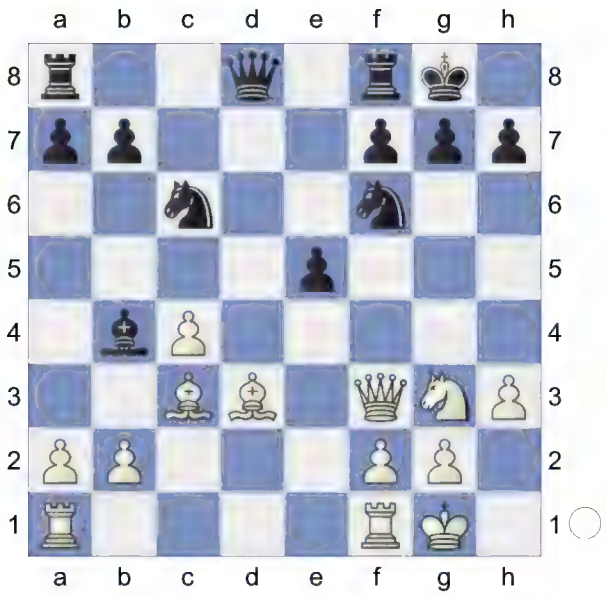
10...e5 57

11.Nf3 55 **Nc6** 4:09 **12.0-0** 8:31

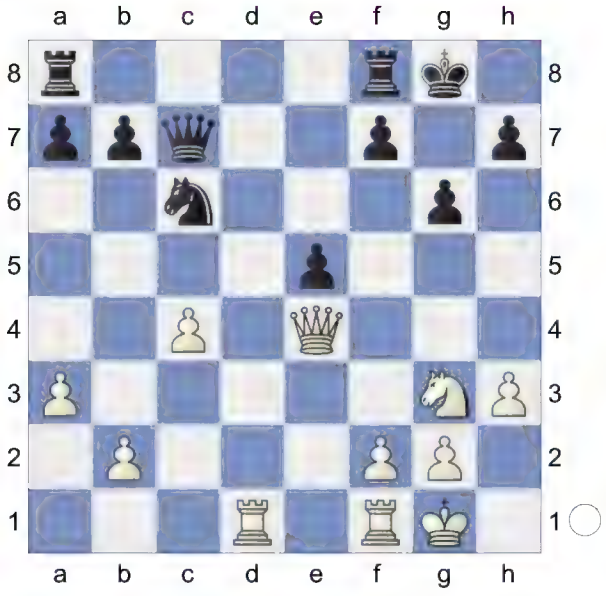
[Don't play 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Ng4∓]

12...Bg4 2:29 **13.h3** 1:20 **Bh5** 2:20 **14.Ng3** 4:31 **Bxf3** 45 **15.Qxf3** 2 **Bb4** 58

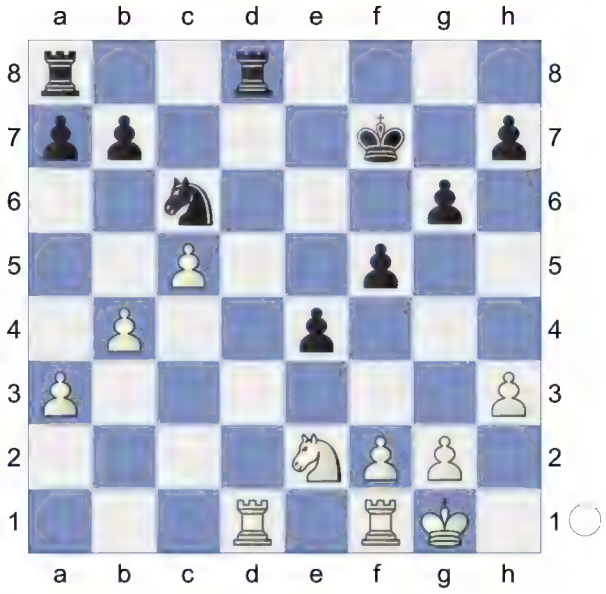
(Diagram)



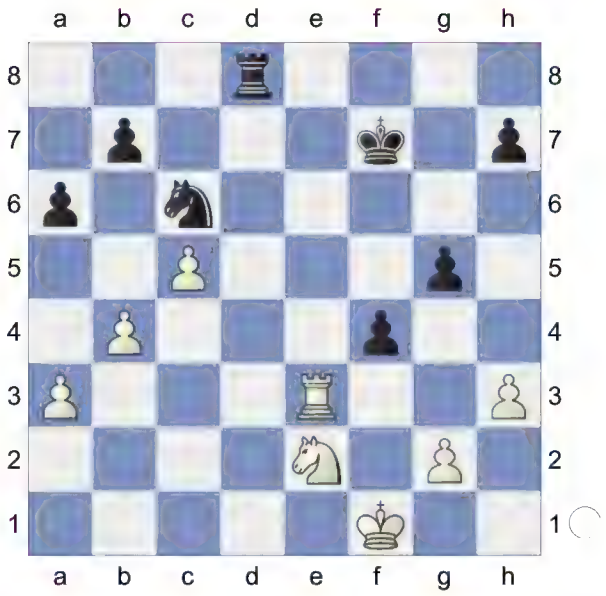
16.Bxb4 5:08 **Nxb4** 8 **17.Be4** 0.14/21 7
[17.Rfd1± 0.51/22 Qb6 18.Ne4]
17...Nxe4= 4:18
[17...Qc7 with more complications. 18.Bxb7 Rab8 19.Bd5 Rfd8]
18.Qxe4 3 **Qc7** 54 **19.a3** 20:23 **Nc6** 8
20.Rad1 13 **g6** 3:08



Prevents Ng3-f5. **21.c5** 4:57 **Rfd8** 10:50
22.b4 3:34 **f5** 18:13 **23.Qc4+** 51 **Qf7** 29
24.Qxf7+ -0.60/21 9:15
[24.Qc3= -0.01/22]
24...Kxf7∓ 5 **25.Ne2** 2 **e4** 16:14
[25...Ke6 is more complex. 26.f4 e4 27.g4 Rac8]

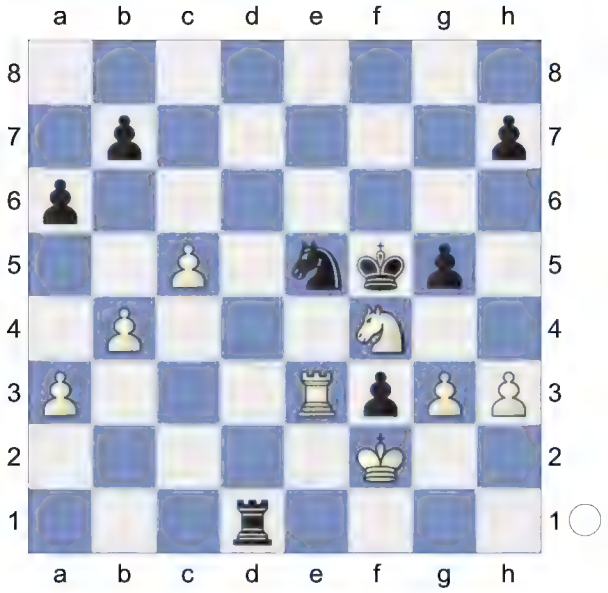


26.f4 4:26 **exf3** -0.27/22 10:59
[26...Rac8∓ -0.58/21]
27.Rxd8= 6:55 **Rxd8** 58 **28.Rxf3∓** 1
Endgame KRN-KRN **28...a6** -0.14/23 5:34
[28...Rd2∓ -0.46/22 should be considered. 29.Kf1 Ne5]
29.Re3 -0.55/24 1:17
[29.g4!= -0.14/23]
29...g5 3:08 **30.Kf1** 1:45 **f4** 5:36

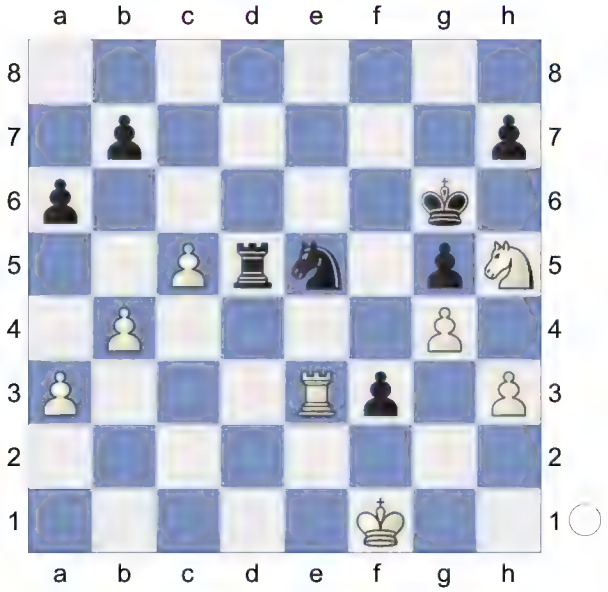


31.Rc3 2:15 **Rd1+** 1:20 **32.Kf2** 1 **Ne5** 7

33.g3! 9:20 **f3** 7:11 **34.Re3** 3 **Ke6** 1:41 **35.Nf4+** 5:38 **Kf5** 4:08
[35...Kf6!? 36.Nh5+ Ke6=]

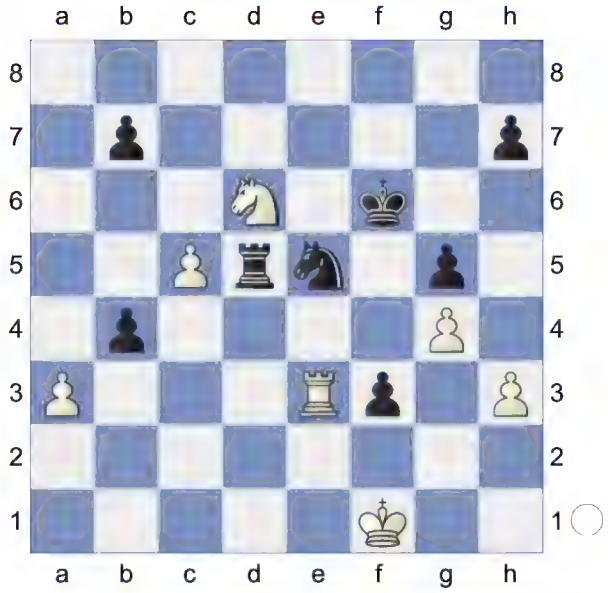


36.Nh5 2 **Rd2+** 4:15 **37.Kf1** 2 **Rd1+** 5 **38.Kf2** 2 **Rd2+** 4 **39.Kf1** 3 **Rd5** 2:57 **40.g4+** 4:01 The position is equal. **40...Kg6** 4

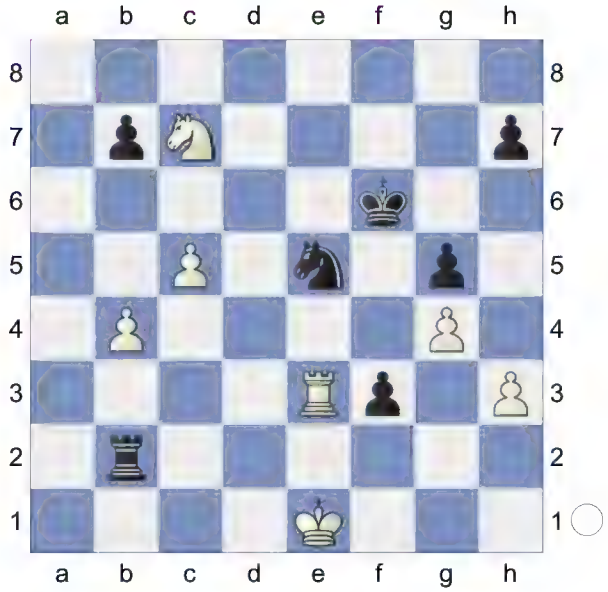


41.Ng3 2:08 **Nc4** 8:13 **42.Rc3** 1:47
[42.Rxf3? -5.04/24 42.Re3-e7 0.01 loses. Nd2+ 43.Kf2 Threatens to win with Rf3-f8. Nxf3 44.Kxf3 Rd3+ 45.Kf2 Rxa3-+]

42...Ne5 4:26 **43.Re3** 30 **a5** 18:14 **44.Nf5** 1:31 **Kf6** 31 Prevents Nf5-e7. **45.Nd6** 1:36 And now Nd6-e4+ would win. **45...axb4** 43

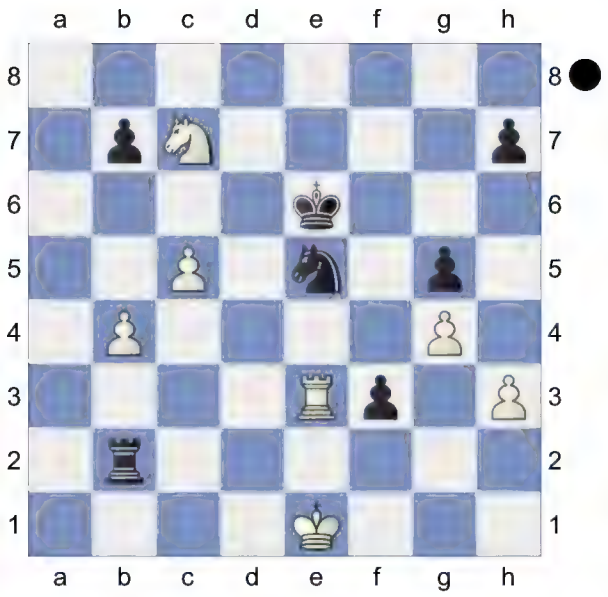


46.axb4 3:43 With the idea Nd6-e4+. **46...Rd1+** 9 **47.Kf2** 4:19 **Rd2+** 6 **48.Ke1** 7:53 **Rb2** 54 **49.Ne8+** 4:28 **Ke6** 8 **50.Nc7+** 2 **Kf6=** 12



51.Ne8+ 13 **Ke6** 5 **52.Nc7+** 2

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

89 **D32**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Warmerdam,Max** **2625**
86th Tata Steel Masters (7.5) 20.01.2024
[Naruemon]

D32: Tarrasch Defence: Sidelines and lines without g3 **1.c4** 4 **e6** 6 **2.Nc3** 26 **d5** 7 **3.d4** 6 **c5** 5 **4.cxd5** 1:19 **cxd4** 7 **5.Qa4+** 4 **Bd7** 5

(Diagram)

6.Qxd4 5 **exd5** 4 **7.Qxd5** 7 **Nf6** 4
8.Qd1 0.11/19 5
[8.Qxb7± 0.45/21 feels stronger. Bc6 9.Qb3]
8...Bb4N 4
[8...Nc6 9.Nf3 Bc5 10.e3 Qe7 11.Be2 0-0 *(11...0-0-0 12.0-0 g5 13.Qc2* Quickstarter Guide-#31 Von Hennig - Schara Gambi*)* 12.0-0 Rfd8 13.Qc2 Rac8 14.a3 Bd6 15.Bd2 Ne5 16.Nd4 Nc6 17.Rfe1 Ng4 18.Bxg4 Bxg4 7.00 e5 8.h3 exd4- Übersicht Soviet Union 200 Traps In The Opening [John Watson]]
[8...Bc5 9.Nf3 0-0 10.a3 Nc6 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Qxd7 Rfd8 14.Qg4 Ne5 15.Qg3 Qb6 16.Rb1 Rac8 17.e3 Bxa3 18.Bb5 Bxb2 19.0-0 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 Rxc3 21.Rxb2 a6 22.Qxf7+ Kxf7 23.Bc4+ Reference Games-Niemann,H (48)]
9.Bd2 6:47 **0-0** 15 White has an edge.
10.Nf3 5:23 **Bxc3** 0.61/21 37
[10...Nc6= 0.21/18]

(Diagram)

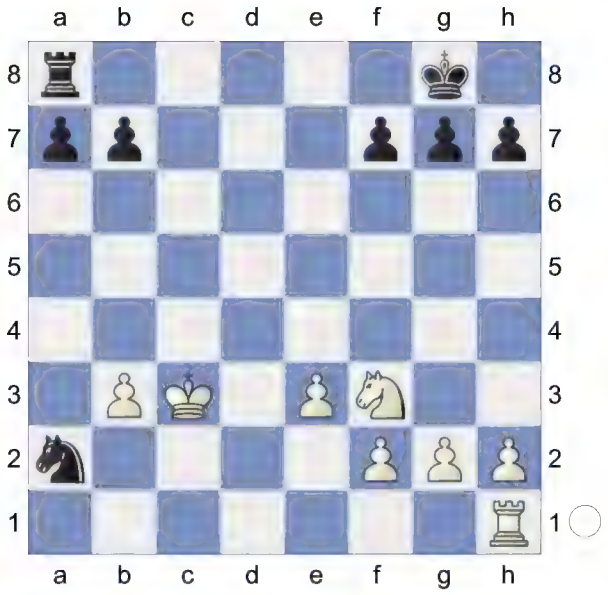
11.Bxc3± 31
[11.bxc3 Ne4=]
11...Ne4 5 **12.Qd4** 8:51 **Nxc3** 25
13.Qxc3 4 **Qe7** 5 **14.e3** 4:18 **Rc8** 12
15.Qd2 2:18 **Rd8** 9

16.Qc3 0.01/20 27:03 **Rc8!=** 1:04
17.Qd2 0.01/20 3:59
[17.Qa3± 0.48/22 Qxa3 18.bxa3]
17...Rd8! 8 **18.Rd1±** 0.48/23 2:22
is more appropriate. **18...Nc6** 13
19.Qd6 1:19 **Qe8!** 11 **20.Be2** 9:57 **Be6** 29

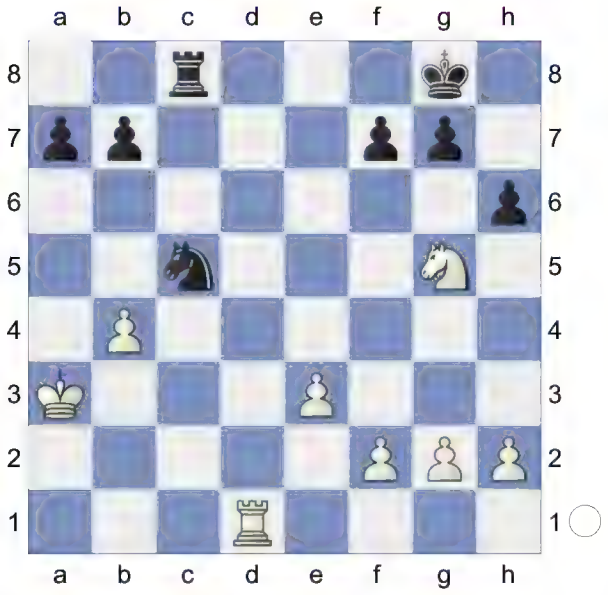
(Diagram)

21.Qa3 24 **Rxd1+** 6 **22.Bxd1** 4 **Bc4** 5
23.b3 7:30 **Ba6** 35 **24.Be2** 2:54 **Qe4!** 26 **25.Qc1** 6:34
[25.Bxa6 Qb1+ 26.Ke2 Qxh1 27.Bxb7 Rd8∓]
25...Qb4+ 7:27
[Resist 25...Bxe2 0.88/24 25...Qe4-b4+ 0.54 26.Kxe2 Qg4 27.Qc3±]

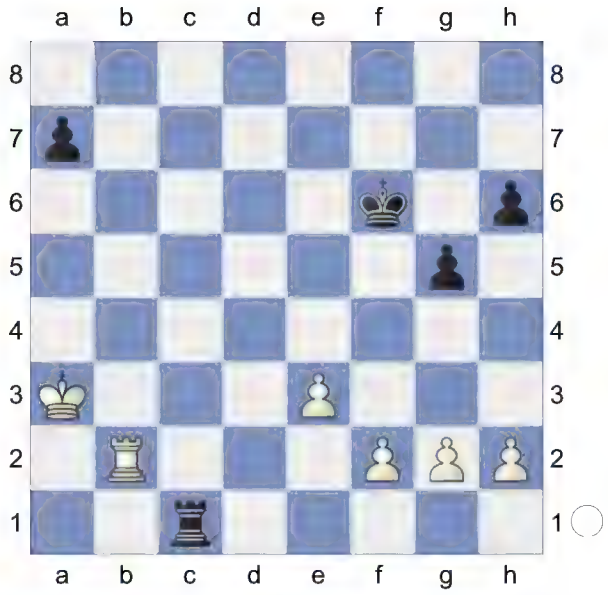
26.Qd2 2:54 **Bxe2!** 1:06 **27.Kxe2** 45
Qb5+! 5 **28.Qd3** 7 **Qxd3+** 28 **29.Kxd3±** 5 Endgame KRN-KRN **29...Nb4+!** 5
30.Kc3 3:31 **Nxa2+** 3:04



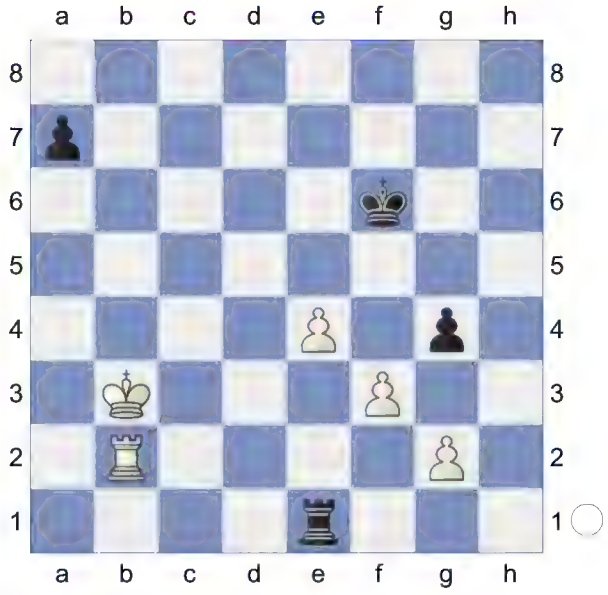
31.Kb2 4 **Nb4** 5 **32.Rd1** 4 Inhibits Nb4-d3+. **32...Rc8** 22:34 **33.Ka3** 7:40 **Na6** 1:24 **34.Ng5** 1:40
[34.b4!?]
34...Nc5 3:01 **35.b4** 1:13 Threatens to win with Rd1-c1. **35...h6** 50



36.Nxf7! 1:18 **Kxf7** 38 **37.bxc5** 33 **Rxc5** 4 KR-KR **38.Rd7+** 13 **Kf6** 4:35 **39.Rxb7** 1 **Rc1** 1:03 **40.Rb2!** 1:04
[40.Rxa7? -10.12/24 40.Rb7-b2 0.68 too greedy. Ra1+ Skewer 41.Kb3 Rxa7-+]
40...g5! 14:49

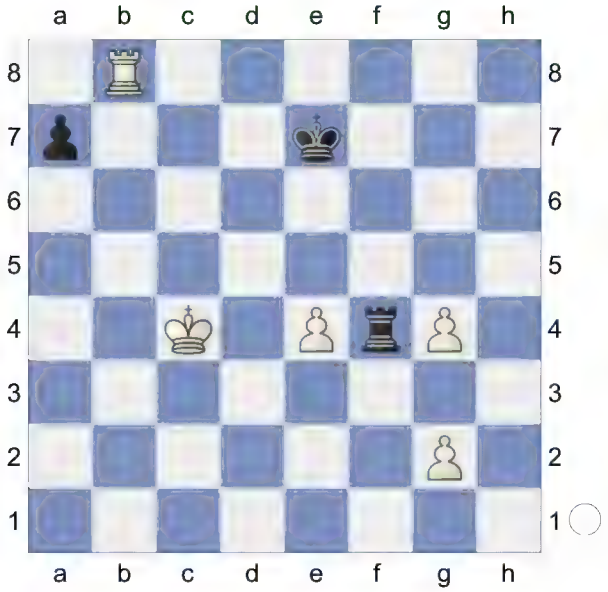


41.h3 8:28 **h5** 6:44 **42.Kb3** 6:13 **Rg1** 24:19 **43.f3** 1:04 **Re1** 1.04/26 1:59
[43...g4!± 0.43/25]
44.e4± 7 **g4** 2:30 **45.hxg4** 0.69/22 5:13
[Of course not 45.fxg4?! hxg4 46.Rf2+ *(46.hxg4 Rxe4 47.Rf2+ Kg6=)* 46...Ke5=]
[45.Kc4!± 1.12/26]
45...hxg4± 5



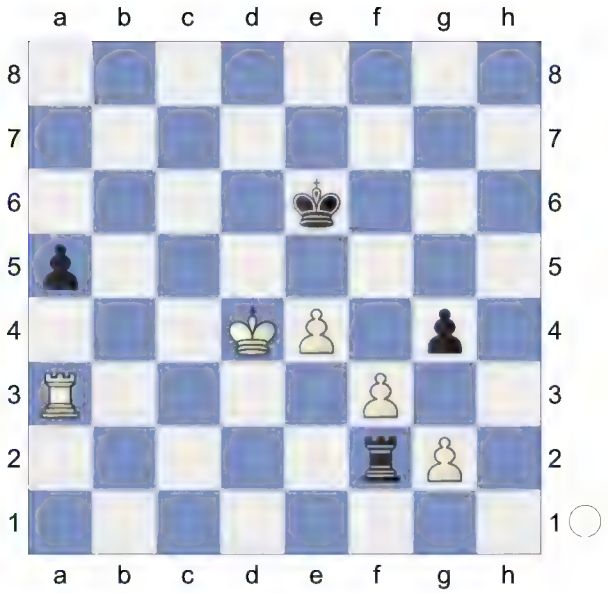
46.Kc4 3:13
[Reject Much worse is 46.fxg4?! -0.01/30 46.Kb3-c4 0.61 Rxe4 47.Rf2+ Kg6= *(47...Ke5=)*]

46...Rf1! 35:30 **47.Rb8** 0.43/26 2:15
[47.Rb5± 0.41/27 47.f3xg4 1.13]
[White should play 47.fxg4± 1.12/26 Ke5 48.Kd3]
47...Ke7 0.80/28 12:32
[47...Rg1= 0.43/26 keeps the balance. was preferrable.]
48.Rb3 0.03/28 13:24 &Bianco is more active.
[48.fxg4± 0.80/28 Black must now prevent Kc4-d5. aiming for Kc4-d5. Rf4

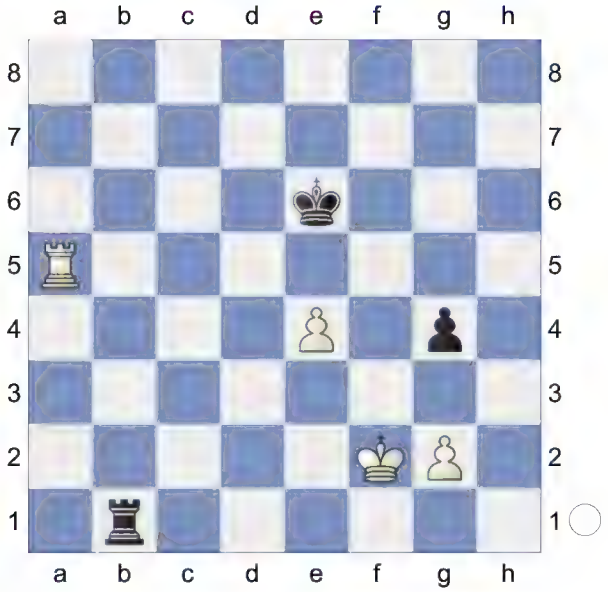


49.Kd5!]
48...Ke6= 1:34 **49.Kd4** 2:24
[Don't play Don't do 49.fxg4?! Black should prevent Kc4-d4. Rf4±]
49...Rf2 2:37 **50.Ra3** 2:09 **a5!** 3:23

(Diagram)

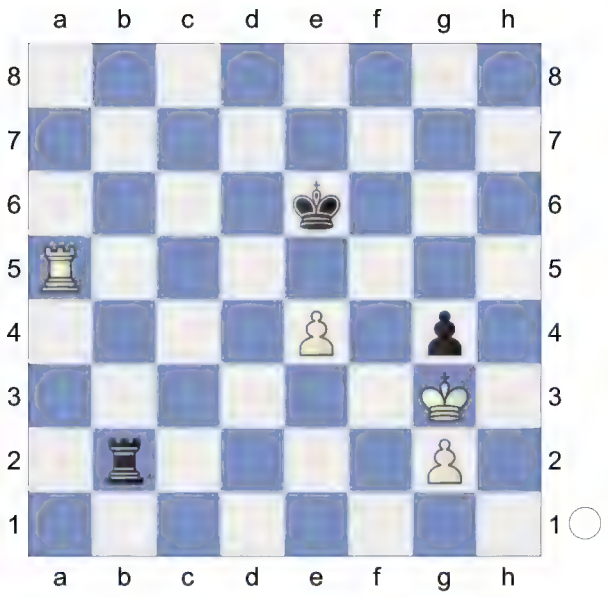


51.f4 49
[51.fxg4± might be stronger. And now g2-g3 would win. Rxg2 52.Ra1]
51...Rxf4 7 **52.Ke3** 6 **Rf1** 7 **53.Rxa5** 6 Ra5-g5 is the strong threat. **53...Rg1?** 2.31/34 1:23 This costs Black the game.
[53...Kf6!= 0.02/31]
54.Kf2+- 56 **Rb1** 5

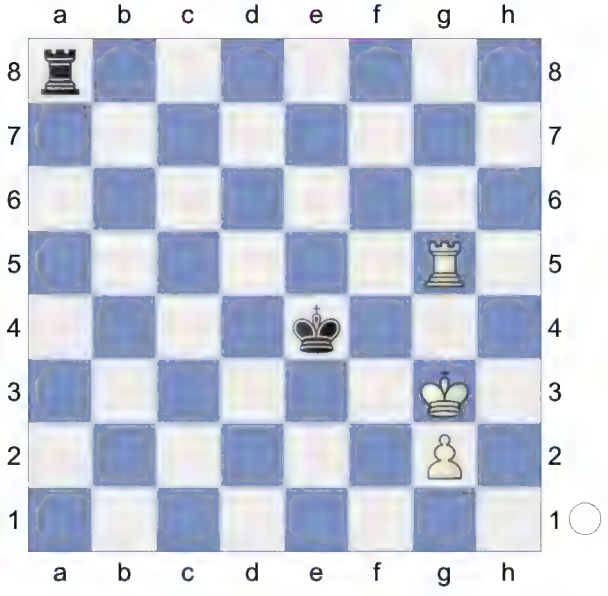


55.Kg3! 2:15 **Rb2** 7:41

(Diagram)

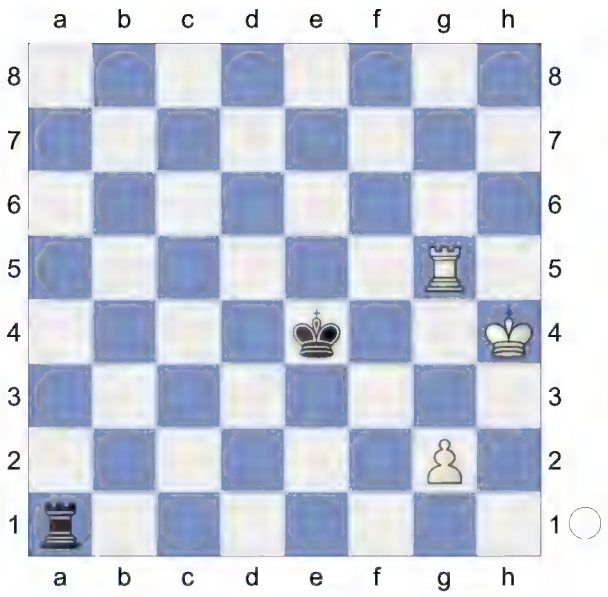


56.Rg5 7 **Ra2** 11 **57.Rxg4** 5 **Ke5?** 5.31/31 5
[57...Kf6 2.64/29 58.Kf3 Ra3+ 59.Kf4 Rb3]
58.Rg6 5:41 Hoping for Kg3-h4.
58...Kxe4? 4.10/36 2:16
[58...Re2 2.14/28 is a better defense. 59.Rg8 Re3+ 60.Kg4 Rxe4+ 61.Kg5 Kd6]
59.Rg5 11 **Ra8** 5:04

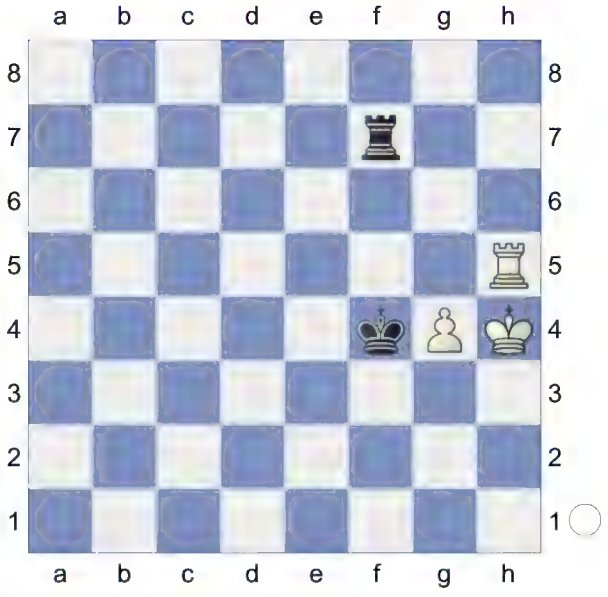


60.Kh4! 2:43 **Ra1** 3:29

(Diagram)

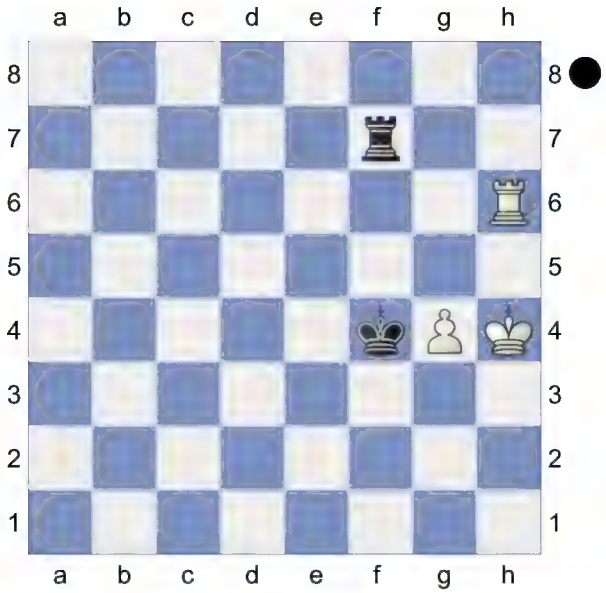


61.g3 17:11 **Rf1** 16:15 **62.Kg4** 55
[⌓62.Ra5 Rf8 63.g4]
62...Rf8 12 **63.Rh5** 2:48 **Rf7?** 5.77/35 59
[63...Rc8 3.41/33 was necessary. 64.Kh4 Kf3 65.Rf5+ Ke4]
64.Kh4 1:17 White is clearly winning.
64...Kf3 45 **65.g4** 33 Threatening mate with Rh5-f5+. **65...Kf4** 4



Inhibits Rh5-f5+. **66.Rh6** 9

(Diagram)

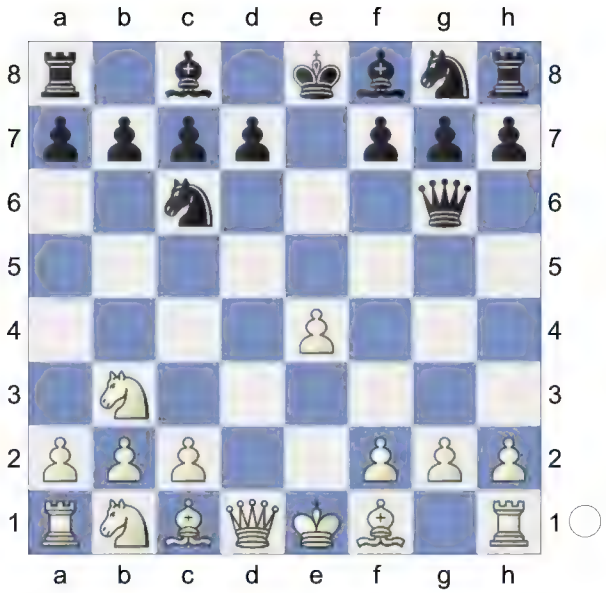


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.21 (precise)
1-0

90 **C45**
□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2682**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
86th Tata Steel Masters (6.2) 19.01.2024
[TA]

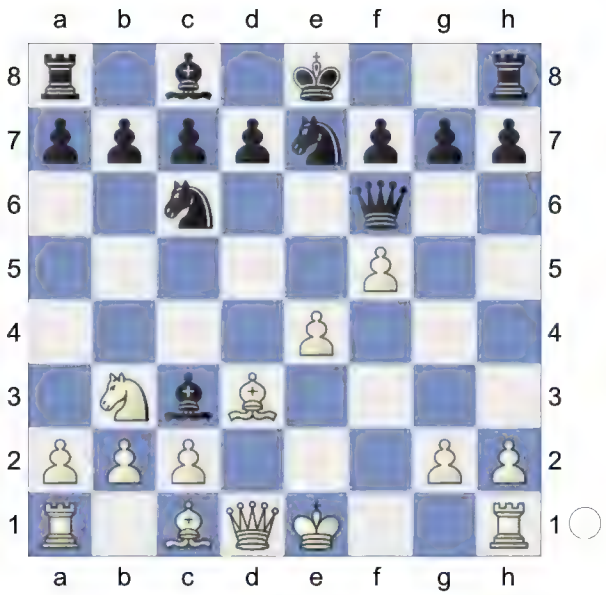
C45: Scotch Game
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qf6 5.Nb3 Qg6

(Diagram)

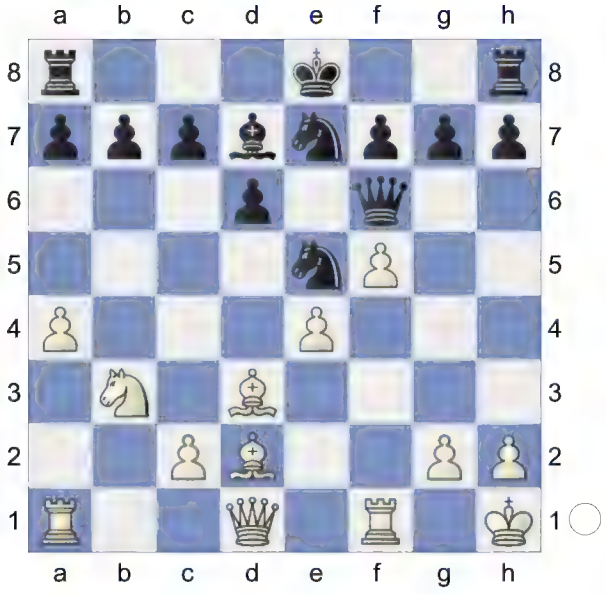


6.f3 Bd6 7.Nc3 Nge7 8.f4 White has an edge. **8...Bb4 9.f5 Qf6**
[9...Nxf5? 10.exf5 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3+-]
10.Bd3 Bxc3+N
[10...Bd6 11.Qh5 a5 12.0-0 a4 13.Bg5 Qe5 14.Bf4 Qf6 15.e5 Bxe5 16.Ne4 Qxf5 17.Nd6+ cxd6 18.Bxf5 axb3 19.Bxe5 Nxe5 20.Be4 bxa2 21.Qd1 Ra6 22.Bd5 Ra5 23.Bxa2 d5 24.Qe1 N5c6 25.b4 Bystrov,S (2472)-Hedman,J (2470) Rockville 2021 CBM 048 Extra [Nyback/Meyer, CD] 1-0]

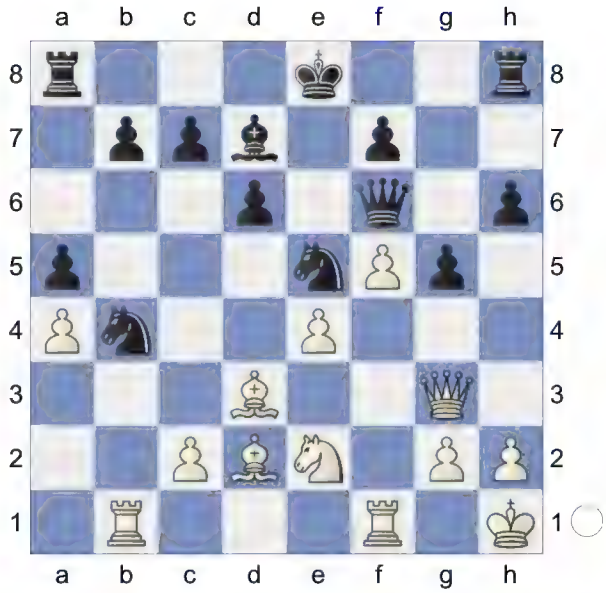
(Diagram)



11.bxc3 Qxc3+ 12.Bd2 Qf6 13.0-0 White has compensation. **13...d6**
14.Kh1 Bd7 0.40/5
[14...Ne5± 0.75/1]
15.a4 Ne5



16.Qe1 -0.01/5
[16.Na5± 0.40/4]
16...N7c6!= 17.Rb1 -0.08/6
[17.a5± 0.31/2]
17...a5 0.29/4
[⌓17...Rg8 -0.08/6]
18.Nc1 -0.03/6
[18.Bb5 0.29/4 might be stronger.]
18...Nb4 19.Qg3 h6 Against Bg5
[19...Bxa4? 20.Bg5+-]
20.Ne2 g5 0.04/3
[20...Bxa4∓ -0.69/5 21.Bxb4 axb4 22.Rxb4 Bc6]



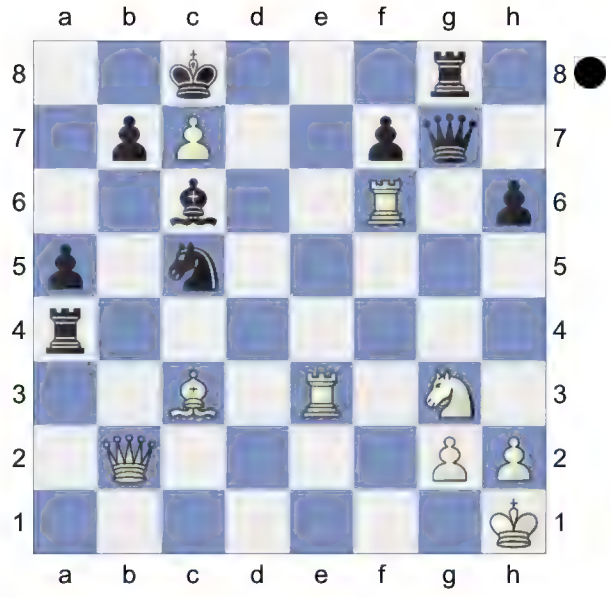
Against Nf4 **21.fxg6 Qxg6 22.Qf2** 0.03/2
[22.Qe3!± 0.82/4]
22...Nbxd3
[22...Nexd3 23.cxd3 Nxd3 24.Qd4∓]
23.cxd3 Nxd3 24.Qd4 -1.31/2
[24.Qe3-+ -1.75/4 Rg8 25.Rg1]
24...Rg8∓ 25.Ng3 Nc5

(Diagram)

26.e5 -1.54/3
[⌓26.Rf6 -0.78/3 Qg4 27.Rbf1]
26...Ne6
[26...Bxa4 27.exd6 Qxd6 28.Qc4!±]
27.Qb2 -3.28/3
[27.Qh4∓ -0.97/11 dxe5 28.Rxb7]
27...Bc6!-+
[27...Bxa4 28.Qxb7 Kd7 29.Rbc1+- *(29.exd6 Bc6=)*]
28.exd6 0-0-0
[28...cxd6 29.Rbc1=]
29.dxc7 Rd4 -1.13/2
[29...Rd3!-+ -2.71/6 is more deadly. White must now prevent ...Rxg3. 30.Bf4 *(30.Bxa5 Rxg3 31.hxg3 Qh5+ 32.Kg1 Qxa5∓)* 30...Rd4]
30.Rbc1 -1.81/3
[30.Bxa5∓ -1.13/2 Rh4 31.Be1 *(31.Kg1? Rxh2 32.Kxh2 Qxg3+ 33.Kg1 Bxg2-+)*]
30...Rh4

(Diagram)

(-> ...Rxh2+!) **31.Rc3 Nc5→** -1.15/6
Black goes for the king. **32.Re3∓ Rxa4**
[Resist 32...Nxa4 33.Qe5±]
33.Rf6 Qg7
[33...Qg4? 34.Rxc6! Nd3 35.Qf6+-]
34.Bc3

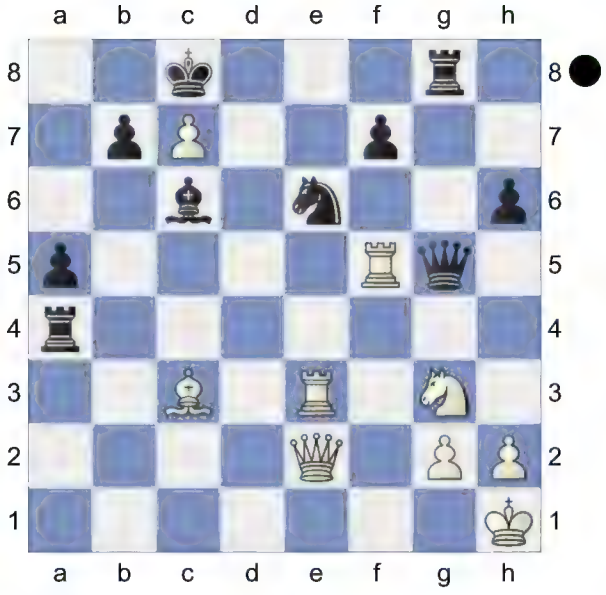


Threatens to win with Rxc6! **34...Qg5!**
35.Qe2 aiming for Rf5. **35...Ne6**
[And not 35...Kxc7 36.Kg1∓ *(36.Rf5? Bxg2+ 37.Kxg2 Qxf5-+)*]

(Diagram)

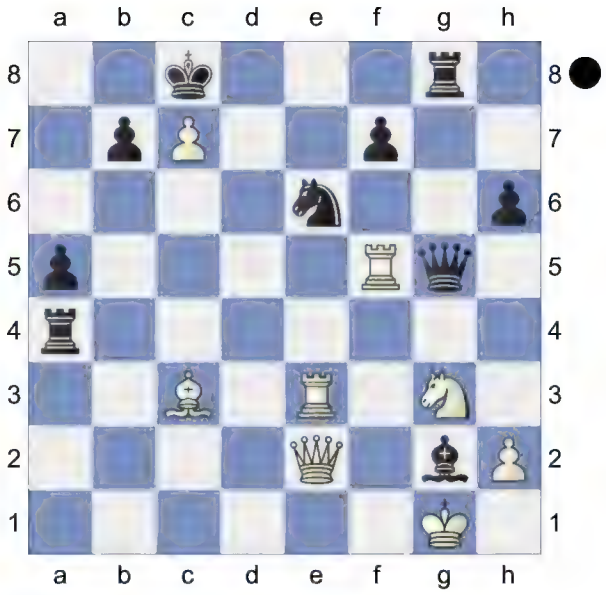
Strongly threatening ...Nf4. **36.Rf5** -3.24/2

[36.Rxf7∓ -1.10/4 was called for. Nf4 37.Rxf4 Qxf4 38.Be5]

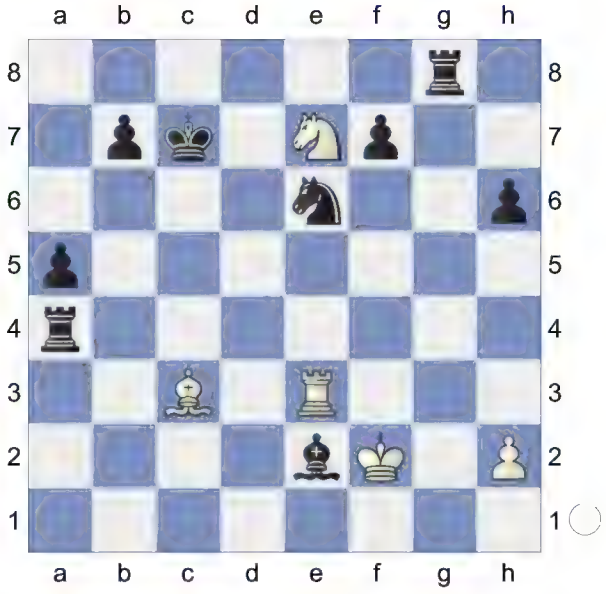


36...Bxg2+!-+ 37.Kg1

(Diagram)

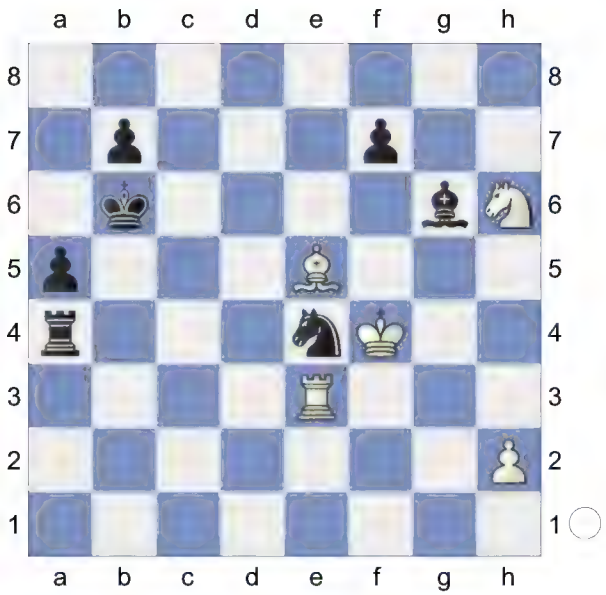


Qxf5 38.Nxf5 Bf3+! Discovered Attack **39.Kf2 Bxe2** Really sharp! **40.Ne7+ Kxc7**



41.Be5+ Kb6 And now ...Re8 would win. **42.Nxg8 Bh5 43.Nxh6 Nc5 44.Kg3 Ne4+ 45.Kf4 Bg6**

(Diagram)

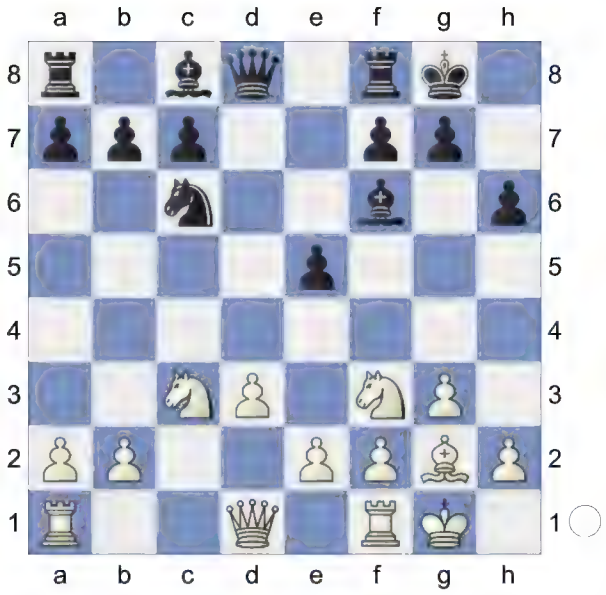


Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.10 (very precise)
0-1

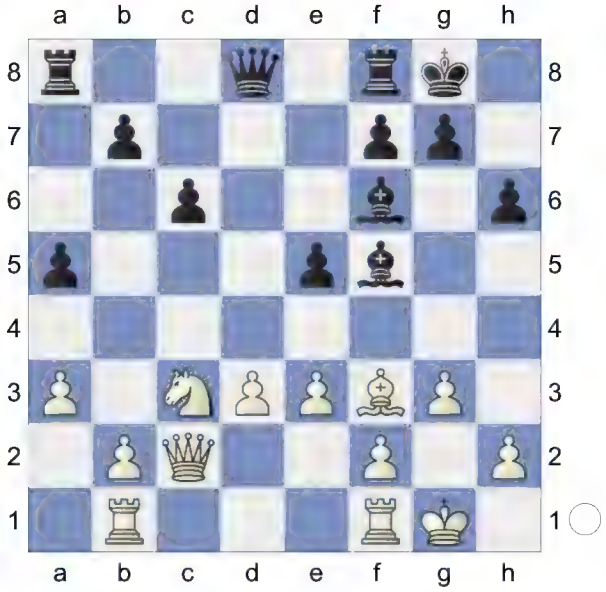
91 **A28**
□ **Giri,Anish** **2749**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
86th Tata Steel Masters (4.4) 16.01.2024
[TA]

A28: English Opening: Four Knights Variation
'A24: English Opening vs King's Indian: Lines without ...Nc6 Akopian,Vladimir: 'ChessCalisthenics: 'A24: English Opening vs King's Indian: Lines without ...Nc6'" **1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d3**
[4.a3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxe5 Nxc3 10.Nxc6 Nxe2+ 11.Qxe2 bxc6 12.Bxc6 Rb8 13.d3 Bh3 14.Re1 Rb6 15.Qc2 Be6 16.Be4 Qd7 17.Qc5 Bd4 18.Qa5 Rb5 ½-½ (22) Ruck,R (2550)-Romanishin,O (2561) 11th GM Lippstadt GER 2003 (3)]
[4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nde7 7.0-0 g6 8.d3 Bg7 9.Bd2 0-0 10.Qc1 Nf5 11.Re1 h6 12.Rb1 g5 13.h4 Rb8 14.b4 Nfd4 15.b5 Nxf3+ 16.Bxf3 Nd4 17.Bg2 Be6 18.Kh2 b6 0-1 (33) Valero,J (1998)-Edouard,R (2365) FRA-chT Poule Basse 2006 (8)]
4...d5N
[4...g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.e4 Nh5 9.Bg5 f6 10.Be3 f5 11.exf5 Bxf5 12.h3 Nf6 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 c6 16.Qd2 Qa5 17.Rfd1 Rae8 18.b3 Bc8 19.Rac1 0-1 (33) Perrot,H (2555)-Hug,A (2550) Olympiad U18 2001 Qh5 20.h4 Bh6 21.Qb2 Ng4 22.Ne4 Ne5 23.Nxd6 Bxc1 24.Rxc1 Nd3 25.Qc3 Nxc1 26.Qxc1 Re2 27.Nxc8 Rxc8 28.Qf4 Qf5 29.Qh6 Rc7 30.Bxa7 Rf7 31.Be3 Rxa2 32.b4 Qb1+ 33.Kh2 Qxb4 1-0 Shirov,A (2500)-Hauchard,A (2340) Paris-ch op 1990]
5.cxd5 Nxd5

6.g3 Nf6 0.33/19
[6...Be7= -0.19/18]
7.Bg5± Be7 8.Bg2 0-0 White is slightly better. **9.0-0 h6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6**

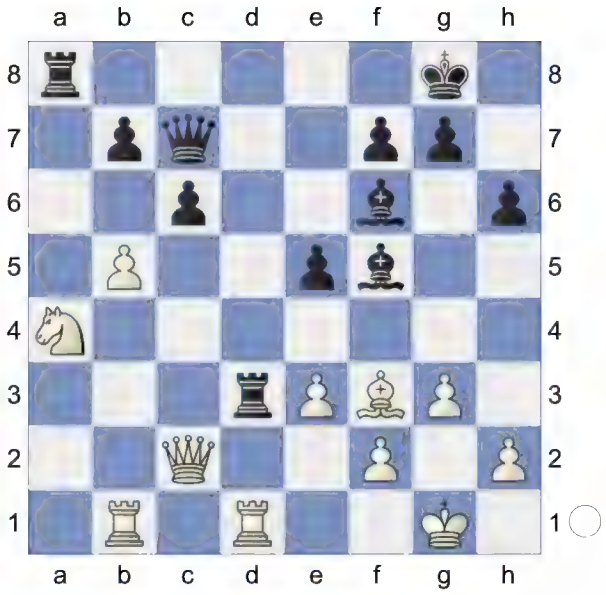


11.Rb1 a5 12.a3 Nd4 13.e3 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 c6 15.Qc2 Bf5



16.Rfd1 Qd7 17.Na4 Qc7 Inhibits Nb6. **18.b4 axb4 19.axb4 Rfd8 20.b5 Rxd3**

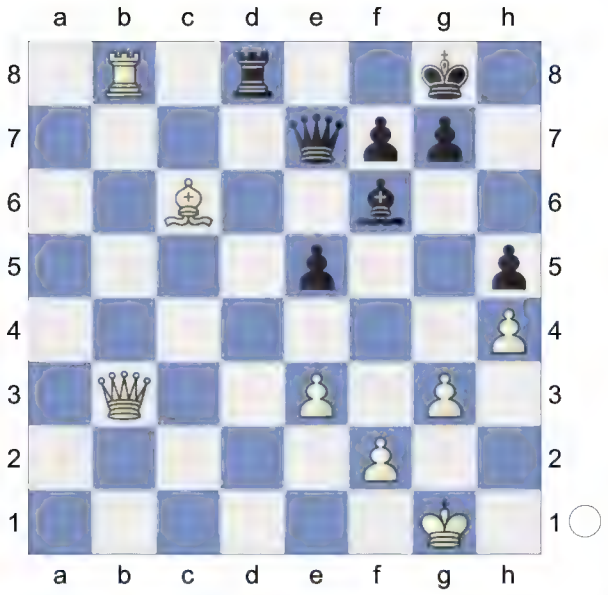
(Diagram)



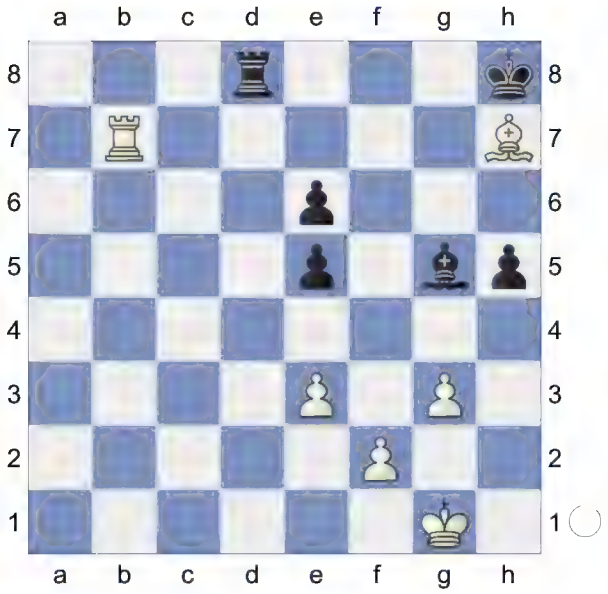
Deflection **21.Rxd3 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 Rxa4 23.bxc6 bxc6** Black is weak on the light squares **24.Bxc6** Back Rank **24...Ra7 25.Bd5 Qd8**

26.h4 h5 27.Rb5 Rd7 1.57/18
[27...Ra5± 0.37/24]
28.Qb3!± Qe7 29.Bc6 0.42/18
[29.Qb1± 1.38/20]
29...Rd6!± 30.Rb8+ Rd8 1.03/23
[Black should play 30...Kh7!± 0.45/25
31.Be8 *(31.Rb7 Qe6±)* 31...Re6]

(Diagram)

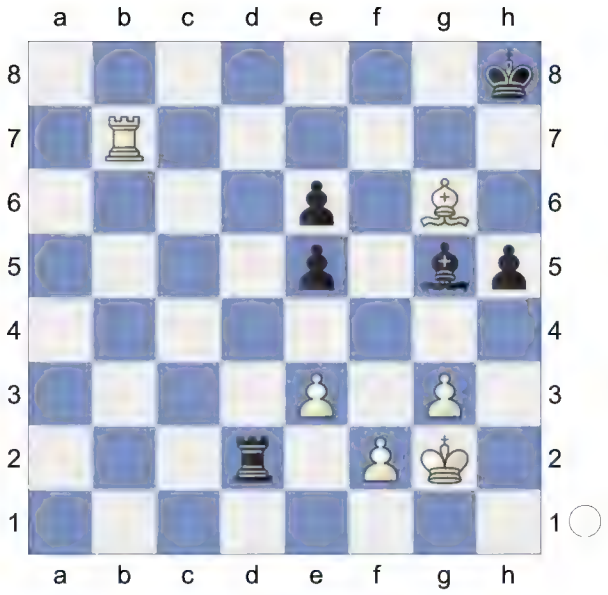


31.Rb7!± Qe6 32.Qxe6 fxe6
E n d g a m e K R B - K R B **33.Be4**
White is more active. **33...g5 34.Bh7+! Kh8 35.hxg5 Bxg5**

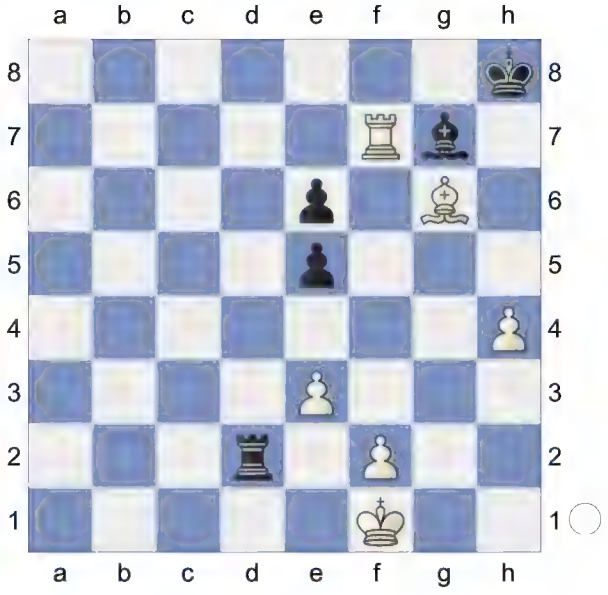


36.Bg6 Rd1+ 37.Kg2 Rd2

(Diagram)

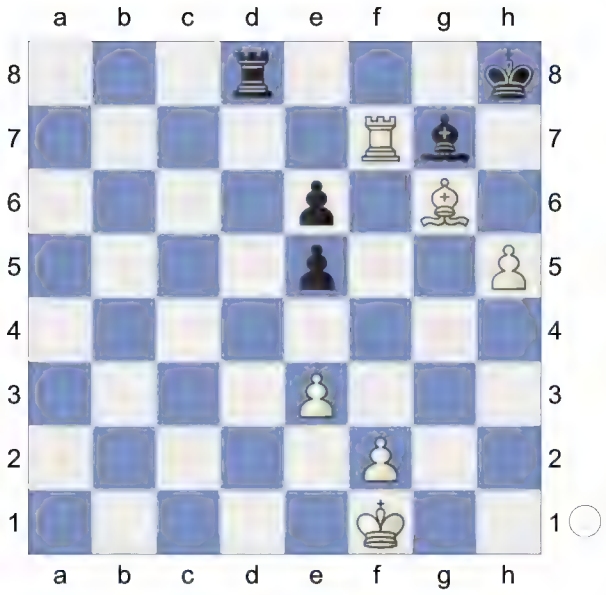


38.Kf1!
[38.Bxh5?! Bxe3 39.Rf7 e4=]
38...h4? 2.50/22
[38...Rd1+± 0.66/18 39.Kg2 Rd2]
39.gxh4+- Bf6 40.Rf7 Bg7

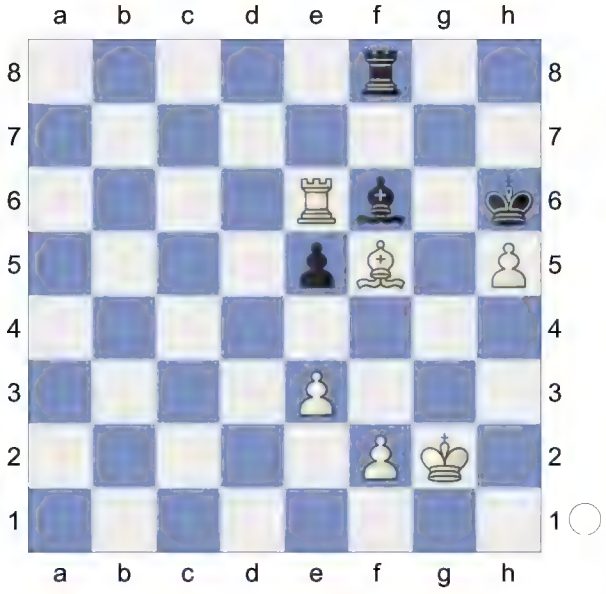


41.h5 Rd8? 3.69/26
[41...Kg8 2.05/18 42.Rc7 Bf8]

(Diagram)

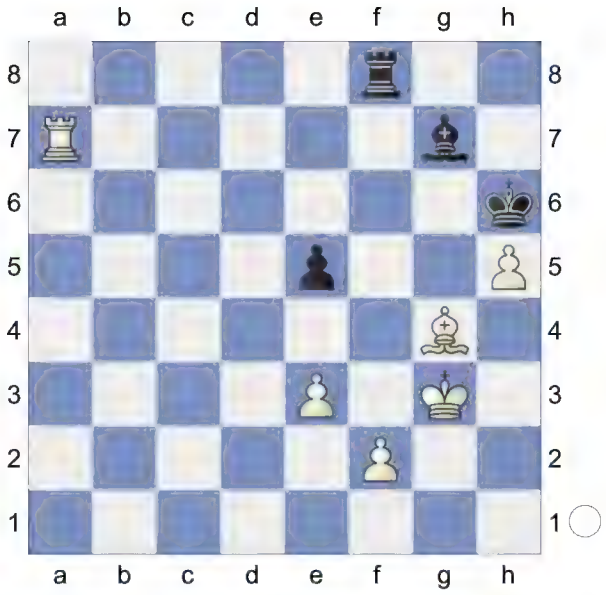


42.Re7! Bf6? 3.78/21
[42...Rf8 2.08/19 43.Rxe6 Rf6]
43.Rxe6 Rf8 44.Bf5 Kg7 45.Kg2 Kh6

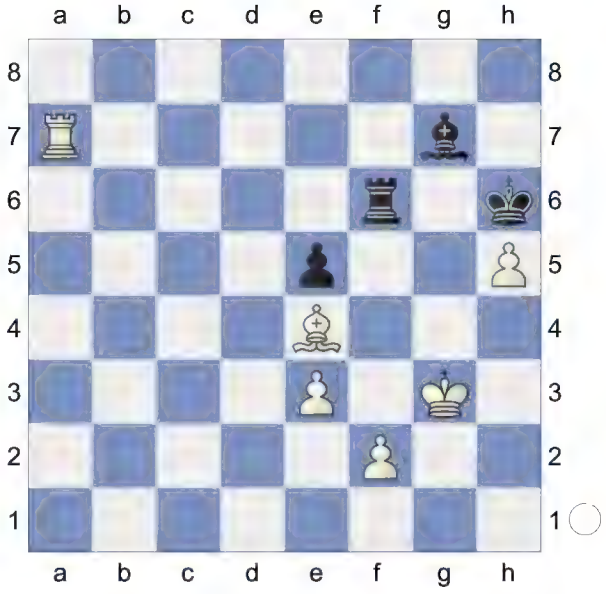


46.Bg4 Kg5 47.Kg3 Rf7 48.Rb6 Rf8 49.Rb7 Kh6 50.Ra7 Bg7

(Diagram)

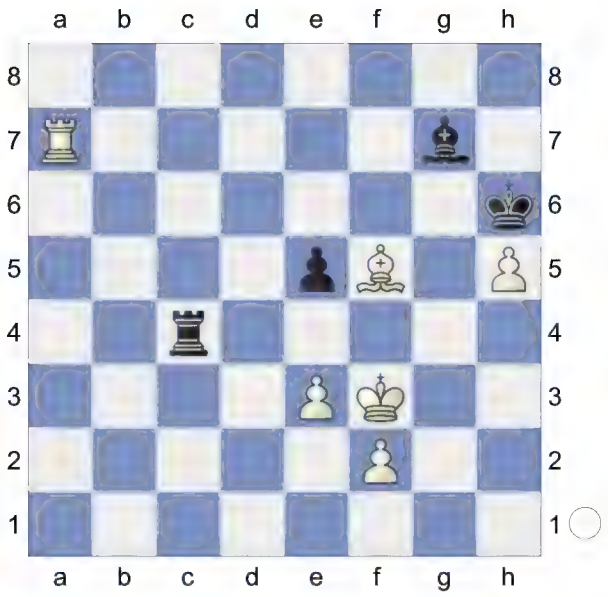


51.Bf3 Rf5 52.Rb7 Rf8 53.Be4 Rf6 54.Rd7 Rf8 55.Ra7 Rf6



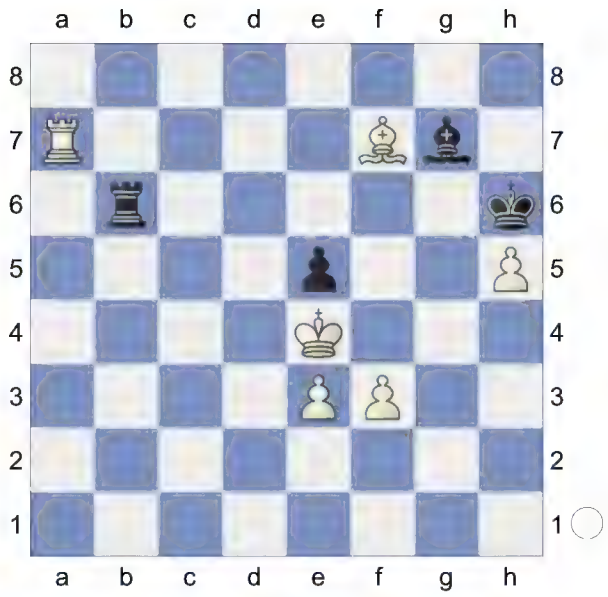
56.Ra2 Rf8 57.Kg4 Rf6 58.Bf5 Rb6 59.Ra7 Rc6 60.Kf3 Rc4

(Diagram)

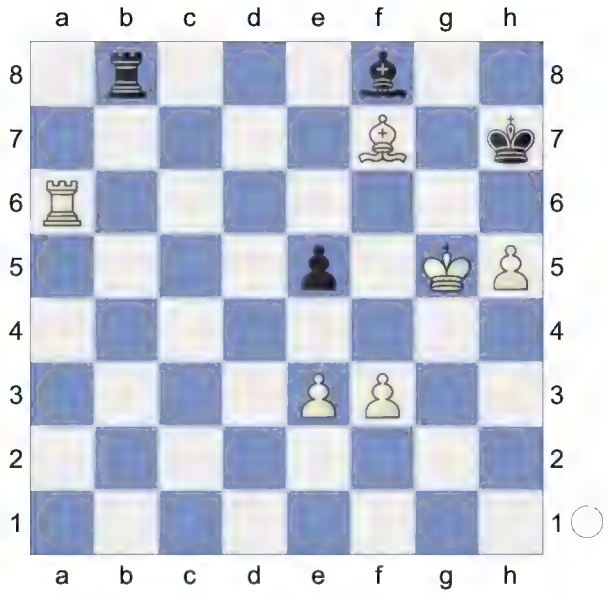


61.Bd3 Rc6 62.Ke4 Rf6 1.22/23
[62...Rb6+- 1.72/20 63.Kf3 Bf8]
63.f3±
[63.Kxe5? Rf7+ *(63...Rxf2+ 64.Kd5±)* 64.Ke4 Rxa7-+]
63...Bh8 1.90/19
[63...Bf8± 1.51/20 64.Bc4 *(64.Kxe5 Rxf3 65.Kd4 Rf6±)* 64...Rc6]
64.Bc4+-
[64.Kxe5? Rf7+ *(64...Rxf3+ 65.Ke4±)* 65.Kd6 Rxa7-+]
64...Rb6 2.51/22
[⌓64...Bg7 1.62/22 65.Re7 *(65.Kxe5?* too greedy. *Rf7+ 66.Kd6 Rxa7-+)* 65...Rf8]
65.Bf7 Bg7 2.51/27
[65...Kg5± 1.58/22 66.Ra8 Bg7]

(Diagram)

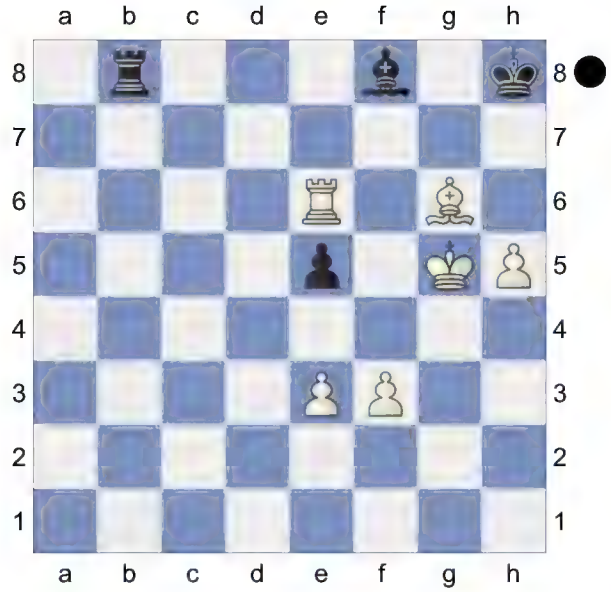


66.Bg6 Rb4+? 4.04/23
[66...Re6 2.42/23 67.Kf5 Rd6]
67.Kf5 Rb3 68.Ra6 Strongly threatening Bf7+. White is clearly winning.
[Less strong is 68.Ke4 Rb1 69.Be8 Rh1 70.Ra6+ Kh7+-]
68...Rb8 7.07/22
[⌓68...Rb1 4.63/19 69.Bf7+ Kh7]
69.Bf7+ Kh7 70.Kg5 Bf8



71.Bg6+ Kh8
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.22 (precise)

72.Re6



1-0

92 **C55**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2727**
86th Tata Steel Masters (1.5) 13.01.2024
[TA]

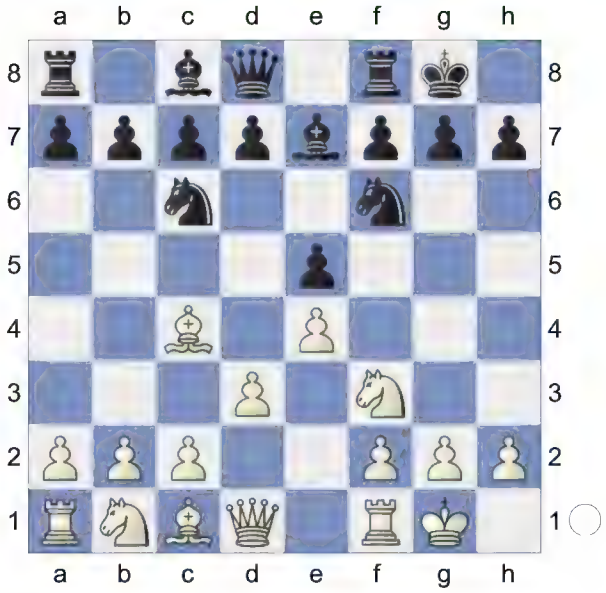
C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7

[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.Bb3 a5 9.c3 Nb6 10.Nh4 g6 11.a4 Bd6 12.d4 Qe7 13.Be3 Bd7 14.dxe5 fxe5 15.Nf3 h6 16.Nbd2 0-0-0 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.Nfd2 Nd7 19.Bd5 Abdusattorov,N (2727)-Van Foreest,J (2682) chess24.com 2024 [Harry Grieve] 1-0]

[4...Bc5 5.a4 d6 6.a5 h6 7.0-0 a6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Ne7 10.d4 Ba7 11.Bd3 Ng6 12.Re1 Re8 13.Nbd2 Nf4 14.Bf1 Nh7 15.Nc4 Qf6 16.Be3 exd4 17.Bxf4 Qxf4 18.g3 Qf6 19.cxd4 Leiva Rodriguez,J (2389)-Pichot,A (2628) Linares 2024 0-1 (43)]

5.0-0 0-0



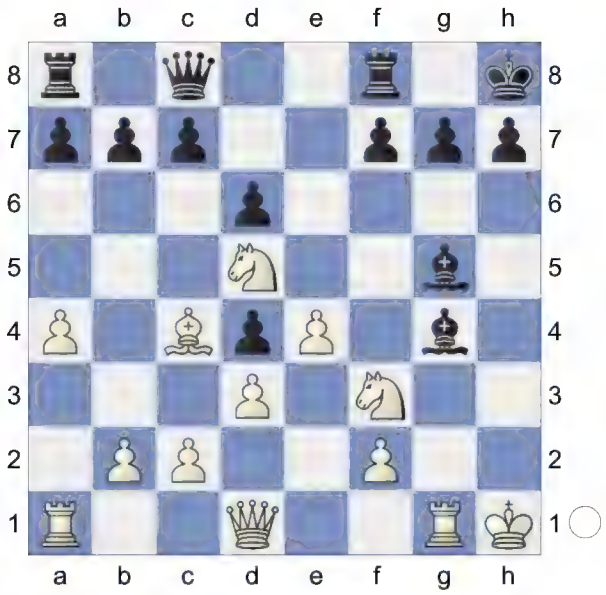
6.Nc3 d6 7.a4N

[7.a3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd4 10.Qd1 c6 11.f4 exf4 12.Rxf4 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Ba2 Bc5 15.Kh1 Re8 16.Rf1 Ne6 17.g4 d4 18.Na4 Be7 19.g5 Nd7 20.Rxf7 Bd6 21.Rf5 Qc7 Edighoffer,H-Melton,R corr 1996 ½-½ (56)]

7...Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.Be3 White is slightly better. **9...Qc8 10.Kh1 Kh8**

(Diagram)

11.Rg1 Nd4! 12.g4 Nxg4! 13.hxg4 Bxg4 14.Bxd4 exd4 15.Nd5 Bg5



16.Nxc7 Bh5 And now ...Qh3+ would win. **17.Rxg5**

[17.Rg3? Bf4 18.Qf1 *(18.Nxa8? Bxg3 19.Kg2 Bf4-+)* 18...Bxg3 19.fxg3 Bxf3+ 20.Qxf3 Qxc7-+]

17...Qh3+ 18.Nh2!

[Not 18.Kg1? Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Qxf3-+]

18...Bxd1 19.Rxd1 Rac8 20.Nb5 f5 1.00/3

[20...Rc5± 0.52/3 21.Rg3 Qh4]

21.exf5 -0.13/5

[White should play 21.Nxd6± 1.00/3 fxe4 22.Nxe4]

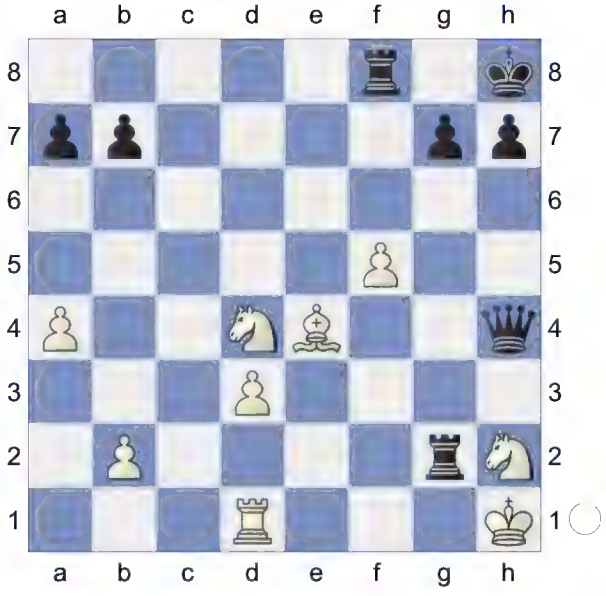
21...d5!= 22.Bxd5 Rxc2 23.Rg2 Black must now prevent Nd6. **23...Qh4** 0.57/3

[23...Qxf5= -0.08/5 24.Nxd4 Qxd5 25.Nxc2 Rxf2]

24.Be4 -0.57/5

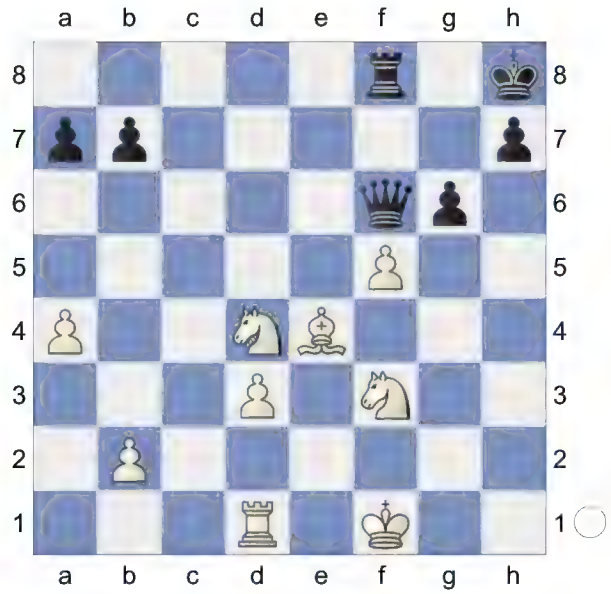
[24.Nd6± 0.57/3]

24...Rxf2∓ 25.Nxd4 Rxg2

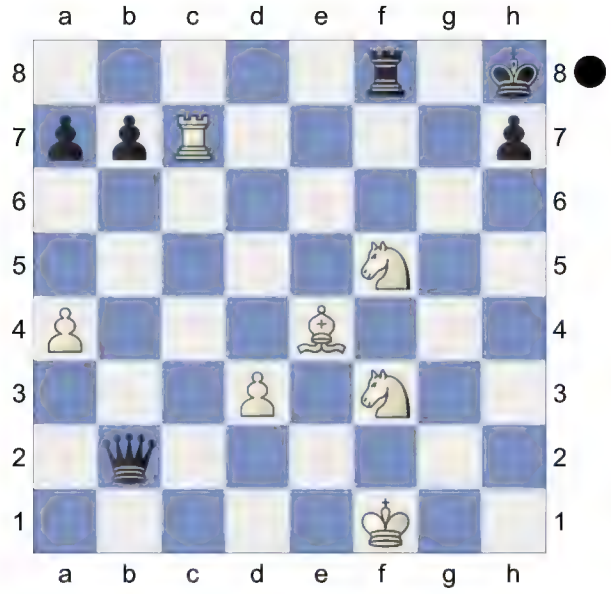


The position is equal. **26.Kxg2 Qg5+ 27.Kf2! Qh4+! 28.Kg2!** Active counter

play! **28...Qg5+ 29.Kf1 Qf6**
[29...g6!? 30.Nhf3 Qf6=]
30.Nhf3 g6

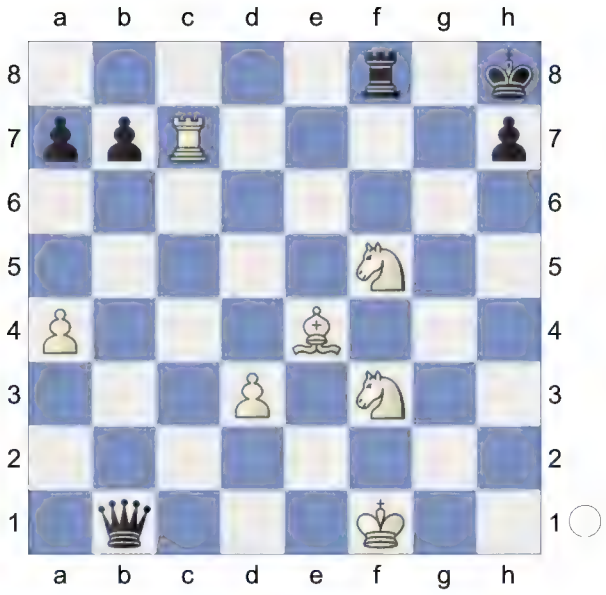


31.Rc1
[Much worse is 31.Bxb7 Rd8 32.Be4 Rxd4 33.Nxd4 Qxd4 34.fxg6 hxg6∓]
31...gxf5 32.Nxf5 Qxb2 33.Rc7

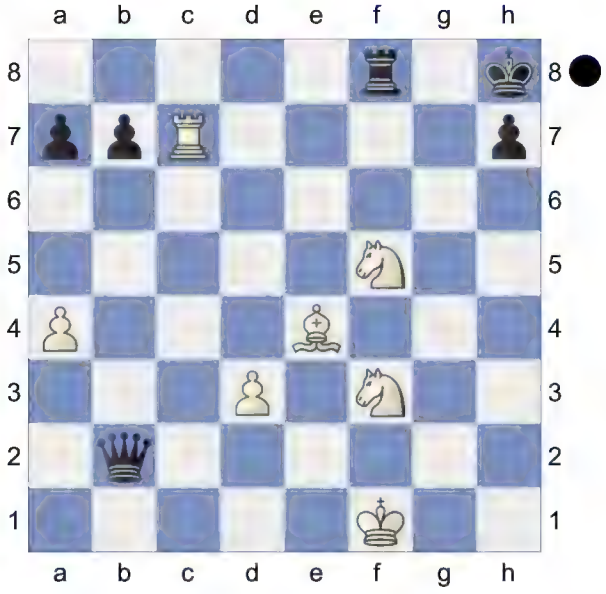


Threatens to win with Ng5. **33...Qb1+**
34.Ke2 aiming for Ng5. Chess con chili.
34...Qb2+ 35.Kf1 Qb1+

(Diagram)



36.Ke2 Ng5 is the strong threat.
36...Qb2+ 37.Kf1

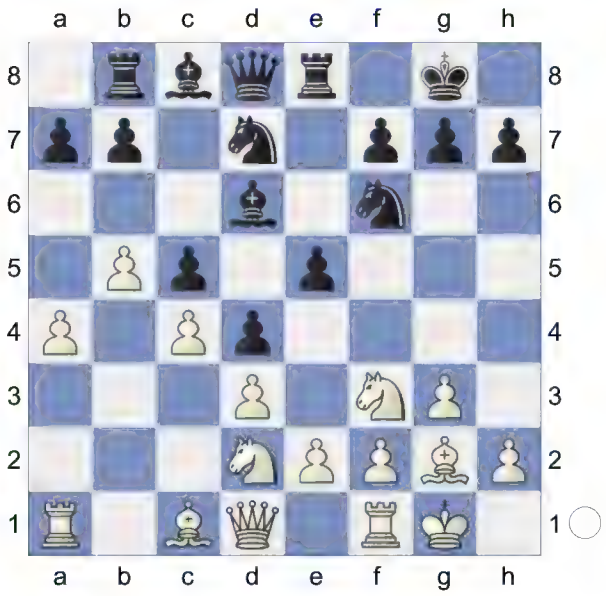


Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

93 **A09**
□ **Pantsulaia,L** **2561**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2720**
World Blitz 2023 (8.11) 29.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

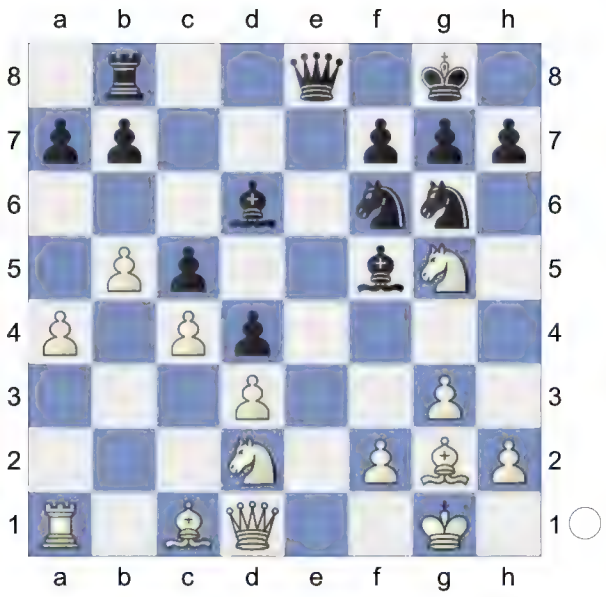
A09: Réti Opening: 1 Nf3 d5 2 c4
1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4 c5 4.b5
[4.Bb2 Nf6 5.g3 Qc7 6.Bg2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.b5 Ne7 9.e3 Ng6 10.d3 Be7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Nbd2 h6 13.a4 Bf5 14.a5 Rad8 15.Ra3 Rfe8 16.e4 Be6 17.Rb1 Qd7 18.Kf1 Bh3 Duda,J (2732)-Cheparinov,I (2663) Baku 2023 CBM 216 [Cheparinov, Ivan] ½-½]
4...Nd7 5.d3 e5

6.g3 Ngf6N
[6...Bd6 7.Bg2 Ne7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a4 Rb8 10.a5 f5 11.e3 dxe3 12.Bxe3 h6 13.Nc3 Ng6 14.Qb3 Kh8 15.b6 axb6 16.Nb5 Be7 17.Na7 bxa5 18.Nxc8 Qxc8 19.Rxa5 Bd6 20.Ra7 b6 21.Qb5 Chapter 11-Game 5 Game 5 (48)]
7.Bg2 Bd6 8.0-0 The position is equal.
8...0-0 9.a4 Re8 0.32/17
[9...a6= -0.16/18
is more appropriate.]
10.Nbd2 -0.12/18
[10.a5!± 0.32/17]
10...Rb8 0.28/19
[⌓10...a6! -0.12/18]

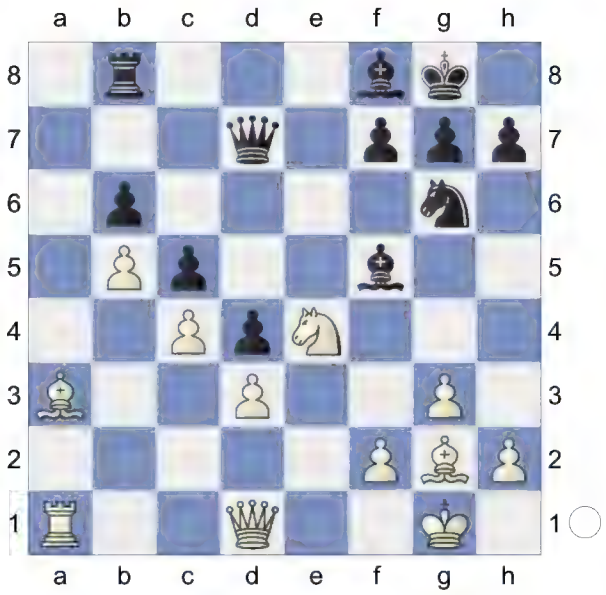


11.Re1 Nf8 12.e3 Ng6 0.52/22
[12...h6= -0.02/19]
13.exd4
[13.Ng5 looks sharper. dxe3 14.fxe3 Ng4 15.Nde4]
13...exd4 14.Rxe8+ 0.22/17
[14.Ng5± 0.54/21]
14...Qxe8= 15.Ng5 -0.39/18
[15.Ba3= 0.03/18 feels stronger.]
15...Bf5? 1.13/22
[15...Bg4∓ -0.39/18 stays ahead. 16.Bf3 Bxf3 17.Ngxf3 h6]

(Diagram)

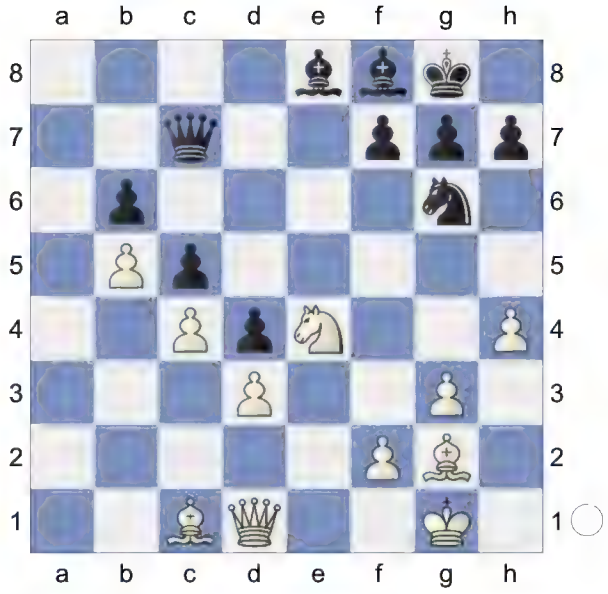


16.Nde4± Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Bf8 18.a5 Qd7 19.Ba3 b6 20.axb6 axb6

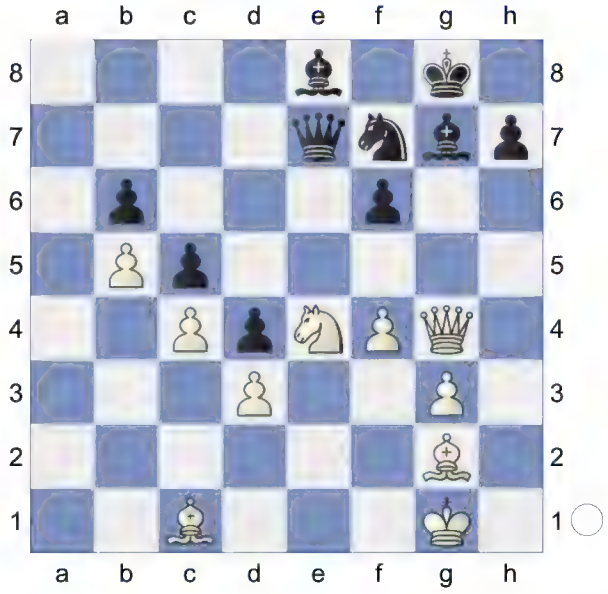


21.Bc1 Re8 22.Ra6 0.48/16
[22.f4± 1.03/18]
22...Qc7 1.37/18
[22...Ne5!± 0.48/16]
23.h4 Bc8 24.Ra8 0.48/20 &Bianco is more active.
[24.h5!± 1.45/20 Ne5 25.Ra8]
24...Bd7 1.72/18
[Better is 24...Bg4!± 0.48/20 25.Qxg4 *(25.Nf6+ gxf6 26.Qxg4 Re1+ 27.Kh2 Rxc1=)* 25...Rxa8]

25.Rxe8+- Bxe8

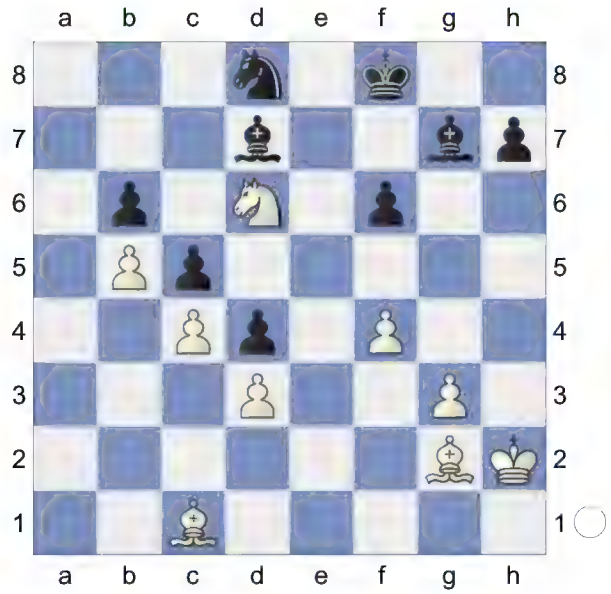


26.h5! Ne5 27.h6 f6 1.98/19
[27...Qd7± 1.54/17 might work better.]
28.f4↑ White has strong initiative.
28...Nf7 29.Qg4 Qe7 2.59/19
[⌓29...Qd8 1.82/20]
30.hxg7 Bxg7

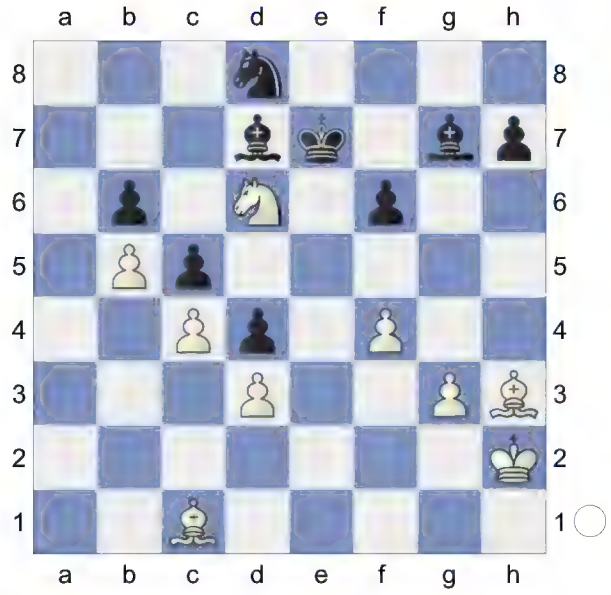


31.Qc8 Qd8 32.Qxd8 Nxd8 33.Nd6 Bd7 34.Kh2? 0.08/19
[34.Bd5++- 2.75/22 Be6 35.Bxe6+ Nxe6 36.f5 *(36.Nc8 f5+-)*]
34...Kf8? 2.55/22

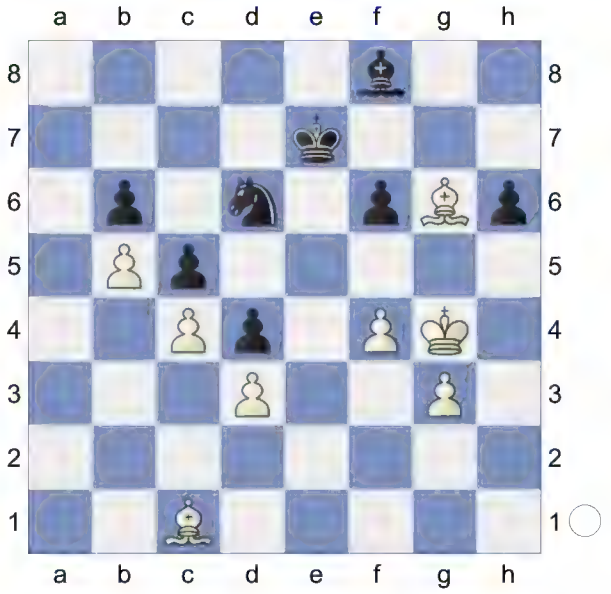
[34...Bf8= 0.08/19 and Black stays safe. 35.Ne4 Kg7]



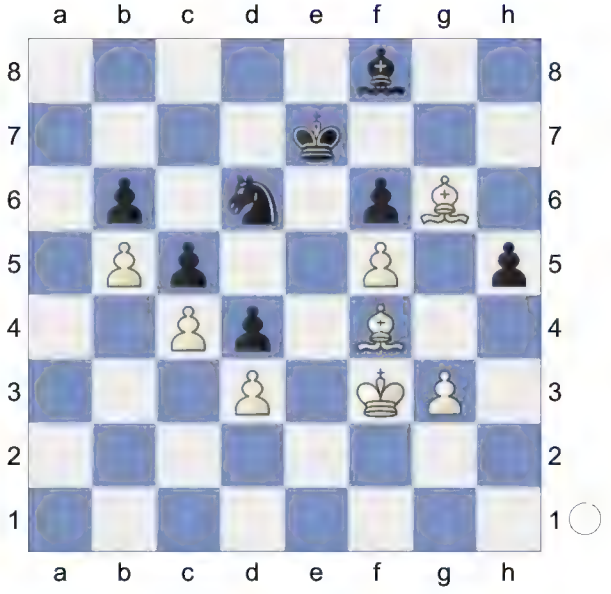
35.Bh3? 0.81/20
[35.f5!+- 2.55/22]
35...Ke7±



Threatens to win with ...Bxh3. **36.Nf5+ Bxf5** 1.32/21
[⌓36...Kf7 0.79/24]
37.Bxf5 Endgame KBB-KBN **37...h6** 4.03/24
[37...Nf7± 1.03/19]
38.Kh3 Nb7 39.Kg4 1.69/24
[⌓39.Bg6 3.28/23]
39...Nd6? 3.82/27
[39...Na5 1.69/24 is a better defense. 40.Bd2 Nb3]
40.Bg6 Bf8 4.39/22
[⌓40...Kf8 2.94/25 41.f5 Ke7]

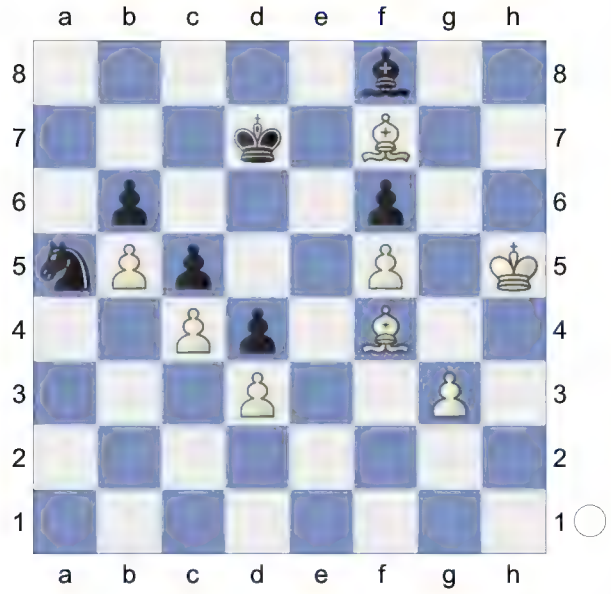


41.Bd2 Ke6 4.65/22 **42.f5++- Ke7 43.Kf4 h5** Hoping for ...Bh6+. **44.Kf3 Bg7 45.Bf4 Bf8**

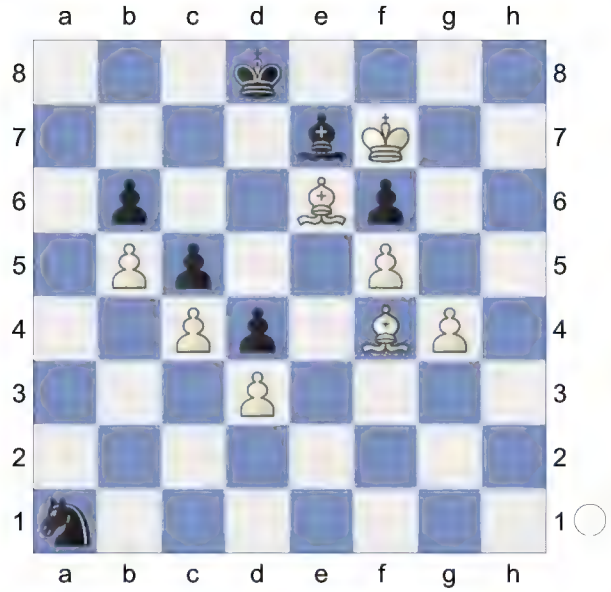


46.Kg2 Bg7 4.72/23
[⌓46...Kd8 3.36/19 47.Bd2 *(47.Bxh5 Nxf5 48.Bg4 Ne3+ 49.Kf3 f5±)*

47...Be7]
47.Kh3 Bf8 48.Kh4 Kd7 49.Kxh5 Nb7 7.21/22
[⌓49...Ke7 4.42/20 50.Bh7 Kf7]
50.Bf7 Na5

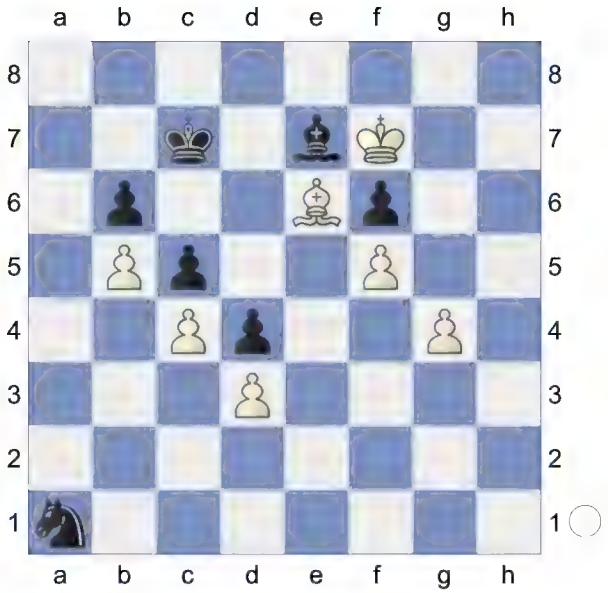


51.Kg6 Be7 52.Be6+ Kd8 53.Kf7 Nb3 54.g4 Na1

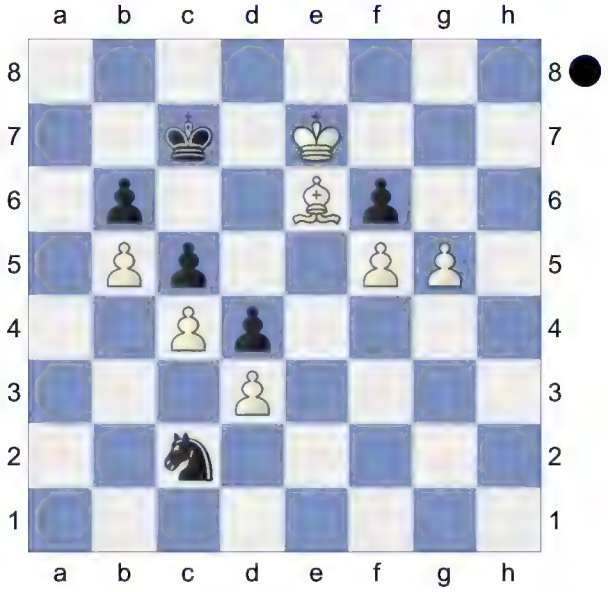


55.Bc7+! Kxc7

(Diagram)



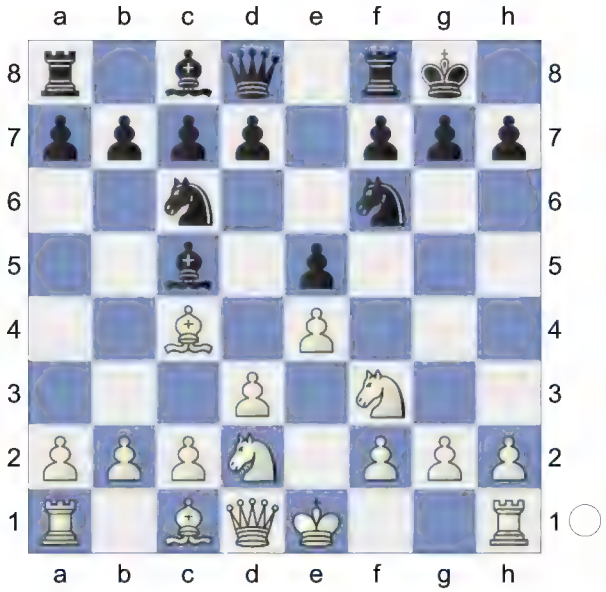
56.Kxe7 g5! would kill now. **56...Nc2 57.g5**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.84
1-0

94 **C50**
□ **Sjugirov,S** **2703**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2720**
Chennai GMs 2023 (5.1) 19.12.2023
[TA]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
Kitty Kat: 'C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
' 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.Nbd2 0-0

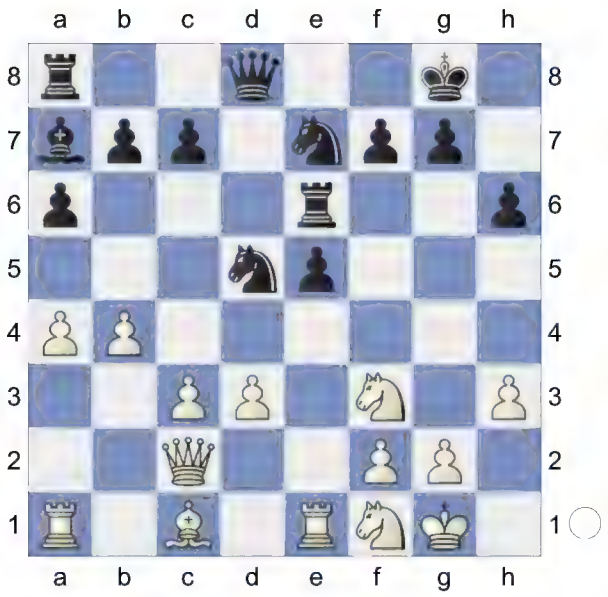


6.0-0 d6 7.c3 a6 8.a4 Ba7 9.h3 h6 10.Re1 White has an edge. **10...Re8**
[10...Ne7 11.Bb3 Ng6 12.d4 Re8 13.Bc2 c6 14.Nf1 Qc7 15.Ng3 Be6 16.Be3 Rad8 17.Qc1 Bb8 18.a5 Rd7 19.Ra4 d5 20.dxe5 Nxe4 21.Bb6 Qc8 22.Nxe4 dxe4 23.Raxe4 Bf5 24.R4e3 Bxc2 25.Qxc2 1-0 (71) Santos Latasa,J (2624)-Pranesh,M (2598) Timisoara Foisor Memorial Rapid 2024 (5)]

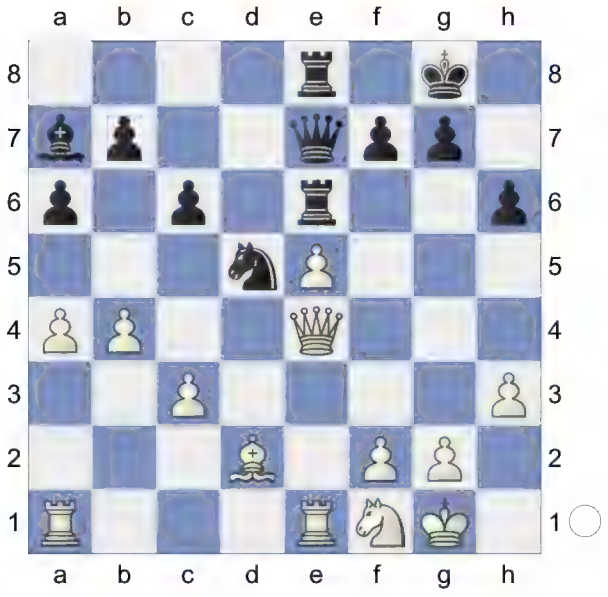
(Diagram)

11.Nf1 Be6 12.Bxe6 Rxe6 13.b4N
[13.Ng3 d5 14.Qe2 a5 15.Nh4 Ne7 16.Nhf5 dxe4 17.dxe4 Nxf5 18.Nxf5 Qd7 19.Qf3 Rd8 20.Bxh6 Nxe4 21.Rxe4 gxh6 22.Qg4+ Rg6 23.Nxh6+ Kf8 24.Qxd7 Rxd7 25.Nf5 Rd2 26.Rf1 Rxb2 27.Rxe5 Bb6 1-0 (39) Adly,A (2620)-Alharari,M (2038) 43rd Olympiad 2018 Open (1.23) 28.Re4 Rd2 29.g4 Rd3 30.Rfe1 Rd8 31.h4 Rf6 32.Kg2 Kg8 33.Re8+ Rxe8 34.Rxe8+ Kh7 35.h5 Re6 36.Rf8 f6 37.Rf7+ Kg8 38.Rg7+ Kh8 39.h6 1-0 Brady,T (2620)-Martin Barcelo,C (2038) Uxbridge 108/(288) 2009 (1.23)]
13...d5 White must now prevent ...dxe4.
14.Qc2 Ne7 15.exd5 Nfxd5

(Diagram)

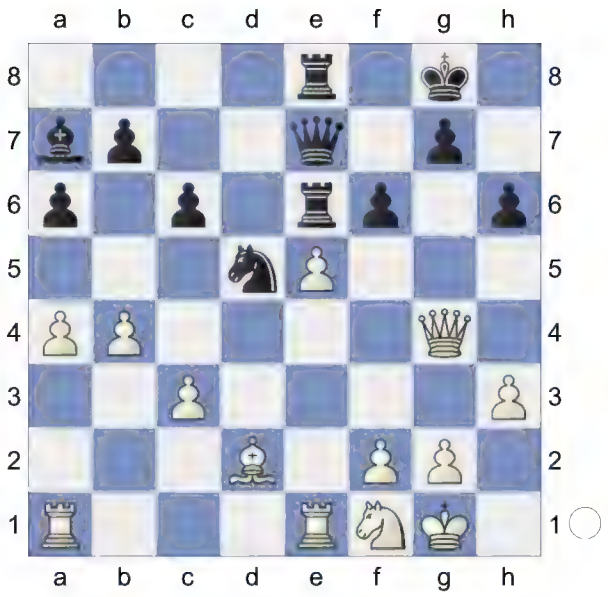


16.Nxe5 Ng6 17.d4 -0.14/4
[17.Nf3!± 0.41/4]
17...Nxe5 0.28/9
[17...Nxb4! -0.14/4 is superior. 18.cxb4 Bxd4]
18.dxe5 Qe7 19.Qe4 c6 20.Bd2 Re8



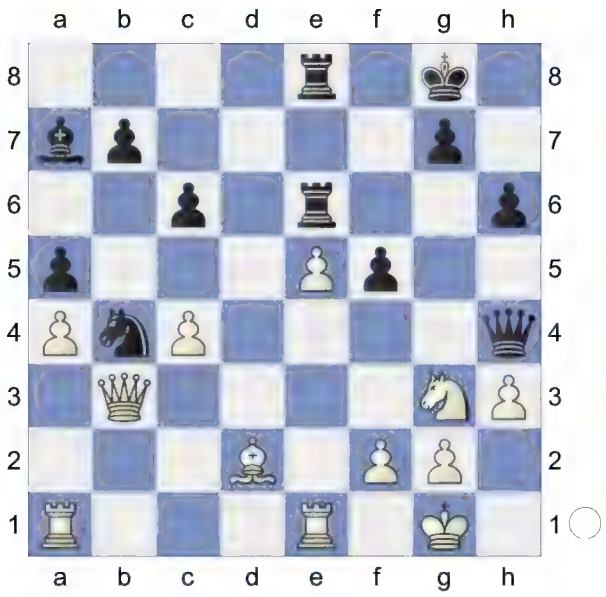
21.Qg4 -0.70/3 Inhibits f6.
[White should play 21.Ng3± 0.31/9]
21...f6? 1.28/3
[21...Rxe5∓ -0.70/3 22.Rxe5 Qxe5]

(Diagram)

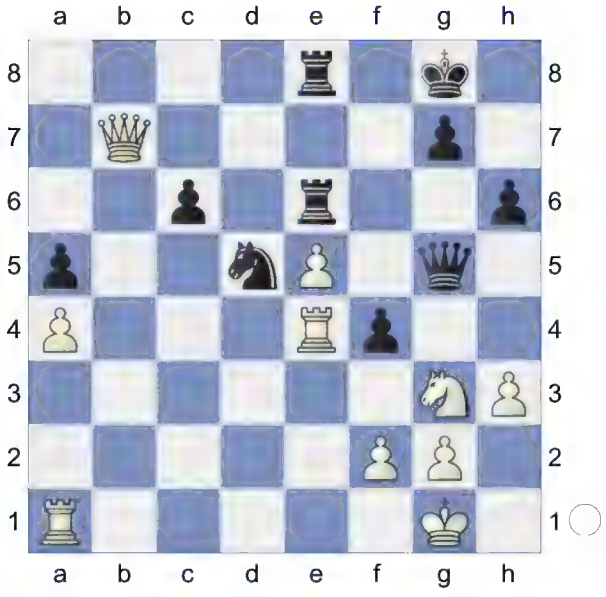


22.c4!±
[22.Bxh6? f5 *(22...Nxc3? 23.Ng3+-)* 23.Qf3 gxh6-+ *(23...Rxh6? 24.Ng3-+)*]
22...f5! 23.Qf3
[23.Qxf5 Rf8 *(23...Nxb4 24.Re2=)* 24.Ng3 Rxf5 *(24...Bxf2+? 25.Qxf2 Rxf2 26.cxd5-+; 24...Nxb4 25.Bxb4 Rxf5 26.Bxe7=)* 25.Nxf5 Bxf2+ 26.Kh1 Qf7 27.cxd5 Re8-+ *(27...cxd5? 28.Re2-+; 27...Bxe1? 28.dxe6 Qxf5 29.Rxe1-+)*]
23...Nxb4 24.Qb3 -0.58/7 Prevents Nc2
[24.Qxf5 Rf8 *(24...Rxe5? 25.Rxe5 Qxe5 26.Qxe5+-)* 25.Qe4 *(25.Bxb4? Rxf5 26.Bxe7 Bxf2+ 27.Kh2 Bxe1-+* Discovered Attack*)* 25...Bxf2+ 26.Kh2 Bxe1 27.Rxe1 Rd8∓]
[24.Rac1!= 0.10/18]
24...a5∓ 25.Ng3 Qh4
[25...Rxe5 26.Rxe5 Qxe5 27.Re1±]

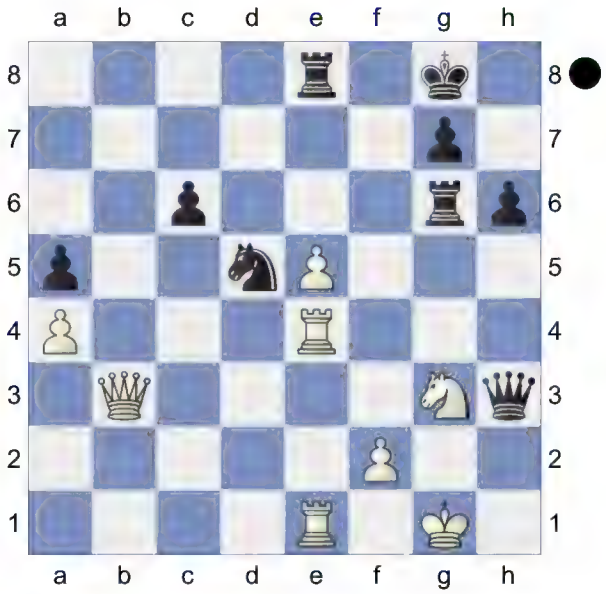
(Diagram)



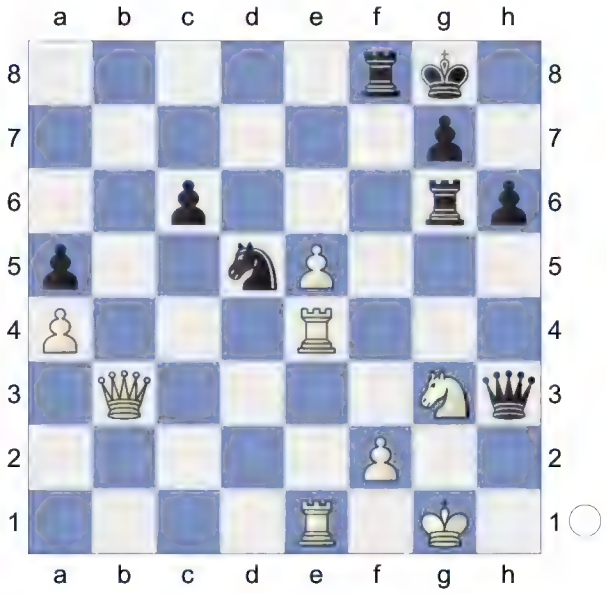
26.c5 Bxc5 27.Be3 -1.59/22
[⌓27.Re2 -0.83/19]
27...Bxe3∓ 28.Rxe3 f4 Black is more active. **29.Re4** -1.42/4
[29.Nf5∓ -0.64/2 Qg5 30.Nxh6+ gxh6 *(30...Qxh6? 31.Rf3-+)* 31.Re4]
29...Nd5 30.Qxb7 -2.23/10
[30.Rae1∓ -1.32/21]
30...Qg5!-+



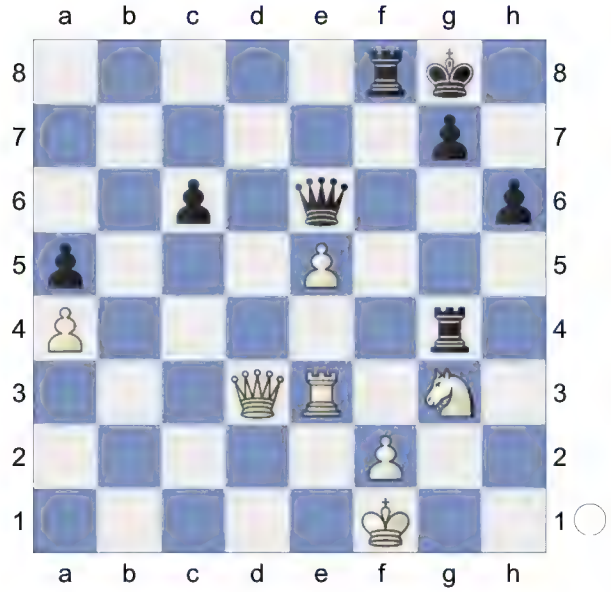
31.Nf1 Rg6!
[31...Rxe5 32.Rxe5 Qxe5 33.Rc1∓ *(33.Qxc6 Nc3=)*]
32.g3 -2.94/19
[⌓32.g4 -2.00/5 fxg3 *(32...Rxe5? 33.Qb8+ Kh7 34.Rxe5+-)* 33.Nxg3]
32...Qf5
[32...Rxe5? 33.Qb8+ Kh7 34.Rxe5+- *(34.Qxe5 Qd8+-)*]
33.Rae1 Qxh3 34.Qb3 -4.03/4
[34.e6 -2.66/2 was called for.]
34...fxg3→ Black is out for blood.
35.Nxg3 -4.45/21
[35.fxg3 -2.59/18 was forced. Rg5 36.R4e2]



35...Rf8



36.R1e3 Rf5 37.Qd1 -9.90/2
Repels Rh5
[37.Rd3 -2.71/3]
37...Nxe3 -4.12/4
[⌓37...Rh5 -9.90/2 38.Qf3 Nxe3 39.Rxe3 Rh4]
38.Rxe3 Rf8 39.Qd3 Qe6 40.Kf1
Weighted Error Value: White=0.63/ Black=0.49
40...Rg4

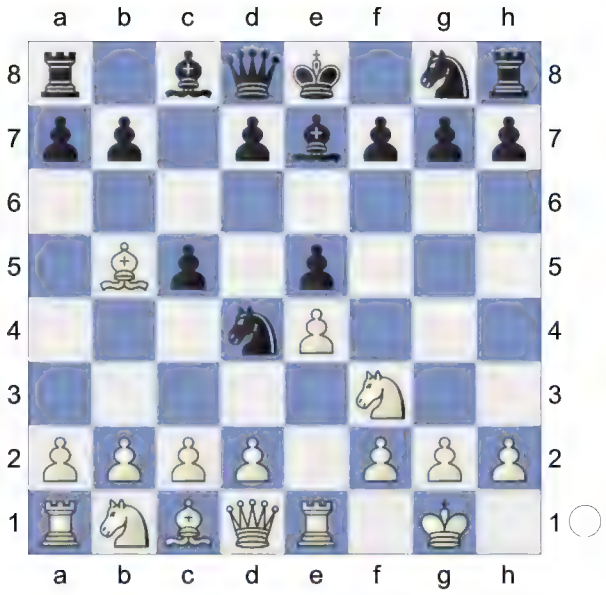


0-1

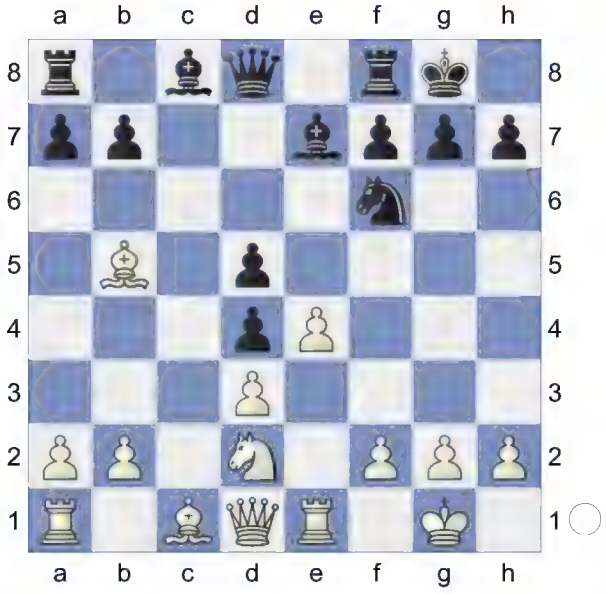
95 **B30**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2720**
■ **Predke,Alexandr** **2689**
Chennai GMs 2023 (4.1) 18.12.2023
[TA]

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6
Vasiukov,Evgeni: 'Vasiukov,E: 'Inf 20/ 370" **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5**
[3.c4 e5 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 f5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Ne1 Rb8 12.f4 exf4 13.gxf4 b5 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.Rb1 Bb7 17.b3 Qa8 Buksa,J (2081)-Jun,R (2200) Hluk 2023 0-1 (43)]
3...e5N
[3...e6 4.d4 Nge7 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.a3 *(11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Qb3 Nb4 13.Rxe7 Qxe7 14.Bxd7 Nxa2 15.Bf5 Nxc1 16.Rxc1 g6 17.Bh3 Rad8 18.g3 Rfe8 19.Ne5 Rd6 20.Rc5 Rb6 21.Qc3 f6 22.Rc7 Qd6 23.Rd7 Qf8 24.Nd3 Rd8 25.Nc5 Qe8* Vasiukov,E-Timoscenko, G USSR 20/370 1975 CI1-130 [Vasiukov,Evgeni] 1-0*)* 11...Rc8 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Be4 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Qc7 17.c4 Red8 18.Rad1 Grischuk,A (2709)-Radjabov,T (2728) Rishon Le Zion ISR 2006 [Jonathan Rowson] 1-0 (72) Na5 19.c5 Bc6 20.h4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Rd5 22.Bf4 Qd8 23.Bd6 Nc4 24.Bg3 Rcxc5 25.dxc5 Rxd1 26.Qxc4 Rxe1+ 27.Nxe1 Qd1 28.Qf1 Qc1 29.a4 Qxc5 30.Nf3 Kg7 31.Qb5 Qxb5 32.axb5 a6 33.b6 Hanke,L (2709)-10. ♗c2 c5 11. ♘bd2_15267 (2728) corr ICCF 2006 200 Traps In The Opening [CPC 1879 p37; ACJ March 1879] 1-0 (72)]
4.0-0 Be7 5.Re1 Nd4

(Diagram)



6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.c3 Nf6 8.cxd4 White is slightly better. **8...exd4 9.d3 0-0! 10.Nd2 d5**



Prevents Bc4. **11.e5 Nd7 12.Nf3 Qb6 13.Ba4** -0.07/19

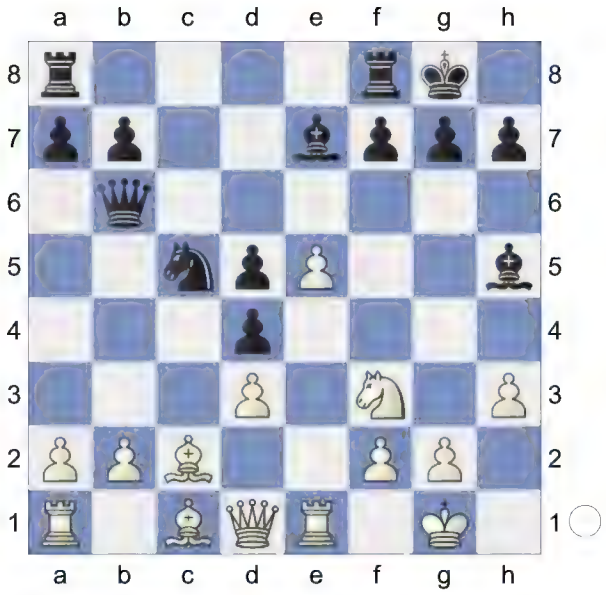
[13.a4!± 0.38/23 was preferrable.]

13...Nc5!= 14.Bc2

[14.Nxd4? Qb4 15.Bc2 Qxd4-+]

14...Bg4 15.h3 Bh5

(Diagram)



16.g4 Bg6 17.Nxd4 And now Nf5 would win. **17...Ne6! 18.Nf3** -0.47/22

[18.Nf5= 0.00/22 is superior. Bc5 19.Be3]

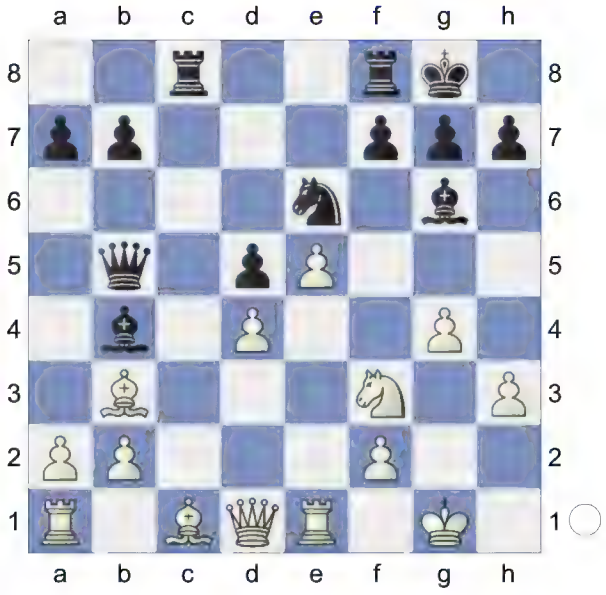
18...Rac8 0.00/21

[18...Bc5∓ -0.47/22 19.Be3 Qxb2]

19.Bb3 Qb5 0.38/25

[19...Rcd8= 0.00/21]

20.d4± Bb4



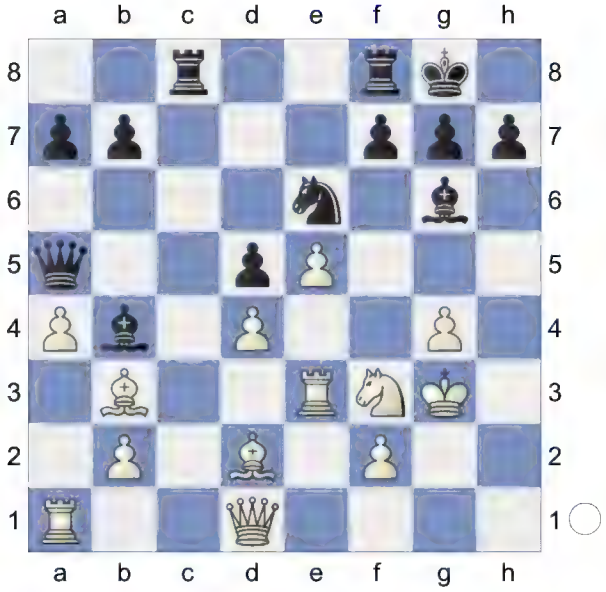
21.Re3

[21.Bd2 Be4 22.Bxb4 Qxb4=]

21...Nf4 1.46/19

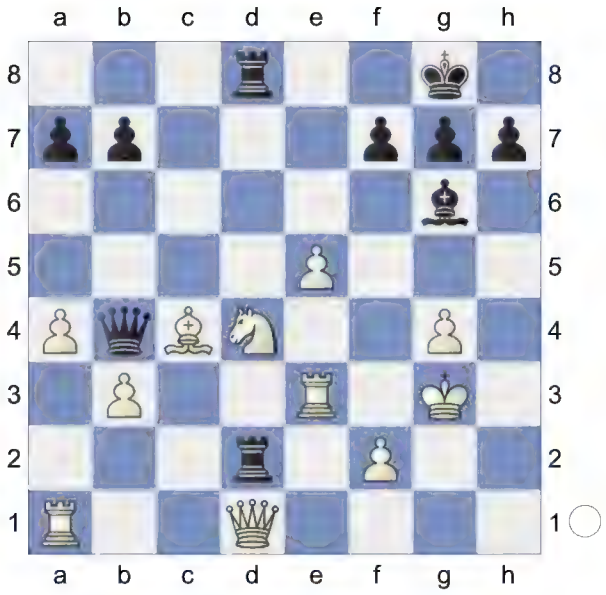
[Better is 21...Be4± 0.45/21]

22.Bd2 0.66/18
[22.Nh4!± 1.46/19]
22...Nxh3+ 23.Kg2 Nf4+ 24.Kg3 aiming for Bxb4. **24...Ne6** 0.85/23
[24...Bxd2!± 0.43/23 25.Qxd2 Ne6]
25.a4± Qa5

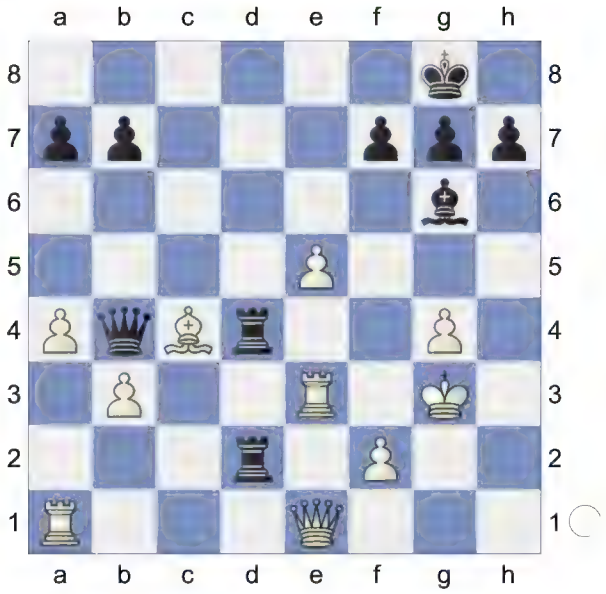


26.Bxb4 Qxb4 27.Bxd5 Rc2 1.74/19
[27...Rfd8± 0.84/22 was necessary. 28.Qb3 *(28.Rb3 Qf8±)* 28...Qxb3 29.Bxb3 Nxd4]
28.b3!+-
[28.Rb3?! Qa5 29.Rb5 *(29.Bxb7 Qd8±)* 29...Qd8±]
28...Rd8 29.Bc4 Nxd4 1.85/23
[29...h6± 1.30/18 30.Qe1 Qxe1 31.Nxe1 Nxd4]
30.Nxd4 Rd2

(Diagram)

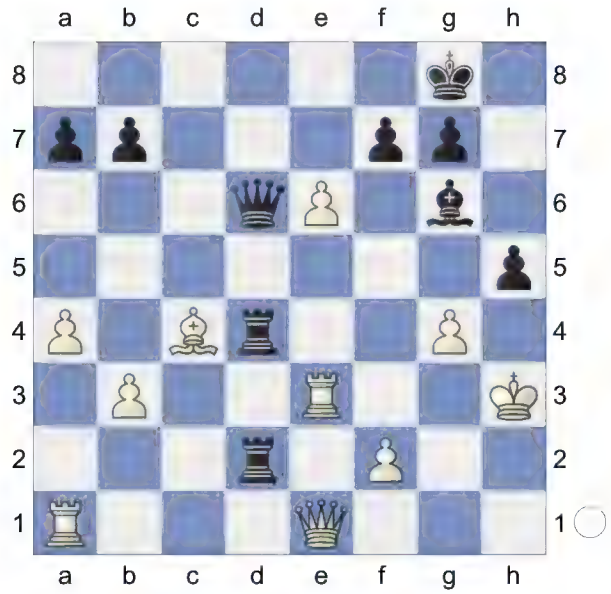


31.Qe1!
[Don't blunder 31.Bxf7+? Bxf7 32.Nc2 Rxd1-+]
31...R8xd4



32.e6→ 1.18/21 Black is in trouble.
[32.Ra2!+- 2.10/22]
32...Qd6+ 2.07/22
[32...Rxc4± 1.18/21 keeps fighting. 33.exf7+ Bxf7 34.bxc4 Qd6+ 35.Kg2 Qd7]
33.Kh3 White threatens exf7+ and mate.
33...h5? 4.70/27
[33...fxe6 1.72/21 was called for.

34.Rxe6 R2d3+ 35.Bxd3 Rxd3+ 36.Kg2 *(36.Re3 Rd4±)* 36...Qf4]



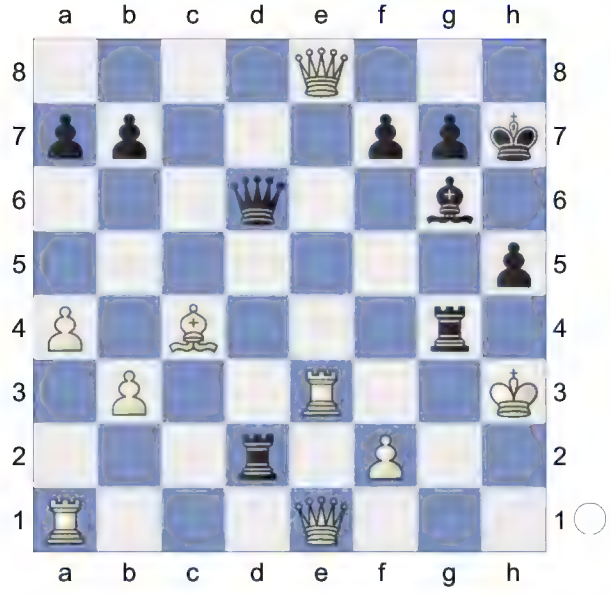
34.e7!

[Wrong is 34.exf7+? Bxf7 35.Re8+ Kh7 36.Bxf7 R4d3+ 37.Re3 Rxe3+ 38.Qxe3 Rd3-+]

34...Rxg4 8.01/21

[⌓34...hxg4+ 4.39/19 35.Kg2 Qc6+ 36.Kg1 Be4]

35.e8Q+ Kh7

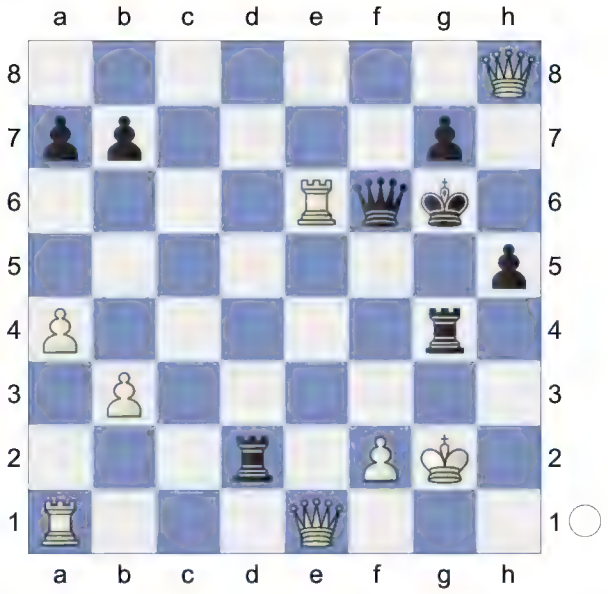


36.Bxf7 Intending Qg8+ and mate.

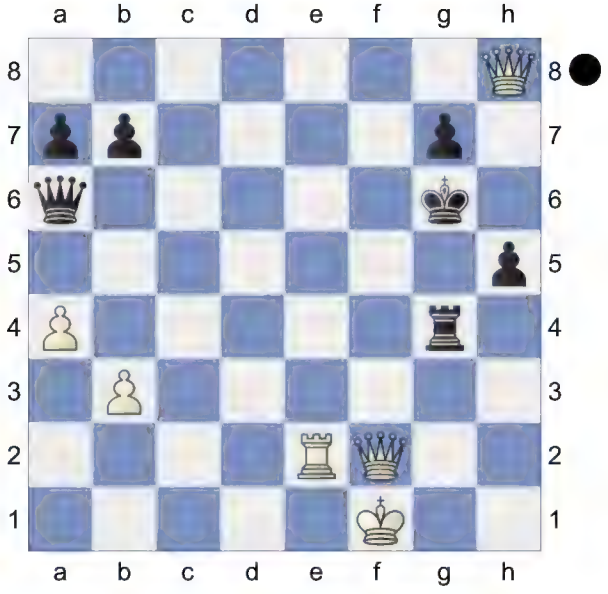
36...Qf6 37.Bxg6+ 12.31/18

[⌓37.Qg8+ #17/19 Kh6 38.Qh8+ Bh7 39.Re6 Rd3+ 40.Kh2 Kg5 41.Rxf6 Rh4+ 42.Kg1]

37...Kh6 38.Qh8+ Kxg6 39.Re6 Rh4+ 40.Kg2 Rg4+



41.Kf1 Rxf2+ 42.Qxf2 Qxe6 43.Re1 Qa6+ 44.Re2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.66

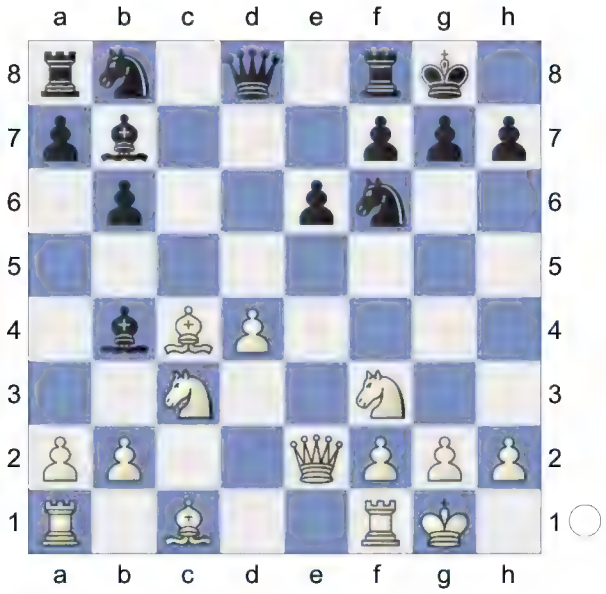
1-0

96 **E54**
□ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2742**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2720**
Chennai GMs 2023 (3.1) 17.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

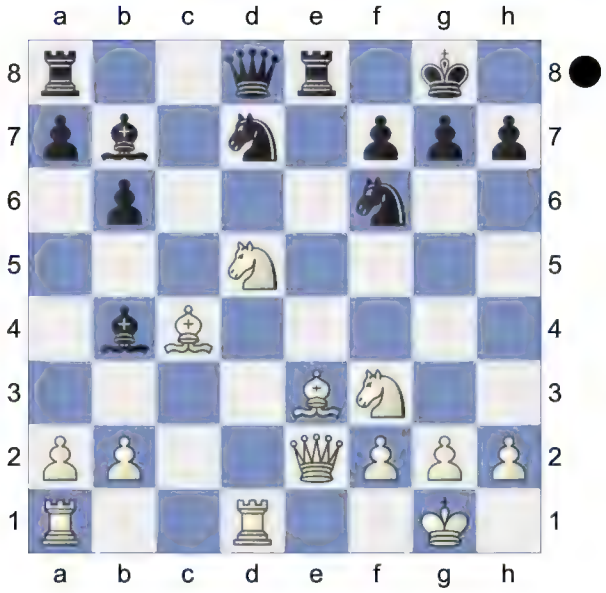
E55: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: Main Line: 7...dxc4 8 Bxc4 Nbd7

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5

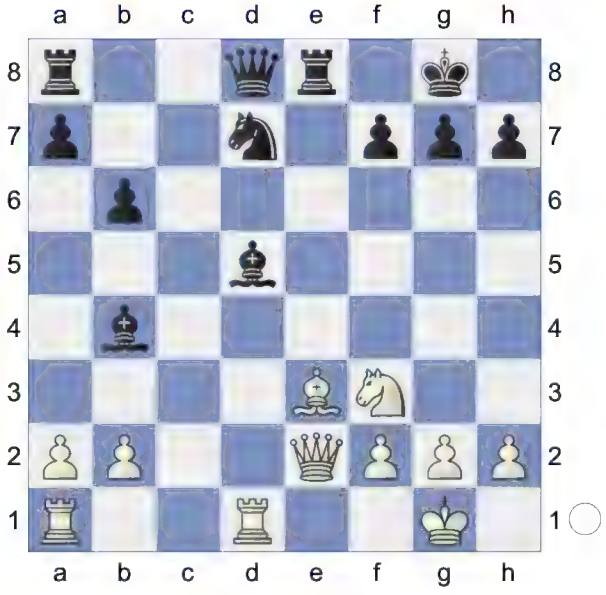
6.Nf3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9.exd4 b6 10.Qe2 Bb7



11.Rd1 Nbd7 12.d5 exd5 is now debated instead of 12...Bxc3. wird nun anstelle von 12...Lxc3 disktutiert. **13.Nxd5 Re8 14.Be3**



Hoping for Nd5xf6+. **14...Nxd5** The position is equal. **15.Bxd5 Bxd5**



16.Rxd5 Ra1-d1 is the strong threat.
16...Qc7 17.Qb5 Nf6 18.Rc1 Qb7 19.Rdd1 Bf8 20.a4N
[20.h3 h6 21.Qf5 Qe4 22.Qxe4 Nxe4 23.Rc7 Bd6 24.Rd7 Bc5 25.Bxc5 Nxc5 26.Rc7 Ne6 27.Rb7 Nc5 28.Rc7 Ne6 29.Rb7 Nc5

30.Rc7 Ne6 ½-½ Bu,X (2689)-Wang, H (2702) CHN-chT Div-A 2024 (11.1)]

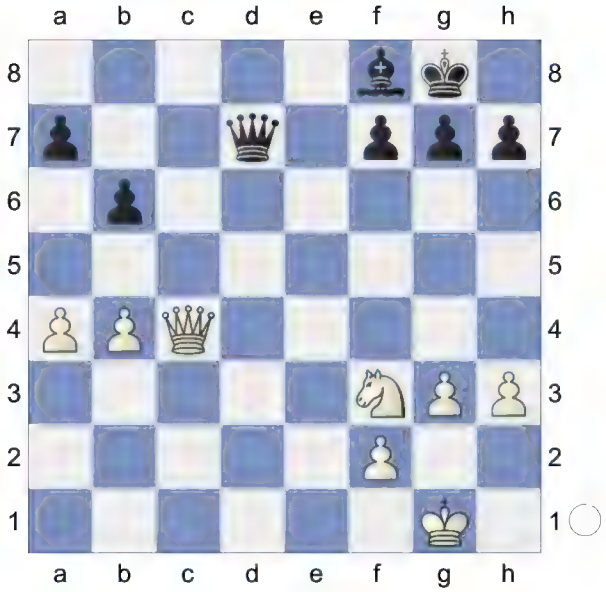
20...Rac8N

[Vorgänger: 20...Rad8 21.a5 Rd5 22.a6 Qa8 23.Rxd5 Nxd5 24.Bd4 Nf4 aiming for ...Nf4-e2+. 25.Kf1 Rc8 26.Rc4 Rxc4 27.Qxc4 ½-½ Euwe,M-Unzicker,W Match/Nation GER-NED 1957 (1.1)]

21.Rxc8 Qxc8 22.h3 Rd8 23.Rxd8 Qxd8 24.Bd4 Nd5 25.Qc4 Nc7

26.g3 Ne6 27.Bc3 Nc5 28.Bd4 Qd7

29.Bxc5 Bxc5 30.b4 Bf8



An uneventful encounter.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

½-½

97 **C50**

□ **Niemann,Hans Moke** **2659**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2746**

13th London Classic 2023 (9.4) 10.12.23

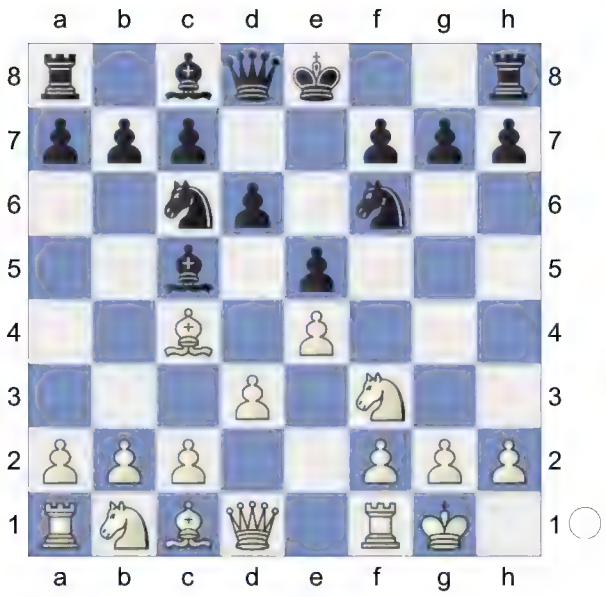
[TA]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3

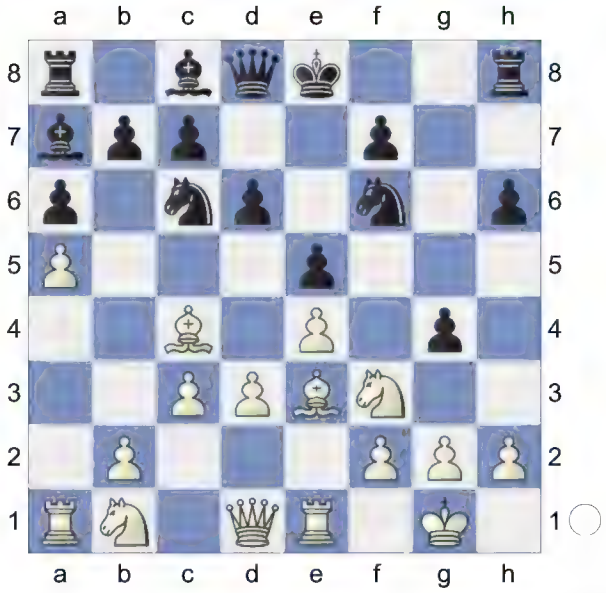
C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.0-0 d6

(Diagram)



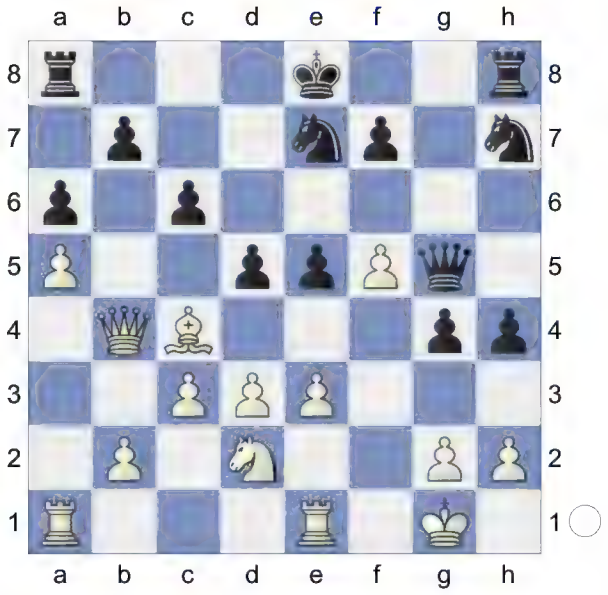
6.c3 a6 7.a4 Ba7 8.Re1
[8.Nbd2 0-0 9.h3 Re8 10.Re1 Be6 11.Bxe6 Rxe6 12.b4 d5 13.Qc2 d4 14.Bb2 Nh5 15.b5 dxc3 16.Bxc3 Nd4 17.Bxd4 Bxd4 18.Nxd4 Qxd4 19.Nb3 Qd8 20.g3 Rh6 21.Kg2 Qg5 22.Rh1 Rd8 Lunacek,J (2702)-Ferri,S (2732) Wheeling 2023 TD 92\01 [John Watson] 0-1 (40)]
8...h6 9.a5N White is slightly better.
[9.b4 0-0 10.Ra2 Ne7 11.Nbd2 Ng6 12.Nf1 c6 13.Bb3 Be6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Ng3 Qe8 16.d4 Rd8 17.h3 exd4 18.cxd4 e5 19.Be3 exd4 20.Bxd4 Bxd4 21.Nxd4 Qf7 22.Rd2 Ne5 23.Ndf5 Ne8 Nevednichy,V (2499)-Makropoulou,M (2153) Assisi 2022 1-0 24.f4 Nc4 25.Rf2 b5 26.e5 Nc7 27.Qg4 Kh7 28.e6 1-0 (28) Cardenas,R (2499)-Medvegy,Z (2153) Amsterdam 2022 Inf 70 [John Watson]]
[9.Nbd2 0-0 10.h3 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.b4 Nh5 13.Nf1 Nf4 14.Ra2 Qe8 15.Kh2 Qh5 16.Ng1 Qxd1 17.Rxd1 Rad8 18.b5 Ne7 19.Nf3 Neg6 20.d4 exd4 21.cxd4 axb5 22.axb5 Bb6 23.Be3 Ra8 Saric,I (2647)-Parligras,M (2561) Douglas 2023 Mega2024 Update 01 [Kitty Kat] 1-0 (62)]
9...g5 10.Be3 g4



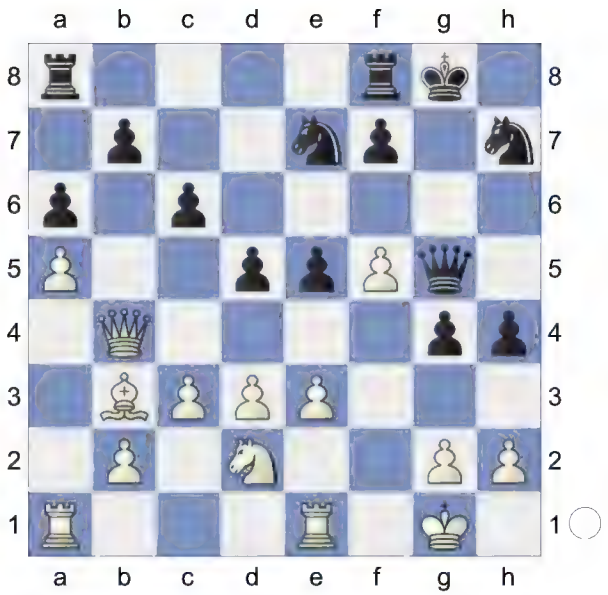
Threatens to win with ...Bxe3. **11.Nfd2 Bxe3 12.fxe3 Nh7**
[12...h5 is more complex. 13.Rf1 Rh6 14.d4 Kf8]
13.Nf1 -0.97/21
[13.Bb3= -0.19/22 remains equal.]
13...h5!∓ 14.Ng3 Qg5 -0.60/21
[14...h4∓ -0.96/23 15.Nh1 Bd7]
15.Nd2∓ Ne7 -0.28/19
[15...h4 16.Nf5=]
[15...0-0∓ -0.66/23]

(Diagram)

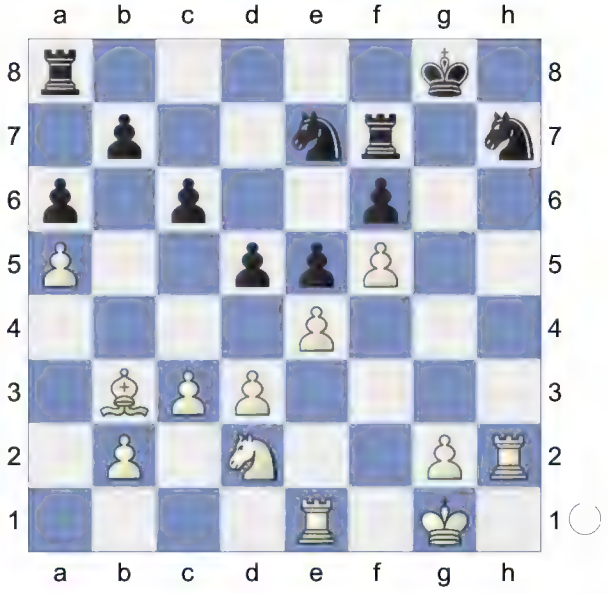
16.Qa4+= c6 17.Qb4↑ White has good play. **17...h4 18.Nf5**
[18.Qxd6 hxg3 19.hxg3 Nf8∓]
18...Bxf5 0.45/21
[18...Nxf5= -0.22/23 19.exf5 d5]
19.exf5± d5



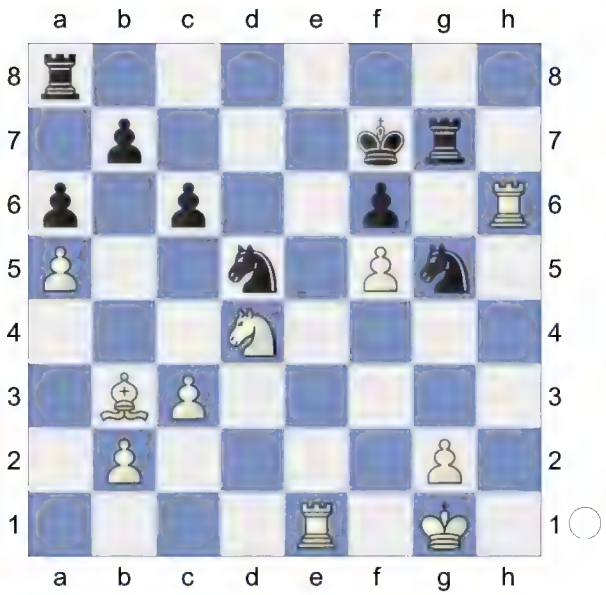
Against Ne4 **20.Bb3** -0.02/20
[20.Qxb7!± 0.36/21 was preferrable. 0-0 21.Bb3 *(21.Bxa6 Rfb8=)*]
20...0-0? 2.01/22
[20...0-0-0!= -0.02/20 and Black has nothing to worry.]



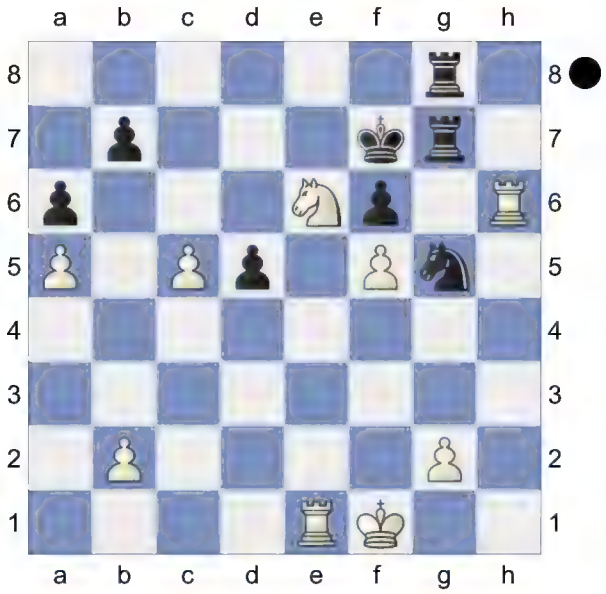
A mistake that costs the game.
21.Ra4!+-
[Worse is 21.Qxb7 Rfe8±]
21...g3 22.Qxh4 Qxh4 23.Rxh4 aiming for e4. **23...gxh2+** 3.04/22
[⌓23...Nxf5 2.11/22 24.Rg4+ Kh8 25.hxg3 f6]
24.Rxh2
[Less strong is 24.Kxh2 Kg7 25.e4 Rh8 26.Rg4+ Kf8±]
24...f6 25.e4 Rf7



26.Nf3 Rg7 27.d4 exd4 28.Nxd4 Ng5 29.exd5 Nxd5 30.Rh6 Kf7



31.Kf1 Rag8 32.c4 White is clearly winning. **32...Nc7 33.c5+ Nd5 34.Bxd5+ cxd5 35.Ne6**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.38

1-0

98 **D37**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2746**

■ **McShane,Luke J** **2626**

13th London Classic 2023 (6.4) 07.12.23

[TA]

D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation

E56: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: Main Line: 7...Nc6 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.cxd5N**

[5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 *(6.b3 c5 7.Bb2 cxd4 8.exd4 Nc6 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Bd3 Bb4 11.Qc2 Nf6 12.Rd1 a6 13.0-0 Bd6 14.Rfe1 Nb4 15.Qd2 Nxd3 16.Qxd3 Be7 17.Ne4 Bd7 18.Nfg5 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 Bc6 20.Rc1 Qd5* Rama,F (1564)-Niori,T Montesilvano 2024 1-0*)* 6...c5 *(6...dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 a6 9.Qe2 b5 10.Bb3 cxd4 11.exd4 Bb7 12.Bg5 Nc6 13.Rad1 Nb4 14.Ne5 Nbd5 15.Rd3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Ne4 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Re3 Nf6 19.Bc2 Qd6 20.Rg3 g6 21.h4* Alatortsev,V-Kan,I Moscow 1937 EXT 2012 [Primel,Dominique] 1-0 (41) *Rac8 22.h5 Rc7 23.Re1 b4 24.hxg6 fxg6 25.cxb4 Rfc8 26.Bxg6 hxg6 27.Rxg6+ Rg7 28.Rxf6 Rxg2+ 29.Kf1 Qxd4 30.Rg6+ Rxg6 31.Nxg6 Re8 32.Qh5 Kg7 33.Ne5 Rf8 34.Qg6+ Kh8 35.Qh6+ Kg8 36.Qxe6+* Alatortsev,V-Petrosian,T Moscow 1950 [ChessCalisthenics] ½-½ (41) *)* 7.cxd5 cxd4 8.exd4 Nxd5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.a3 Bf6 12.Be3 Rd8 13.Qc2 g6 14.Be4 Qd6 15.Rfd1 Bd7 16.d5 Ne5 17.Bc5 Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Rac8 19.Rac1 Qe5 Rac,V-Vojacek,Z Brno 1996 EXT 1999 [Bulletin] ½-½]

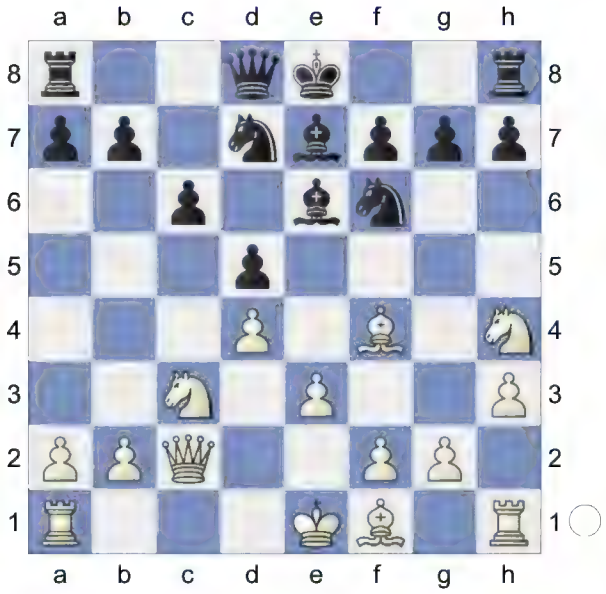
[5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 c6 7.0-0 a5 8.b3 b6 9.Bb2 Ba6 10.Nd2 b5 11.Qc2 Nbd7 12.Rfd1 Rc8 13.e4 dxc4 14.bxc4 bxc4 15.Na4 c3 16.Bxc3 Bb5 17.Nc5 Nxc5 18.dxc5 Be2 19.Re1 Bd3 Ciocaltea,V (2689)-Roehrich,S (2735) Alushta 2023 CBM 068 ext [John Watson] 1-0 (66)]

5...exd5

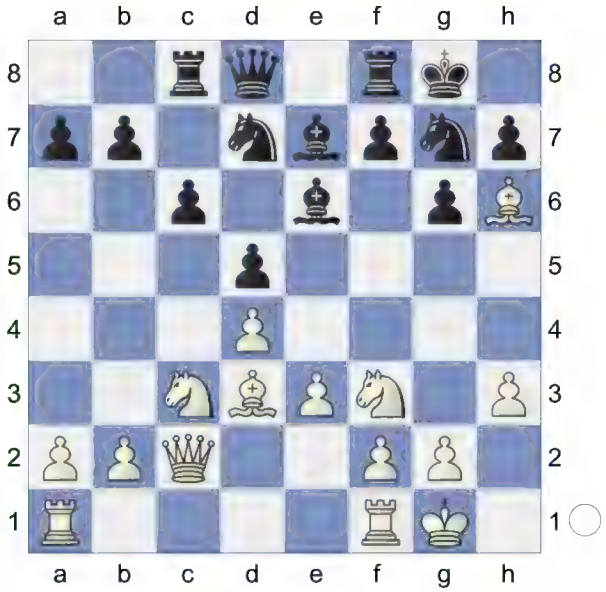
6.Bf4 c6 7.e3 Bf5 8.Nh4 Bg4 9.Qc2 Nbd7 0.44/25

[9...Nh5= 0.10/23 10.h3 Be6]

10.h3± White is slightly better. **10...Be6**



11.Nf3 Rc8 12.Be2 g6 13.Bd3 0-0 14.0-0 Nh5 15.Bh6 Ng7



16.Ne2 Re8 17.g4 c5 18.dxc5 Nxc5 19.Nf4 -0.06/24

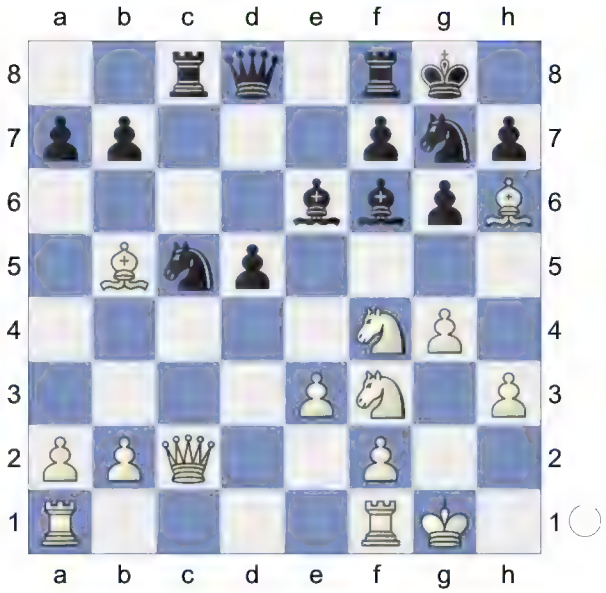
[Much worse is 19.Qc3 Bf6 20.Ned4 Bd7∓]

[19.Bb5± 0.40/19 feels stronger.]

19...Bf6 0.34/22

[19...Bd7!= -0.06/24 is more appropriate.]

20.Bb5 Rf8



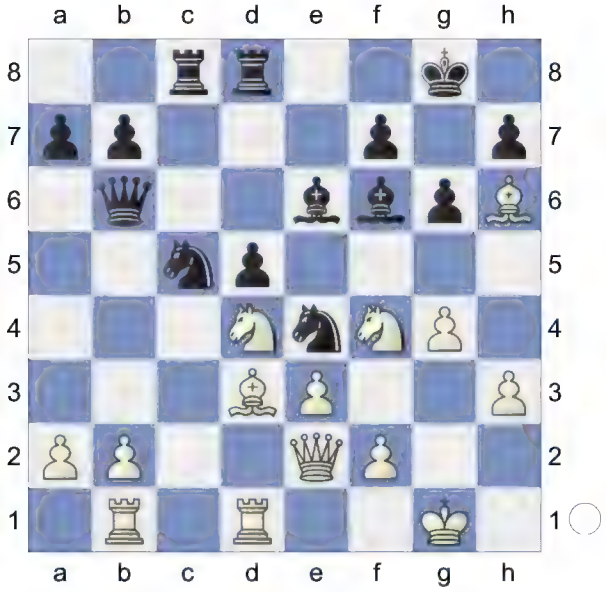
21.Rab1 0.10/22

[21.Rac1± 0.43/23]

21...Qb6= 22.Qe2 Rfd8 23.Nd4 Ne8 0.30/24

[23...a6 -0.12/25 might be stronger. 24.Bd3 Bxd4 25.exd4 Nxd3 26.Nxd3 *(26.Qxd3 Bf5∓)* 26...Qxd4]

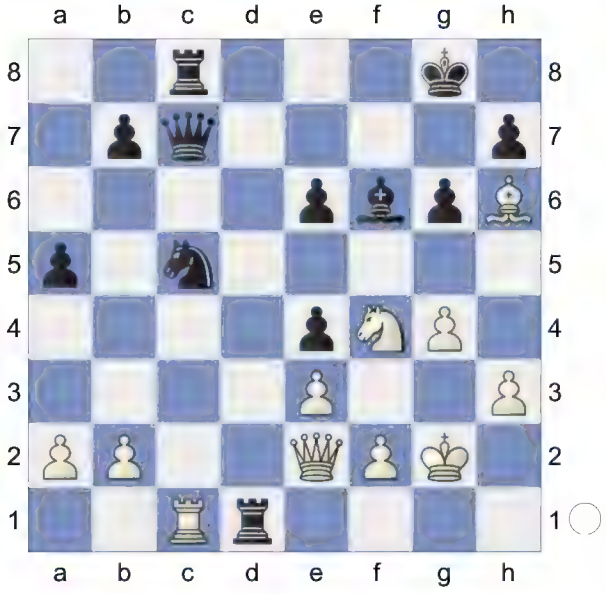
24.Rfd1 Nd6 25.Bd3 Nde4



26.Bc2 a5 27.Kg2 Qc7 28.Ndxe6 0.11/23

[28.Rbc1± 0.55/21 Qe7 29.f3]

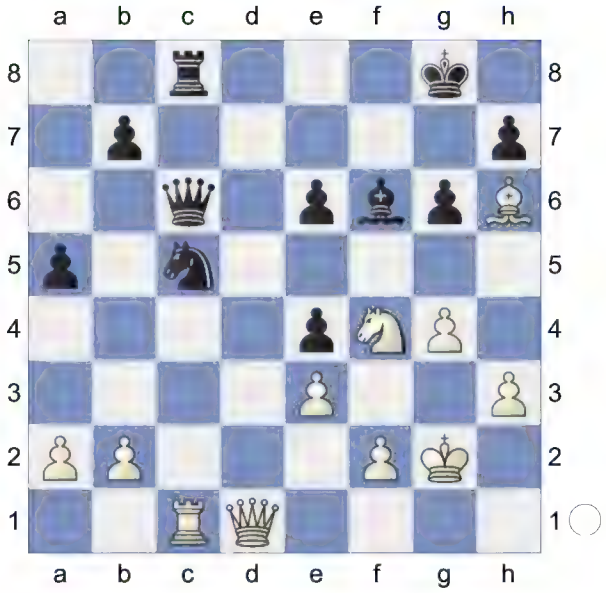
28...fxe6 29.Bxe4 dxe4 30.Rbc1 Rxd1



31.Qxd1 Qc6 0.87/27

[31...Bxb2? 32.Nxe6! Qe7 33.Rxc5 Rxc5 34.Nxc5+-]

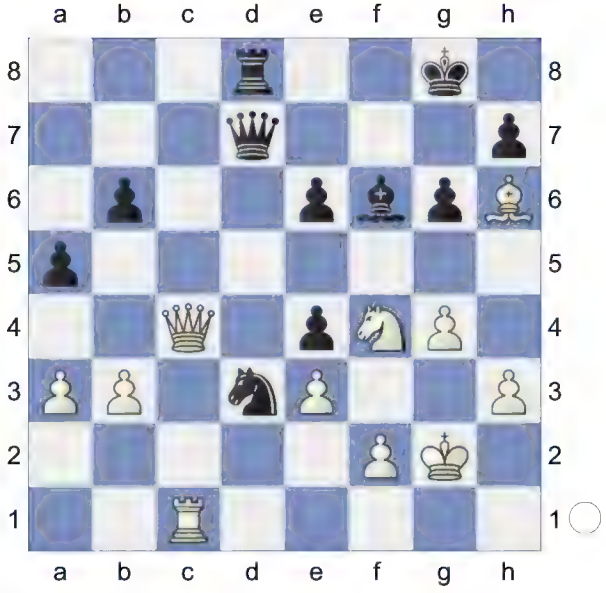
[31...Qe7= 0.00/26 keeps the balance.]



32.b3 0.00/31

[32.g5!± 0.87/27 Bxb2 33.Rc2]

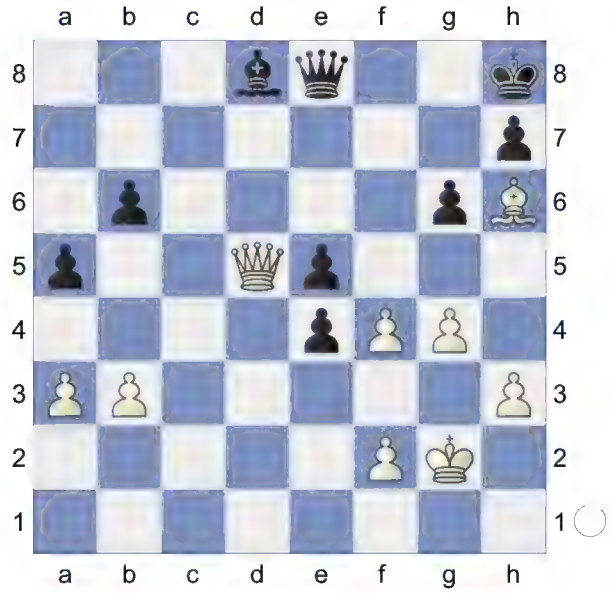
32...Rd8 33.Qe2 Rxc5! is the strong threat. **33...b6 34.a3** And now b4 would win. **34...Qd7 35.Qc4 Nd3**



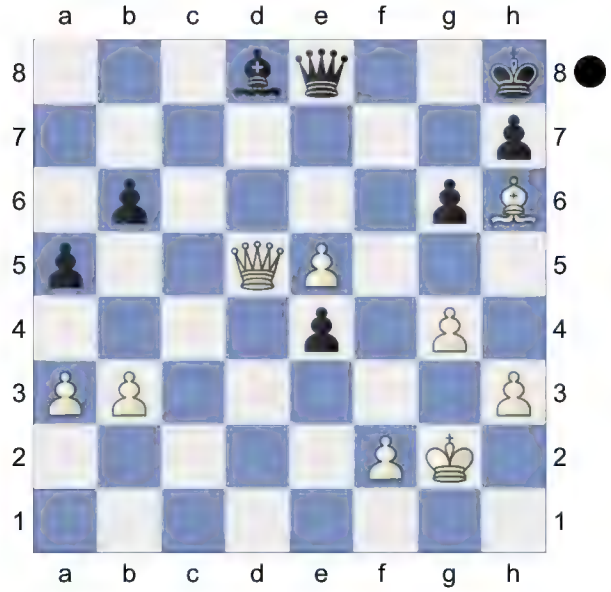
36.Rd1

[Reject 36.Nxe6 b5 37.Qxe4 *(37.Qc6 Nxc1 38.Nxd8 Qxc6∓)* 37...Nxc1∓]

36...Nxf4+ 5.29/21 This costs Black the game.
[36...Kf7= 0.10/19 and Black has nothing to worry. 37.Kg1 Qe7]
37.exf4+- White is clearly winning.
37...Qe8 38.Rxd8 Bxd8 39.Qd4 Inhibits Qd7. **39...e5 40.Qd5+ Kh8**



41.fxe5



Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.45
1-0

99 **C42**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2746**
■ **Moussard,J** **2639**
13th London Classic 2023 (4.5) 04.12.23
[TA]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3

6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nd7 9.0-0-0 Nf6 10.Bd3 White has an edge.
10...Re8

(Diagram)

11.a3N

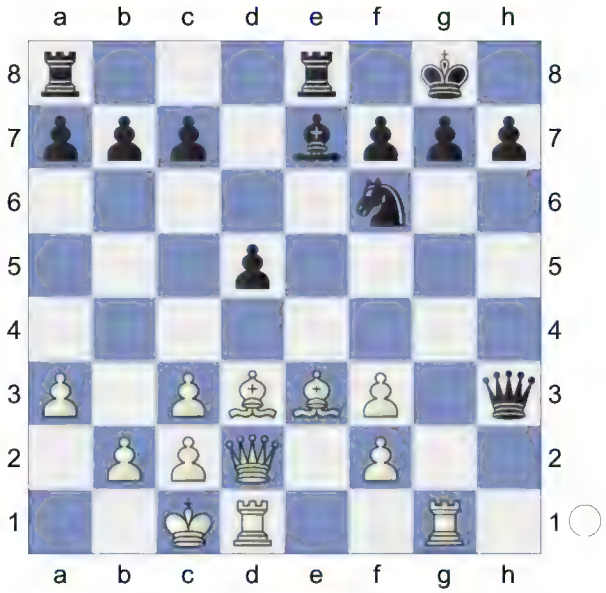
[11.Rhe1 Bg4 12.Kb1 *(12.Bg5 Qd7 13.a3 Bf5 14.Nd4 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Nd5 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.h4 Ng6 18.h5 Ne5 19.Qg3 h6 20.Re4 Nc6 21.Rg4 Nxd4 22.Rxg7+ Kh8 23.cxd4 Qf5 24.f3 Re2 25.Rd2 Rxd2 26.Kxd2 Re8* Molina,R (2863)-Deslandes,P (2835) Banjaluka 27/551 2020 CBM 051 Extra [Papp,Petra] 1-0 (57) *)* 12...Qd7 *(12...d5 13.Bd4 Bxf3 14.gxf3 c5 15.Be5 Bd6 16.f4 c4 17.Bxc4 Bxe5 18.fxe5 dxc4 19.Qxd8 Raxd8 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.exf6 gxf6 22.Kc1 Rd5 23.Re4 Rf5 24.Rxc4 Rxf2 25.h4 f5 26.Rc7 f4 27.Rxb7* Ibarra Jerez,J (2559)-Yoo,C (2588) Chess.com INT 2025 1-0 (42)) 13.Qe2 Bf8 14.h3 Bf5 15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.g4 Qe4 17.c4 g6 18.Nd4 b6 19.Nb5 Qc6 20.Qd3 a6 21.Nc3 Bg7 22.Bd4 Rxe1 23.Rxe1 Re8 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.a3 Qe1+ Aryan,C (2620)-Stoyanov, T (2471) Mamaia 2024 1-0 (79)]

[11.h3 d5 12.c4 dxc4 13.Bxc4 Qxd2+ 14.Rxd2 Bd6 15.Re2 h6 16.Rhe1 Bd7 17.Bd4 Rxe2 18.Rxe2 b5 19.Bd3 Nd5 20.Ne5 Be8 21.Be4 c6 22.g3 a6 23.Nd3 Bd7 24.Bg2 Be6 25.Nc5 Bf5 Modestov,B (2657)-Panov Botvinnik Attack (2779) Madrid 2023 Inf87 [John Watson] ½-½ (74)]

11...d5 12.Rhe1 Bg4 13.h3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qd7 0.29/6

[14...a6 -0.03/25 feels stronger.]

15.Rg1 Qxh3



16.Bd4 And now Qf4 would win. **16...g6 17.Qf4 Nh5 18.Qxc7**

[Reject 18.Qe5 Bf6 19.Qxd5 c6∓]

18...Qxf3 1.28/6

[18...Bf6!± 0.62/6]

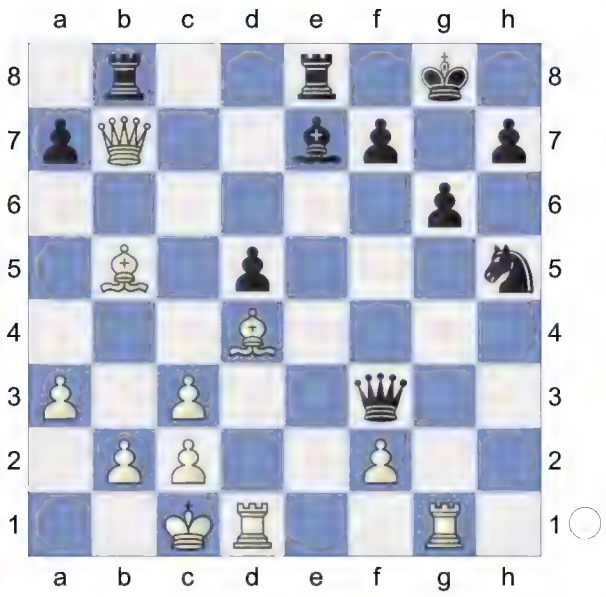
19.Bb5↑ White has some pressure.

19...Rac8 2.65/3

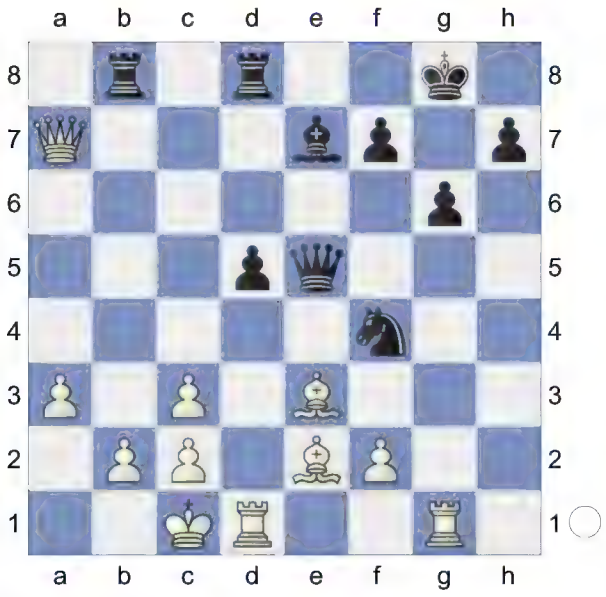
[19...Qf4+= 0.30/6 and Black is okay. 20.Qxf4 Nxf4]

20.Qxb7+- Rb8

(Diagram)

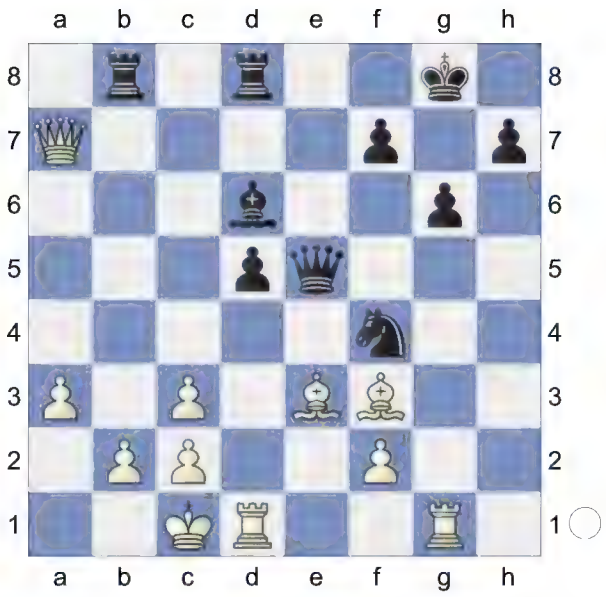


21.Qa6 Red8 2.47/6
[21...Bf6 1.94/5 was called for.]
22.Be2 This bishop pair is nice.
[Weaker is 22.Qxa7 Bxa3 23.Qxa3 Rxb5±]
22...Qf4+ 23.Be3 Qe5 24.Qxa7 aiming for Bxh5. **24...Nf4** 1.83/3
[24...Ng7± 1.35/5]

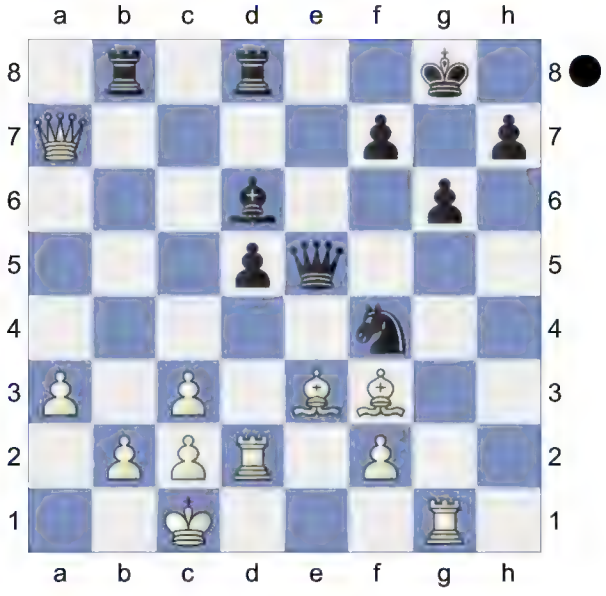


25.Bf3! Bd6

(Diagram)



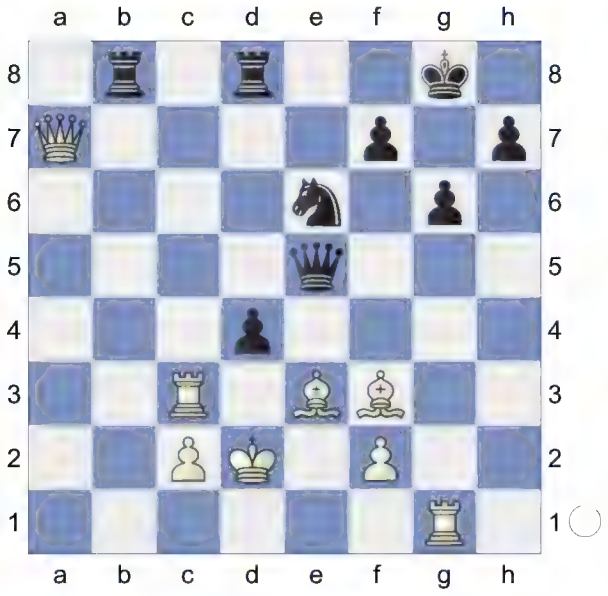
26.Rd2?? -2.14/5
[26.Qd4+- 2.34/5]



26...Bxa3!-+ 27.Rd4? -3.15/5
[27.Qxa3∓ -1.38/5 is the only way for White. Ra8 28.Qxa8 Rxa8 29.Rdd1]
27...Bxb2+ 28.Kd2 Ne6 The board is on fire. **29.Rd3** -6.54/4
[⌓29.Qa5 -4.09/4]

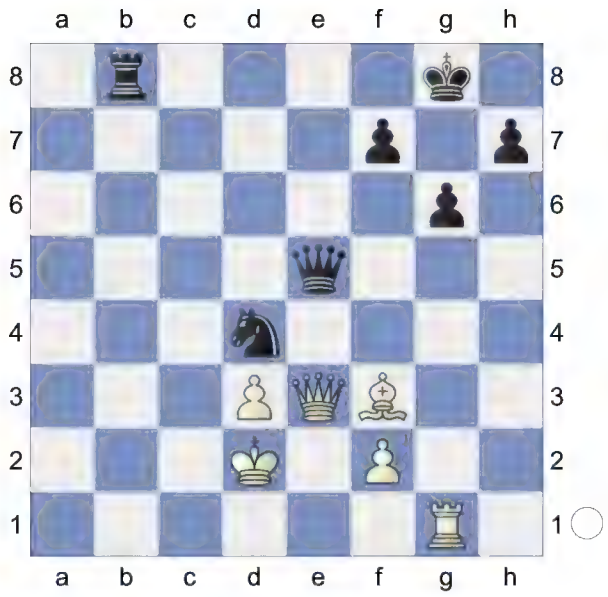
(Diagram)

29...Bxc3+! Black is clearly winning.
30.Rxc3
[30.Kd1 Rb1+]
30...d4



31.Rd3 dxe3+ 32.Qxe3 -8.07/3
[⌓32.fxe3 -4.65/3 Rxd3+ 33.Kxd3 Rd8+ 34.Ke2 Nd4+ 35.Kf2 Qh2+ 36.Rg2 Qh4+ 37.Rg3]
32...Rxd3+ 33.cxd3 Nd4

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.76/ Black=0.22 (precise)
0-1

100 **A34**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2746**
■ **Volokitin,Andrei** **2660**
13th London Classic 2023 (3.1) 03.12.23
[David Cummings]

A34: Symmetrical English: 2 Nc3, lines with ...d5
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 d5
[3...e6 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.d4 cxd4 7.Qxd4 Nc6 8.Qa4 d4 9.Ne4 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 Bb4+ 11.Kf1 Qb6 12.a3 Be7 13.Kg2 0-0 14.Nf3 Bf6 15.Qc2 h6 16.Bf4 Be6 17.Bd6 Rfc8 18.Qd2 ½-½ (34) Grekh,A (1782)-MacFarland,J (2354) Lloyds Bank op 12th 1988 (1)]
4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nc7N
[5...Nxc3 6.bxc3 e5 7.d3 Nc6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rb1 Rb8 *(10...Qa5 11.Qc2 Qa6 12.Nd2 Be6 13.f4 exf4 14.Rxf4 b5 15.a4 b4*

16.Bxc6 b3 17.Nxb3 Qxc6 18.Na5 Qa6 19.Nc4 Rab8 20.Rxb8 Rxb8 21.Re4 g5 22.Ne3 Qc6 23.Bd2 Rb7 24.g4 Bf6 25.Qc1 1-0 (36) Danev,V-De Gregorio,A (2385) 35/531 Linares 1983 (9) *)* 11.Nd2 Be6 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Rxb8 Qxb8 14.Qa4 a5 15.Ba3 Qb5 16.Qc2 a4 17.Rb1 Qa5 18.c4 Ra8 19.Bb2 f6 20.Bc3 ½-½ (79) Krueger,A (2689)-Roehrich,S (2721) 4NCL Birmingham 2001 (6.5) Qd8 21.Qb2 Qe8 22.Ne4 Bf5 23.f3 Bxe4 24.dxe4 Bd6 25.Qc2 Qf7 26.Bd2 Bf8 27.Be3 Qc7 28.Kf2 h6 29.Qb2 a3 30.Qc2 Kh7 31.Rb3 Ra4 32.Bc1 Qf7 33.Rc3 Qa7 34.Qd3 Qf7 35.Be3 ½-½ (79) Korobov,A (2689)-Yu,Y (2721) EU-Cup 32nd Novi Sad 2016 (6.5)]

6.b3 A rare setup against the Rubinstein system. White aims for quick pressure against the c5-pawn with Bc1-b2 and Ra1-c1, and also delays Ng1-f3, often developing with Ng1-h3 instead. White has many alternatives (game references can be found in the PGN Archives):

[6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.d3 Be7 is the long-standing mainline, see Niemann-Ganguly, and earlier games in the Archives.]

[6.d3 e5 7.Be3 Be7 8.Rc1 is another plan - see Aronian-Nepomniachtchi]

[6.Qb3 Nd7 7.Nf3 e5 is covered in M.Gurevich-Iturrizaga]

[6.Qa4+ Bd7 7.Qb3 is dealt with in Markowski-Tomczak]

6...e5 7.Bb2 Be7 8.Rc1 0-0 Black has also tried:

[8...f6 9.Nh3 Be6 10.f4! Qd7 11.Nf2 Nc6 12.fxe5 Nxe5 0.83/19 *(12...fxe5* is more solid, despite the isolated e-pawn*; 12...fxe5=* 0.22/20 *13.Qc2 0-0)* 13.Bxb7± Rb8! 14.Bg2 c4 15.d4 and Black didn't have enough for the pawn, Spraggett,K (2487)-Umetsubo,C (2405) Vila Nova de Famalicao 2022 \ -\ (47)]

[8...Ne6?! 0.70/19 8...0-0 0.31 9.Nd5 Bd6 10.e3 0-0 11.Ne2 Bd7 12.0-0 Bc6 13.d4 and White takes control of the centre, Spraggett,K (2545)-Fier,A (2636) Linares 2015 1-0 (47)]

9.Ne4 A new move, hitting both the c5- and e5-pawns. Instead:

[9.Na4 -0.15/17 9.Ne4 0.35 Nd7! 10.Nf3 f6 0.21/20 *(⌓10...b5* -0.25/19 *11.Nc3 Rb8)* 11.0-0 Rb8 12.e3 b5! 13.Nc3 Bb7 0.42/17 *(13...c4=* -0.24/19 *)* 14.d3 -0.22/21 *(14.Qc2!±* 0.42/17 *)* 14...a6 15.Ne4 Ne6 was (at least) fine for Black in Mkrtchian, L (2434)-Ju,W (2558) Huaian 2016 0-1 (27)]

[9.Nf3 f6! 10.0-0 Nc6 is a more conventional Nf3 setup for White, analyzed in Aronian-Svidler, in the Archives.]

9...b6!? An interesting pawn sac.

[9...Nd7 10.d3 b6 11.Nf3 Bb7

12.0-0 f6 13.e3 leaves White slightly for choice, since would rather have the d7-knight on the more active c6-square.]

10.Bxe5 White decides to grab the pawn. After all, this opens the long diagonal towards Black's king.. **10...Bb7**

Threatening ...f7-f5. The position is equal. **11.Ba1** Retreating the bishop to safety, and in turn menacing Ne4-f6+ **11...Qc8**

[11...f5 12.Nf6+ Bxf6 13.Bxb7+-]

12.g4 Bolstering the e4-knight. White has played the opening in creative fashion. **12...Ne6?!** 0.92/21 Black is currently a pawn down, so needs to play with more urgency.

[12...Nc6 Developing a new piece while making the threat of ...Qc8xg4 a real one. 13.g5 Qd7 gives Black adequate play for the pawn, since White's kingside is potentially overextended.]

[12...Qxg4? 1.09/20 12...f5 0.09 is poor because of 13.Nf6+! Bxf6 14.Bxb7 etc.]

[12...Qxg4 13.Nf6+! Bxf6 14.Bxb7 Bxa1 15.Rxa1± *(15.Bxa8? Nxa8 16.e3 Qxd1+ 17.Kxd1 Bf6-+)*]

[12...Nc6= 0.00/20 keeps the balance.]

13.Nh3± Nc6 1.27/19

[⌓13...Qd7 0.87/19]

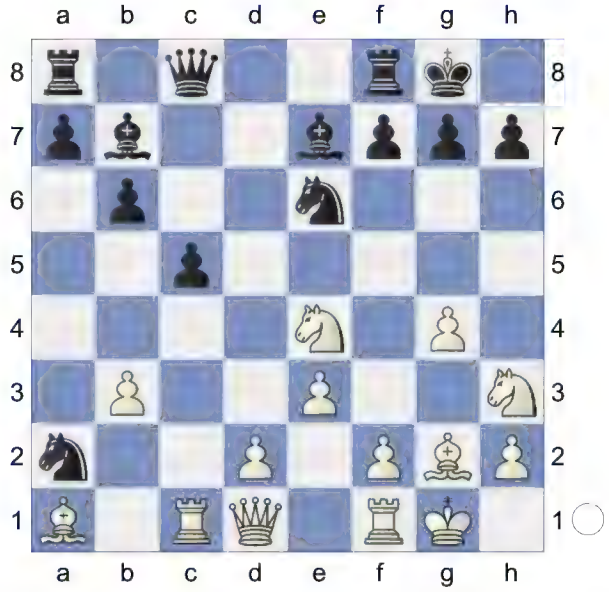
14.e3 0.50/19 Here:. White is more active.

[14.0-0 is even better, when Black has no compensation to speak of. If now Ncd4 15.e3 f5 16.gxf5! Nxf5 17.f4 Nh4 aiming for ...Nxg2. 18.Bh1 and Black doesn't have a clear way of exploiting White's open kingside.]

[14.0-0!± 1.27/19]

14...Nb4± The threat of 15...Nd3+ allows Black to recover the missing pawn.

15.0-0 Nxa2



16.Rb1 Nb4?! 1.23/18 Perhaps underestimating White's looming kingside pawnstorm. Here:

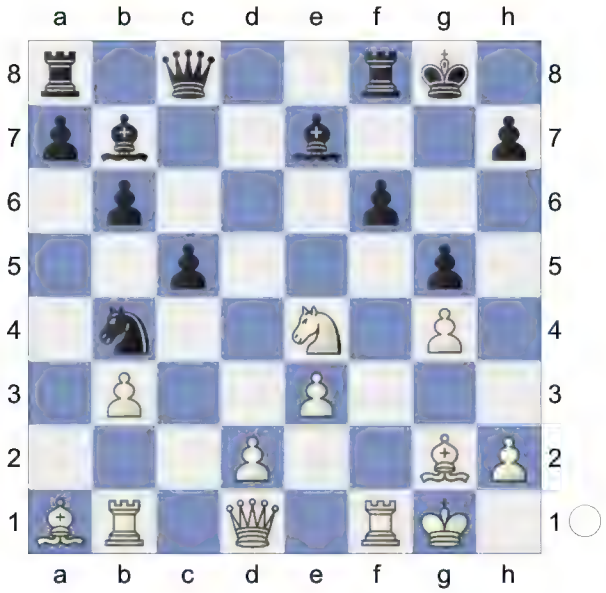
[16...Qd7 is only slightly better for White. After 17.f4 Rad8 18.f5?! -0.84/20 (overpressing) *(18.Nhf2!±* 0.99/21 stays on course.*)* 18...Bxe4!∓ 19.Bxe4 Ng5 Black has excellent counterplay]

[16...Qd7± 0.48/20]

17.f4± f6 18.Qf3 0.82/18

More straightforward here was:

[18.f5! just blasting through as quickly as possible Ng5 *(18...Nc7* 1.69/17 18...Ng5 1.20 *19.g5* is also great for White *)* 19.Nhxg5 fxg5 20.f6 gxf6



21.Rf5! with a very strong attack]

[18.f5 1.35/20]

18...Bc6 19.f5 0.30/19

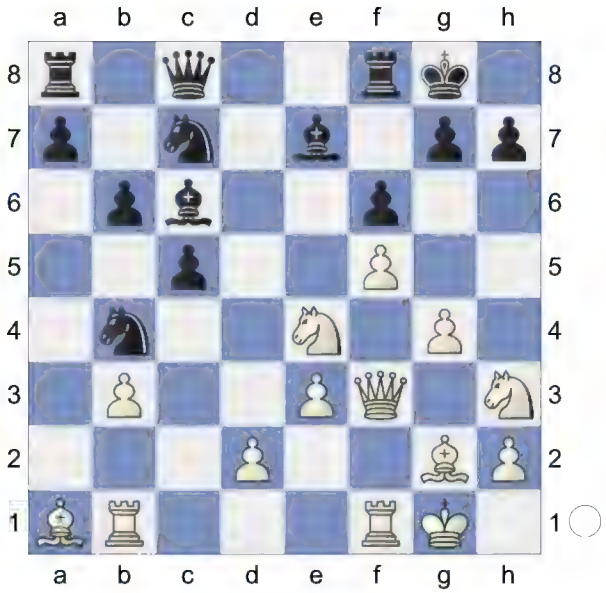
[White should play 19.Nhf2± 0.79/18]

This costs Black the game. **19...Nc7?** 1.75/18

[19...Ng5! 20.Nhxg5 fxg5 21.Qg3 and f6 should not be overlooked Qb8 and Black is still well in the game.]

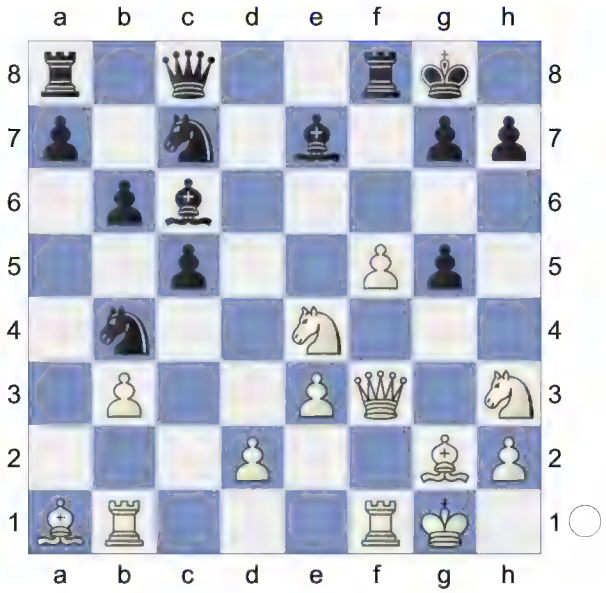
[19...Ng5!= 0.30/19 and Black stays safe. 20.Nhxg5 fxg5]

(Diagram)



It was essential to trade some pieces with: **20.g5!+- fxg5** 2.56/20

[20...Qd7 1.72/18]

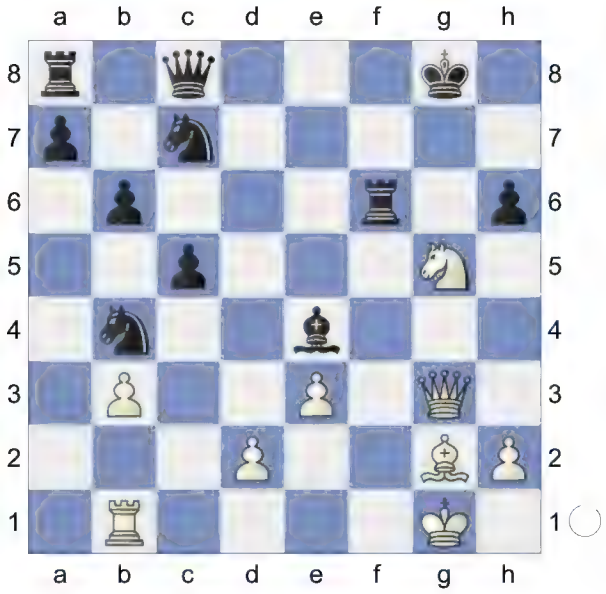


21.Qg3 White's attack is crushing.

21...h6 22.f6 gxf6 4.89/18

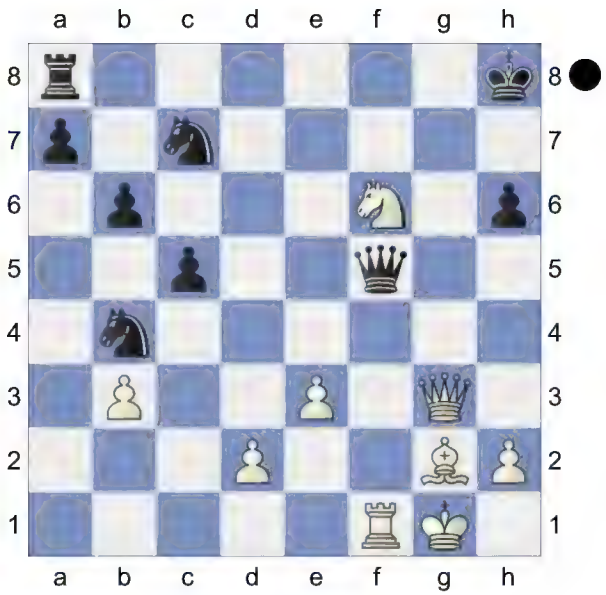
[22...Bxf6 2.60/16 was called for. 23.Bxf6 *(23.Nxf6+ gxf6 24.Nxg5 hxg5±)* 23...Bxe4 24.Bxg7 *(24.Bxe4 gxf6 25.Bxa8 Nxa8±)* 24...Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1 Bxg2 26.Rf8+ Qxf8 27.Bxf8 Rxf8 *(27...Bxh3? 28.Bxh6 Ne6 29.Qxh3+-)*]

23.Bxf6 White is clearly winning.
23...Bxe4 24.Nxg5! Ne6+ would kill now.
[Less strong is 24.Bxe7 Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1 Bxg2 26.Rf8+ Qxf8 27.Bxf8 Rxf8+-]
24...Bxf6 25.Rxf6 Rxf6



26.Nxe4+ Discovered Attack (Check)
[26.Bxe4? perishes. hxg5 27.Bxa8 Qxa8-+]
26...Kh8 Or:
[26...Kf7 27.Nxf6 Kxf6 28.Rf1+ and Black's king won't survive for long.]
27.Nxf6 Discovered Attack **27...Qf5** Inhibits Qg6.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.49
28.Rf1

(Diagram)



White picks up the c7-knight
1-0

101 **D14**
□ **Vitiugov,Nikita** **2712**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2746**
13th London Classic 2023 (2.5) 02.12.23
[Kitty Kat]

D14: Slav Defence: Exchange variation with ...Bf5
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Nc3 Nc6

(Diagram)

6.Bf4 Bf5 7.e3 e6 8.Ne5 Nd7 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.a3

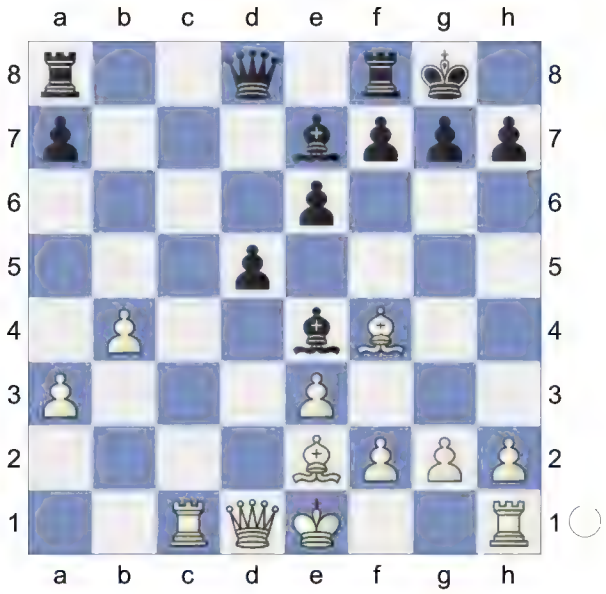
[10.Be2 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rc1 c5 13.Nb5 a6 14.Nd6 Bg6 15.dxc5 Nxc5 16.Rxc5 Bxd6 17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.Qc1 a5 19.Qc3 a4 20.Rc6 Qe7 21.Rc7 Qf6 22.Qa3 Rfb8 23.Rfc1 h5 24.R7c3 h4 0-1 (43) Farhat,B (2435)-9.e6?! (2495) Wch U16 Mamaia 2022]

10...Be7

11.Be2 0-0 12.Rc1N White is slightly better.

[12.0-0 Bf6 13.Na4 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Rc1 Rc8 16.Re1 Re8 17.h3 Qe7 18.Ba6 Rcd8 19.Bxe5 Bxe5 20.Bd3 Bd7 21.b4 Qh4 22.Nc5 Bc8 23.Bf1 Rd6 24.Nd3 Bf6 25.Nf4 Bb2 26.Rb1 Be5 0-1 (59) Stein,A (2328)-Mokriak,L (2484) Astrakhan FIDE GP 2010 (5) 27.g3 Qh6 28.h4 Bc3 29.Re2 Bg4 30.Rc1 Bf6 31.Qd3 Bxe2 32.Bxe2 Be5 33.Bf3 d4 34.Re1 Bxf4 35.gxf4 dxe3 36.Rxe3 Rf8 37.Qf5 Rf6 38.Qh3 Qxf4 39.h5 h6 40.Qg4 Qxg4+ 41.Bxg4 g6 0-1 (59) Girya,O (2328)-Goryachkina,A (2484) Wch Rapid (Women) 2022 (5)]

12...c5 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.b4 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4



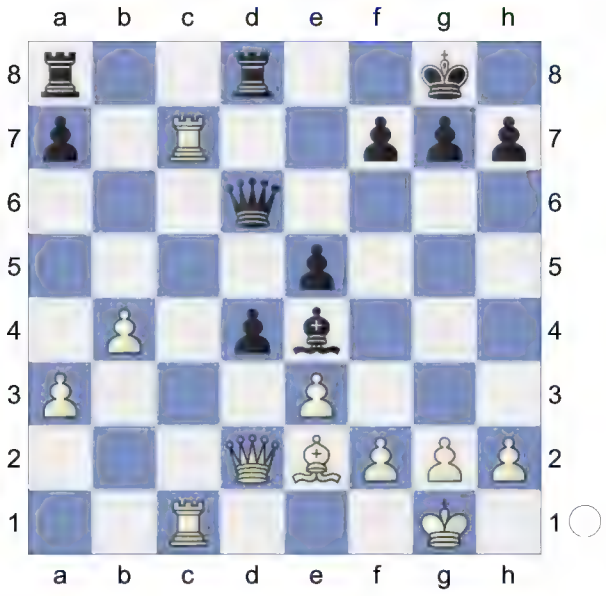
16.0-0 Bd6 0.99/21

[16...h6⩲ 0.61/21]

17.Bxd6 Qxd6 18.Qd2 Rfc8 19.Rc3 e5 20.Rfc1 Rd8

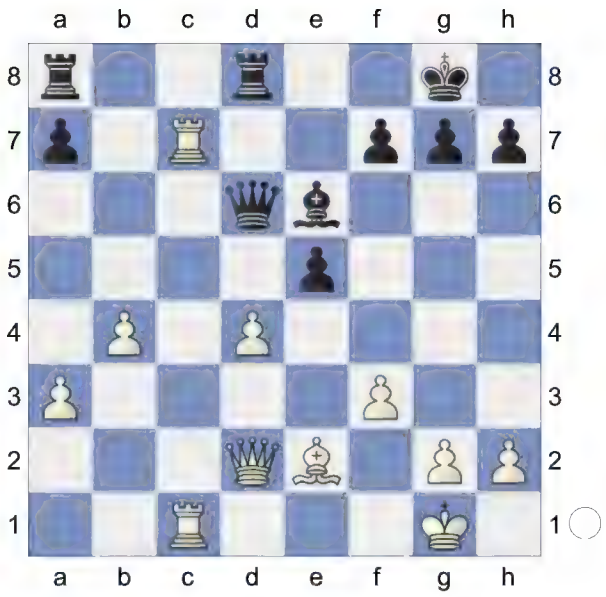
(Diagram)

21.Rc7 d4 0.99/19
[21...Qf6± 0.56/20 was preferable.]

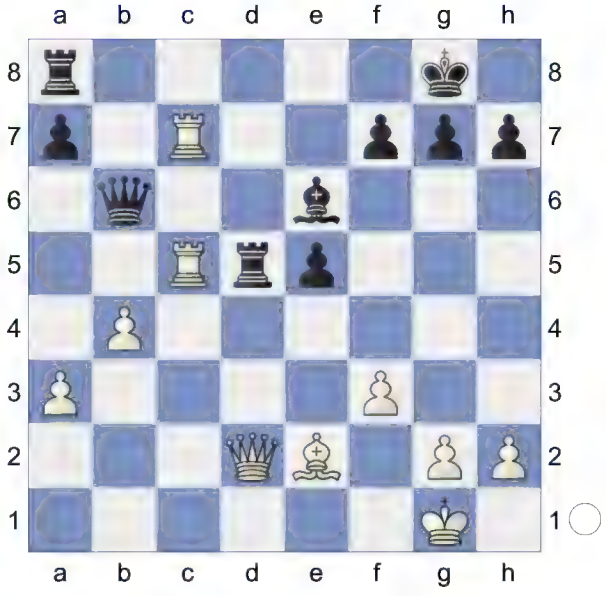


22.f3!± Bd5 23.exd4 Be6

(Diagram)



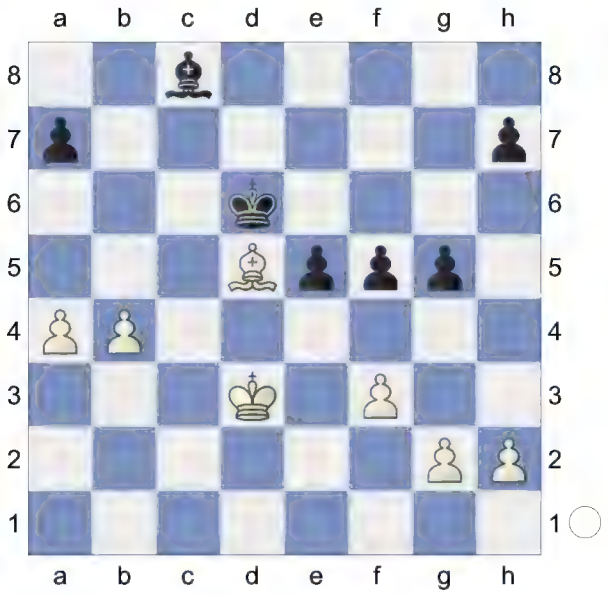
24.d5! Qb6+ 25.R1c5 White has more active pieces. **25...Rxd5**



26.Qe3 Rxc5 27.Qxc5 f6 28.Kf1 Qxc5 29.Rxc5
[29.bxc5 Rc8 30.Rxc8+ *(30.Rxa7 Rxc5 31.g4 Bc4=)* 30...Bxc8=]
29...Rc8 Wards off Rc7 **30.Rxc8+** 0.06/17
[30.Ra5± 0.47/20]
30...Bxc8±

(Diagram)

Endgame KB-KB **31.Bc4+ Kf8 32.Ke2 Ke7 33.Kd3 f5 34.a4 g5 35.Bd5 Kd6**

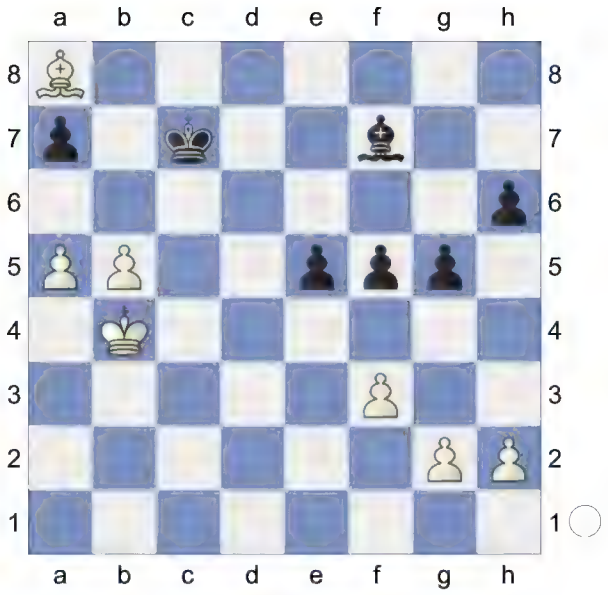


36.Kc4 Bd7 37.b5 h6 38.Ba8 Be6+ 39.Kb4 Bf7? 2.31/23

[39...Bc8= 0.00/23]

40.a5+- Kc7

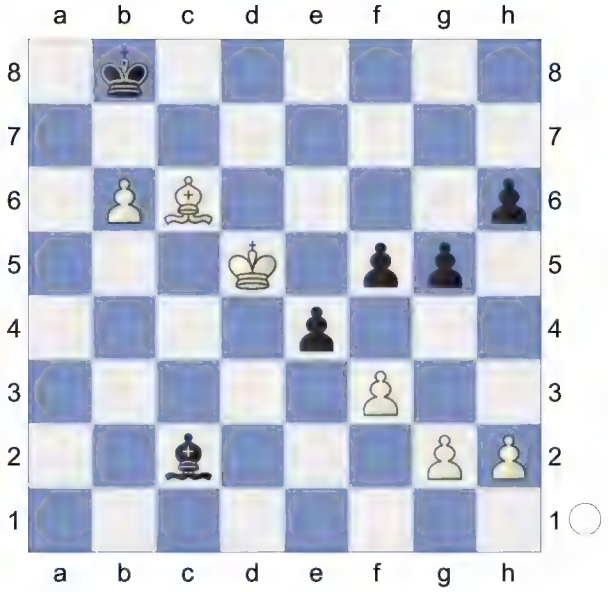
(Diagram)



41.Kc5 Bb3? 7.08/25

[41...h5 2.35/20 42.Bc6 Bg6 43.b6+ axb6+ 44.axb6+ Kb8]

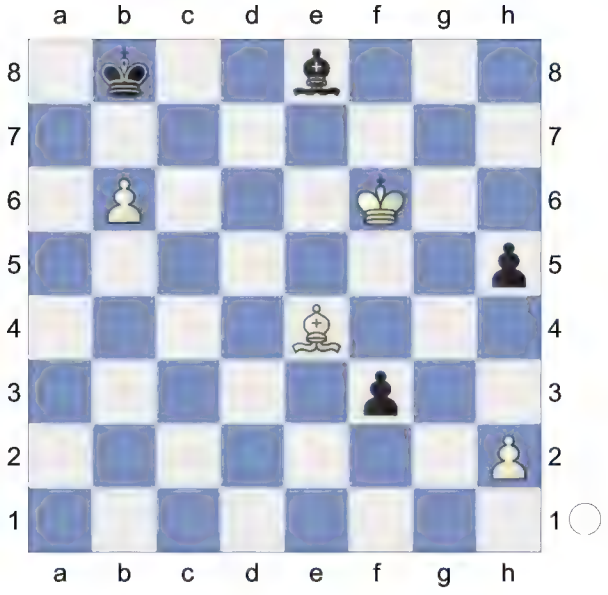
42.Bc6 Bc2 43.b6+ axb6+ 44.axb6+ Kb8 45.Kd5 e4



...e3 would now be deadly. **46.Kd4 exf3 47.Bxf3 f4 48.Ke5 Bg6 49.Kf6 Be8 50.Ke7 Bb5**

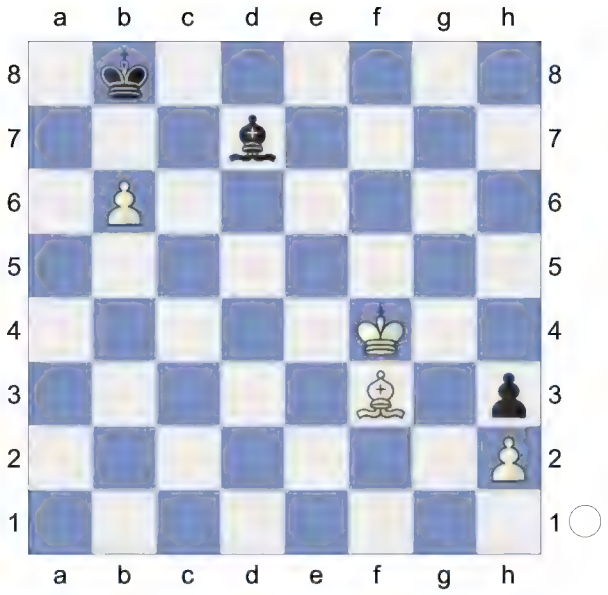
(Diagram)

51.Kf6 Be8 52.Kg7? 0.09/20
[White should try 52.h3+- 8.07/25 Kc8 53.Ba8]
52...h5!= The position is equal. **53.Kf6 g4 54.Be4 f3! 55.gxf3 gxf3**

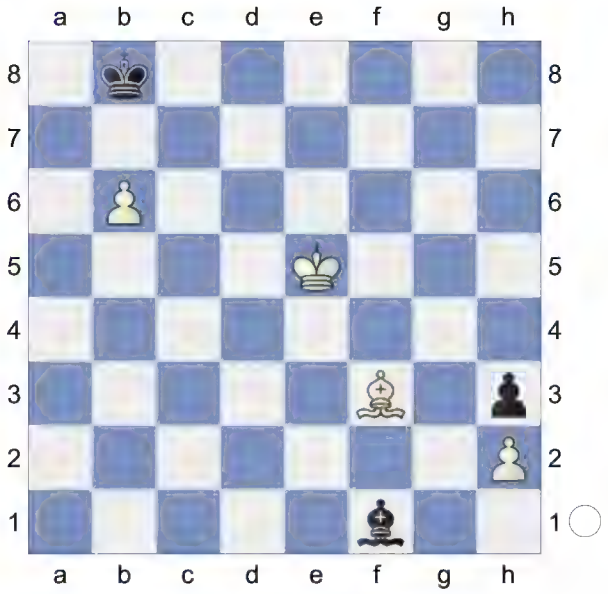


56.Bxf3 h4 57.Kg5 h3 58.Kh4 Bd7 59.Kg3 Be6 60.Kf4 Bd7

(Diagram)

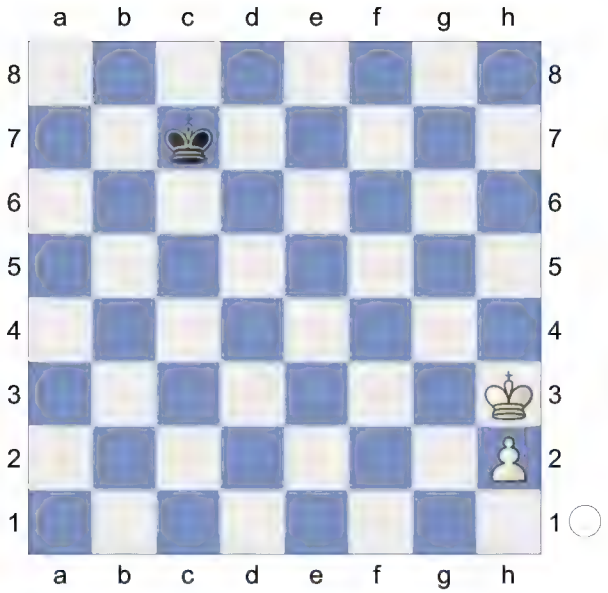


61.Bg4 Be8! 62.Bf3
[62.Bxh3!? Kb7□ 63.Bg4=]
62...Bd7 63.Kg5 Strongly threatening Bg4. **63...Be8 64.Kf5 Bb5 65.Ke5 Bf1**

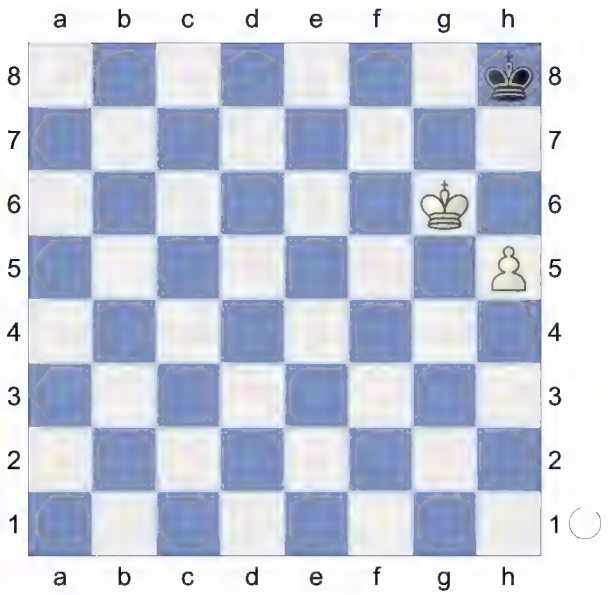


66.Kf4 Bg2 67.Kg3 Bxf3 68.Kxf3 KPP-KP. White is a pawn up. **68...Kb7 69.Kg4 Kxb6 70.Kxh3** KP-K. White is a pawn up. **70...Kc7**

(Diagram)

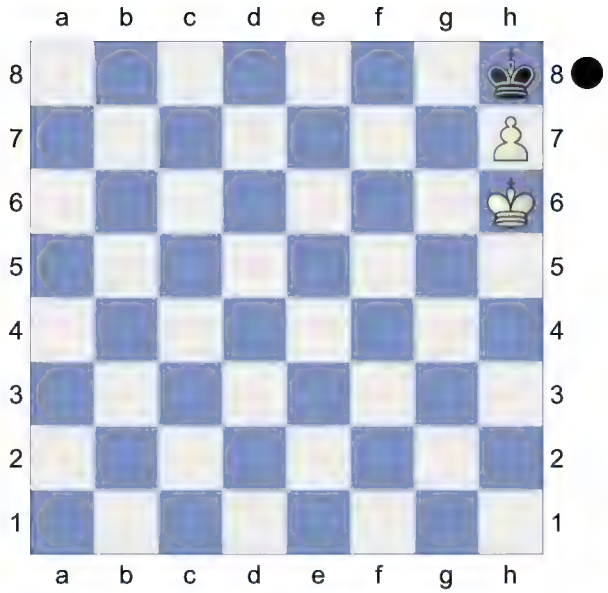


71.Kg4 Kd7 72.Kg5 Ke7 73.Kg6 Intending Kg7 and mate. **73...Kf8 74.h4**
[74.Kf6!?]
74...Kg8 75.h5 Kh8



76.h6 Kg8 77.h7+ Kh8 White really could win this.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.40
78.Kh6

(Diagram)



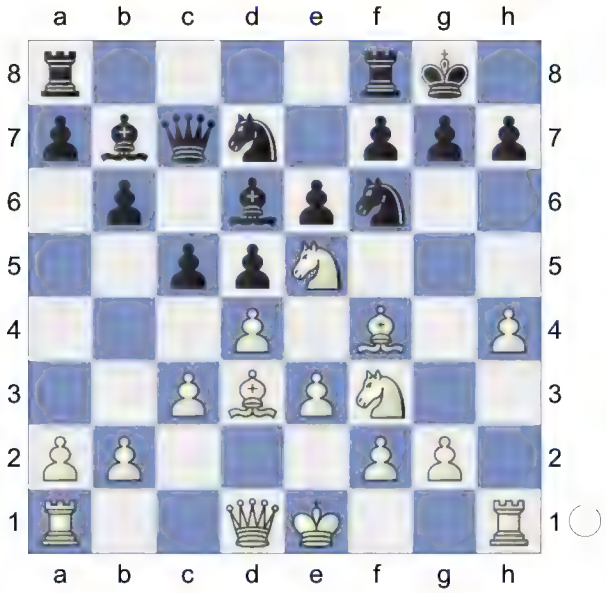
½-½

102 **A45**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Akobian,Varuzhan** **2582**
FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (11.43) 05.11.23
[TA]

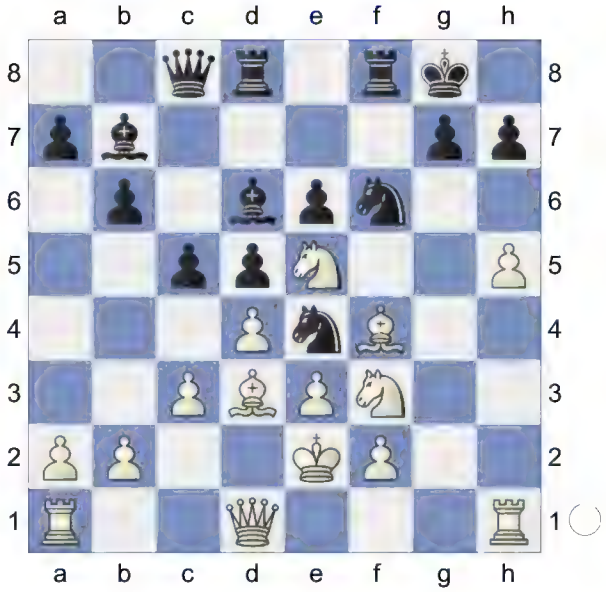
D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4
1.d4 Nf6
[1...d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 g6 *(3...Nbd7 4.f4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 b6 7.Nbd2 Bb7 8.c3 0-0 9.Ne5 Ne4 10.a4 a6 11.Qb3 Nd6 12.a5 b5 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Qc2 e6 15.Nb3 Bc6 16.Nc5 Qc8 17.Be2 Rd8 18.b3* 1-0 (36) Can,E (2483)-Erdogan,H (2234) ch-TUR Kemer-Antalya TUR 2011 (6.3)) 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c3 b6 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.Bd2 Qc8 10.Be1 Ba6 11.Bh4 Qb7 12.Ne5 Bxd3 13.Nxd3 Ne4 14.f5 Nc6 15.Nd2 c4 16.Nf4 0-1 (25) Abdulla,A (2359)-Rausis,I (2525) Goodricke 12th op 2001 (5)]

2.Bf4 e6N
[2...c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.a4 Na6 8.Be2 Nc7 9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nd7 12.Qd2 a6 13.Be2 Rb8 14.a5 b5 15.axb6 Rxb6 16.Nd1 Benoni Benko Defense-3...d6 with 4...g6 #2]
3.e3 d5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.c3 0-0

6.Bd3 c5 7.Ne5 Qc7 8.Nd2 Nbd7 9.Ndf3 b6 0.59/2
[9...Ne4= 0.21/5]
10.h4± Bb7

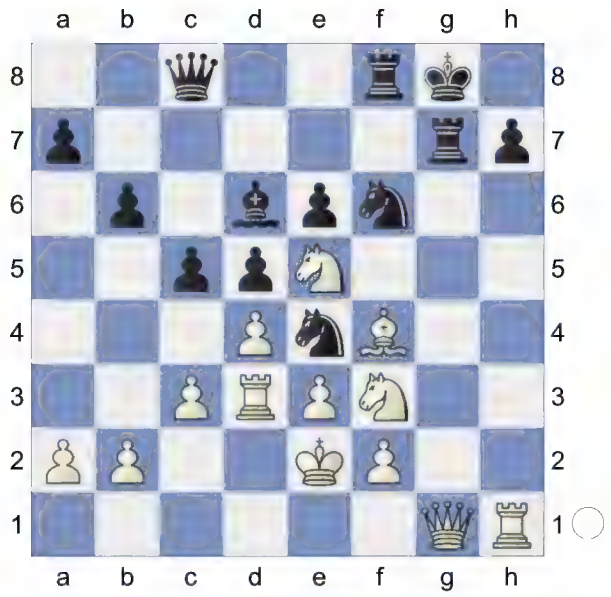


11.h5 White has more active pieces.
11...Rad8 12.g4 0.17/4
[12.Qe2± 0.56/16 should be considered.]
12...Ne4!= 13.g5 f6 1.23/18
[13...Nxe5± 0.51/17 14.dxe5 Be7]
14.gxf6± Ndxf6 15.Ke2 0.71/16
[⌓15.Qe2 1.30/4]
15...Qc8 1.62/19
[15...Nd7± 0.71/16]



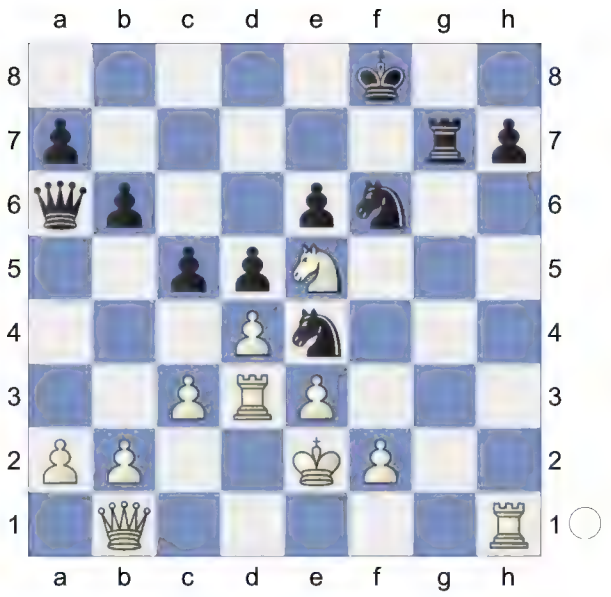
16.Qg1 1.26/17
[16.h6+- 1.62/19]
16...Ba6 17.Rd1! Bxd3+ 18.Rxd3 Rde8 1.26/3
[18...cxd4± 0.46/6 19.Rxd4 Qc7]
19.h6! Re7 20.hxg7! Rxg7

(Diagram)



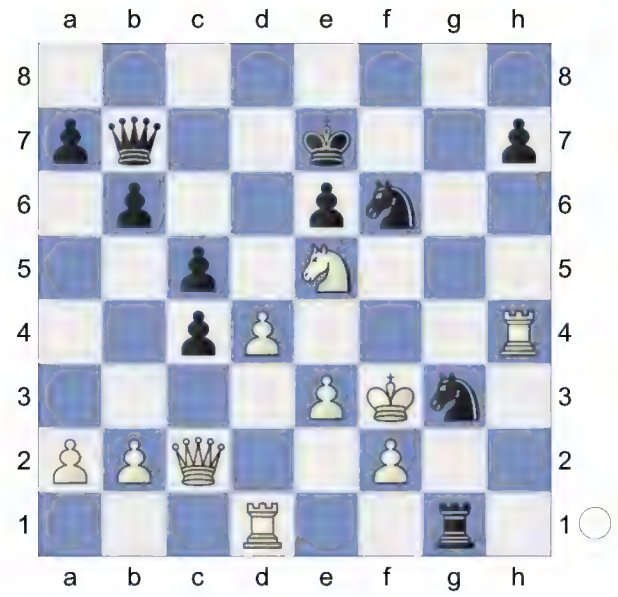
21.Bh6! Pin. Some like it hot **21...Rff7** 1.58/3
[⌓21...Rxg1 0.81/3 22.Rxg1+ Ng4 23.Rxg4+ Ng5 24.Rxg5+ *(24.Bxg5 h5+-)* 24...Kh8 25.Bg7+ Kg8 26.Bf6#]
22.Bxg7→ White goes for the king.
22...Rxg7 23.Qf1 Bxe5 24.Nxe5 Qa6 1.95/9
[24...Qe8± 0.82/3]
25.Qb1 0.63/8
[25.Qh3 Ng5 26.Qh2 Qb5±]
[25.Rg1!+- 1.95/9]
25...Kf8 1.54/3
[25...Kh8± 0.63/8]

(Diagram)



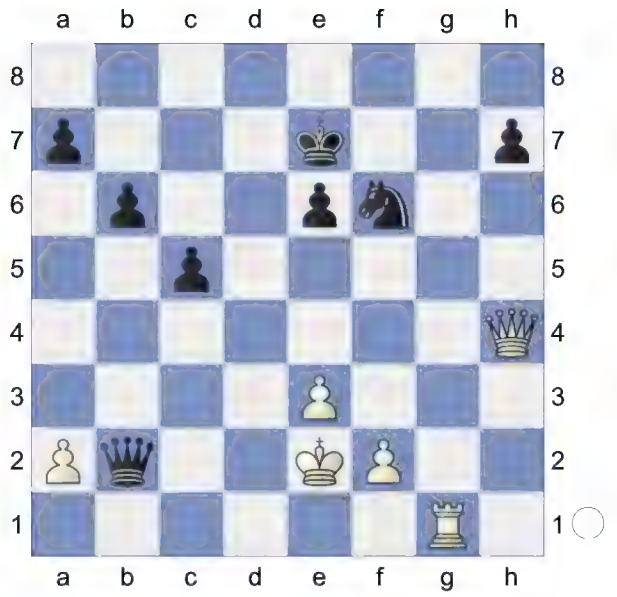
26.Rh4 0.51/3
[26.Rh3± 1.54/3]
26...Ke7 1.33/8
[Better is 26...Kg8!± 0.51/3]
27.Qc2 0.37/5
[27.c4± 1.33/8]
27...Rg1 0.99/3
[27...Rg2± 0.37/5 28.Rf4 Qb5]
28.c4 Ng3+ 1.24/8
[28...Qc8+- 1.77/8 29.Qa4 a5]
29.Kf3! dxc4 2.29/19
[29...Nf5± 1.38/15 30.Rh2 dxc4 31.Qxc4 Qb7+ 32.Ke2 Qc7]
30.Rd1+-
[30.Nxc4 Qb7+ 31.e4 Nf5± *(31...Ngxe4 32.Ke2=)*]
30...Qb7+

(Diagram)

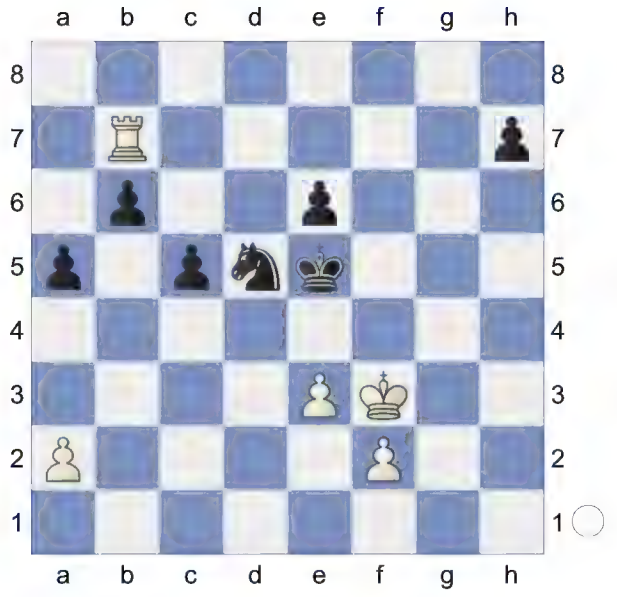


31.d5! Nf5? 2.79/21
[31...Rxd1± 0.81/2 32.Rxh7+ *(32.Qxd1 Nf5±)* 32...Nxh7 33.Qxh7+ *(33.Qxd1? Nh5-+)* 33...Kd6 34.Qxb7 *(34.Nxc4+ Kxd5 35.Qxb7+ Kxc4+-)* 34...Kxe5 35.Qg7+ *(35.fxg3 exd5 36.Qg7+ Ke6+-; 35.Kxg3 Rxd5 36.Qxa7 Kf6+-)* 35...Kxd5 36.Qd7+ Skewer *(36.fxg3 Kc6+-)* 36...Ke5]
32.Rxg1 1.56/5
[32.Rxc4 Rxd1 33.Qxd1 Kd6±]
[White has to play 32.Rxh7+!+- 2.79/21 Nxh7 33.Rxg1 Qxd5+ 34.e4 Nd4+ 35.Kf4]
32...Qxd5+ 33.Ke2 Nxh4 Excellent horsemanship. **34.Qxc4** 1.29/2
[34.Nxc4 Qh5+ 35.Kf1 Nf3 36.Rg7+ Kf8 37.Rxa7 Qh3+ 38.Ke2 Qg4-+]
[34.Rg7++- 1.86/3 Kf8 35.Rf7+ *(35.Rxa7 Qxe5 36.Qxc4 Qxb2+ 37.Kf1 Qb1+ 38.Ke2 Ne4-+)* 35...Kg8 36.Rxf6 *(36.Nxc4? Kxf7 37.Qa4 Ne4-+)* 36...Qxe5 37.Rf4 Qh5+ 38.Kf1]
34...Qxe5± 35.Qxh4 Qxb2+

(Diagram)

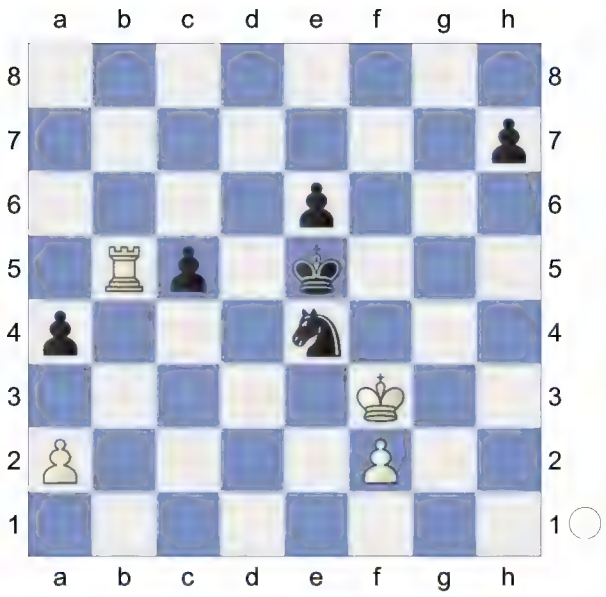


Endgame KQR-KQN **36.Kf3 Kd6 37.Qf4+ Qe5** 1.32/3
[⌓37...Kc6 0.85/1]
38.Qxe5+ Kxe5 KR-KN **39.Rg7 a5 40.Rb7 Nd5**



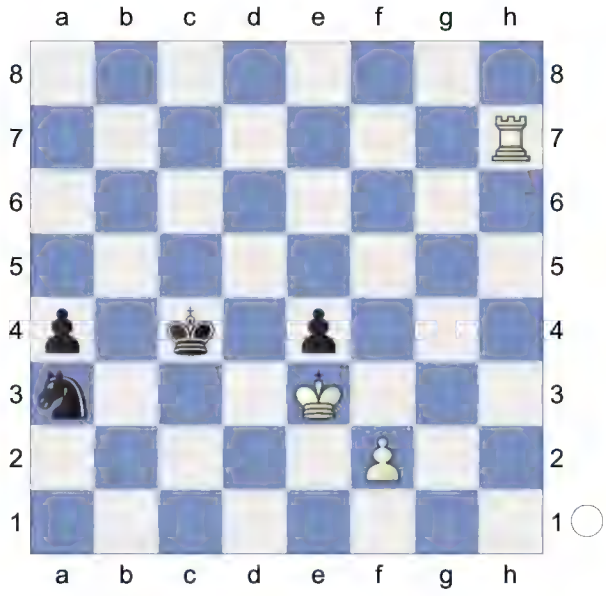
41.e4! Nc3 42.Rxb6 Nxe4 43.Rb5 1.06/10
[White should try 43.Ra6 1.50/4]
43...a4

(Diagram)

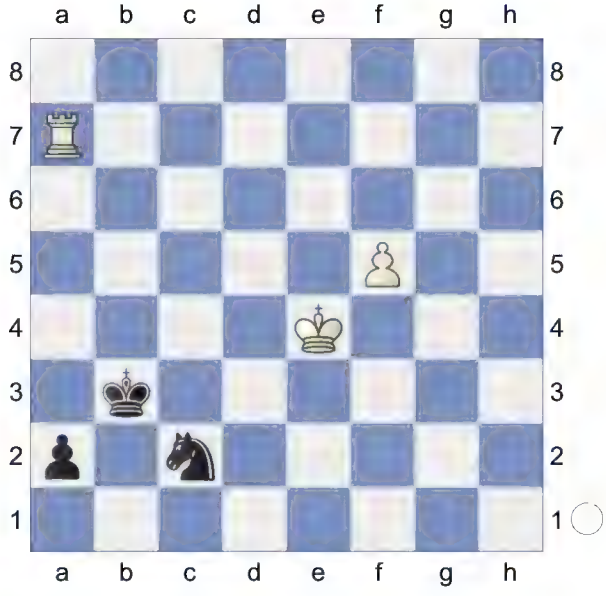


44.Ra5! Nc3 45.Rxc5+ Kd4

46.Rh5 0.28/5
[46.Ra5± 0.88/11]
46...e5!= 47.a3
[47.Rxh7?! Kc4 48.Rh4+ Kd3+-]
47...e4+ 48.Kf4 Kc4 1.36/5
[48...Nd5+= 0.07/19 remains equal. 49.Kg5 Kc4]
49.Ke3 0.88/21
[⌓49.Rxh7 1.36/5 Kb3 50.Rb7+ *(50.Rh3 Kb2+-)* 50...Kxa3 51.Ke3]
49...Nb5? 3.64/23
[49...Nd1+± 0.88/21 50.Kxe4 Nxf2+ 51.Ke3 Ng4+ 52.Kf3 Nf6]
50.Rxh7? 0.03/24
[50.Kxe4+- 3.64/23 and Rh3 would now be decisive Nxa3 51.f4 *(51.Rxh7 Nb5±)*]
50...Nxa3

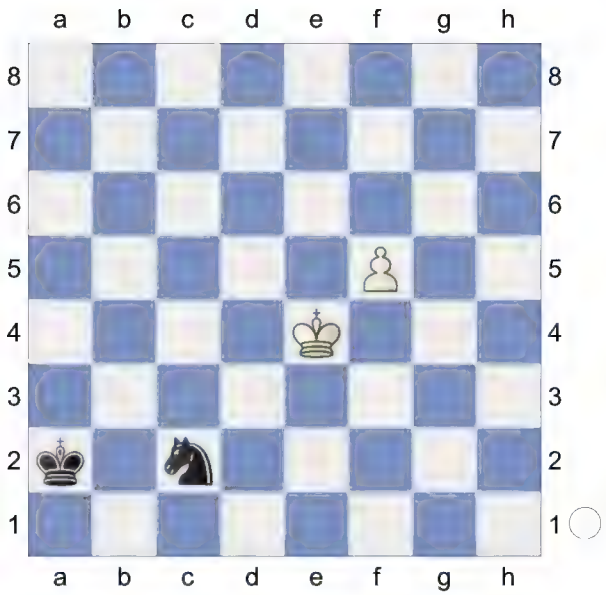


51.Ra7 Nc2+? 6.67/30
[51...Kb3= 0.07/22]
52.Kxe4+- White is clearly winning.
52...a3 53.f4 Kb3 54.f5 a2



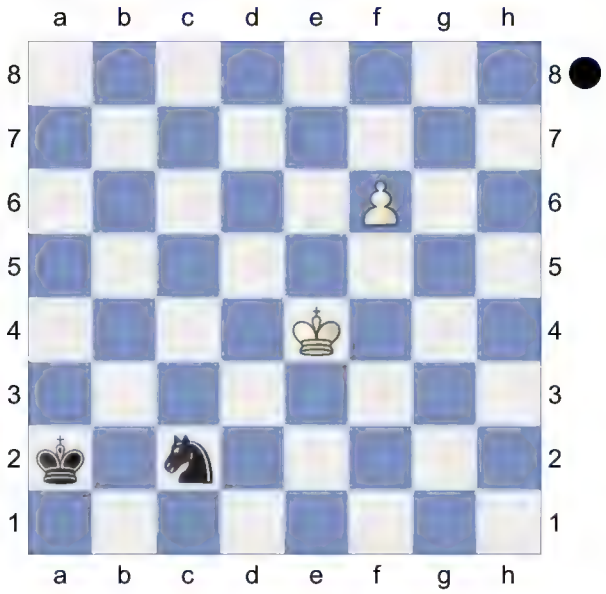
55.Rxa2 Kxa2

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/ Black=0.55

56.f6



1-0

103 **D41**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

■ **Dardha,Daniel** **2580**

FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (10.44) 04.11.23

[TA]

D50: Queen's Gambit Declined: Dutch-Peruvian Gambit

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 cxd4

6.Qxd4 exd5N

[6...Nxd5 7.e4 Nxc3 8.Qxc3 Nc6

A) 9.a3 Bd7 10.Be2 Rc8 11.0-0 Na5 12.Qd3 Ba4 13.Qxd8+ Rxd8 14.Be3 Nb3 15.Bd1 b5 *(15...a6 16.Bxb3 Bxb3 17.Rac1 Bd6 18.Bb6 Ra8 19.Nd4 Ba4 20.Rc4 Bd7 21.Rd1 0-0 22.e5 Bb5 23.Nxb5 axb5 24.Re4 Be7 25.Rd7 Rfc8 26.g3 Bf8 27.Rxb7* 7.♗d3 ♕h5 8.00-Ilivitzki,G Abu Dhabi Masters op 2001*)* 16.Bxb3 Bxb3 17.Rfc1 e5 18.Nxe5 a6 19.Nc6 1-0 Buchicchio,G (2795)-Baklan,N (2625) corr MN/75 ICCF 1999 (8);

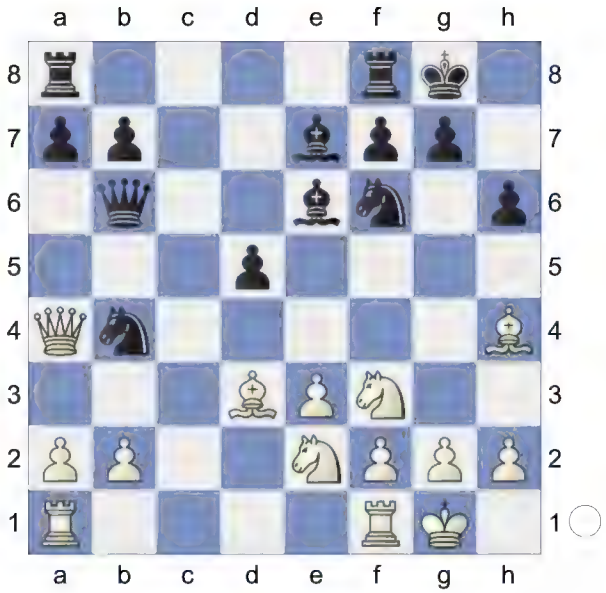
B) 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.0-0 Qb6 11.a4

Qc5 12.Qd3 Qd6 13.Qe2 a6 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Bg5 h6 17.Be3 Bd6 18.a5 Qe7 19.Bb6 0-0 20.Nd4 Rfc8 21.Nxc6 (28) 7.Bd3 Qh5 8. 00-Rodriguez,L Abu Dhabi Masters op 2001 Rxc6 22.Rac1 Rac8 23.Rxc6 Rxc6 24.g3 Bc7 25.Bxc7 Qxc7 26.Qd2 Qe5 27.Qb4 Qc7 28.Qd2 Qe5 7.♗d3 ♕h5 8. 00-Rodriguez,L Abu Dhabi Masters op 2001]

7.Bg5 Be7 8.e3 0-0 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.Qa4 h6

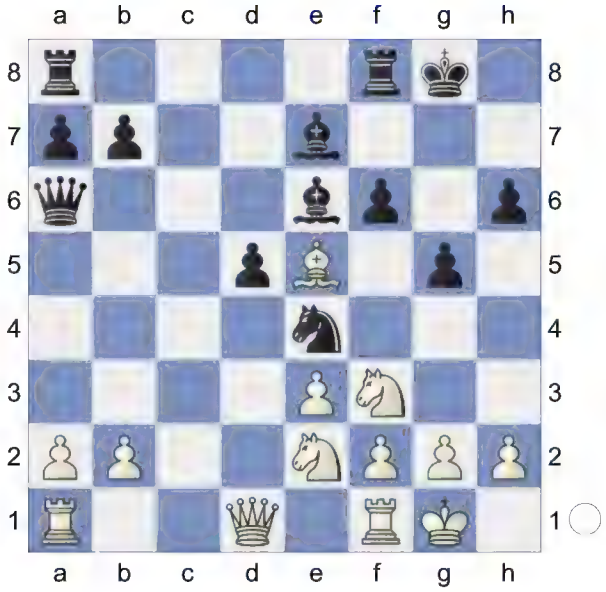
11.Bh4 Be6 12.0-0 Qb6 13.Ne2 Nb4 14.Bb1 Nc6 15.Bd3 Nb4

(Diagram)



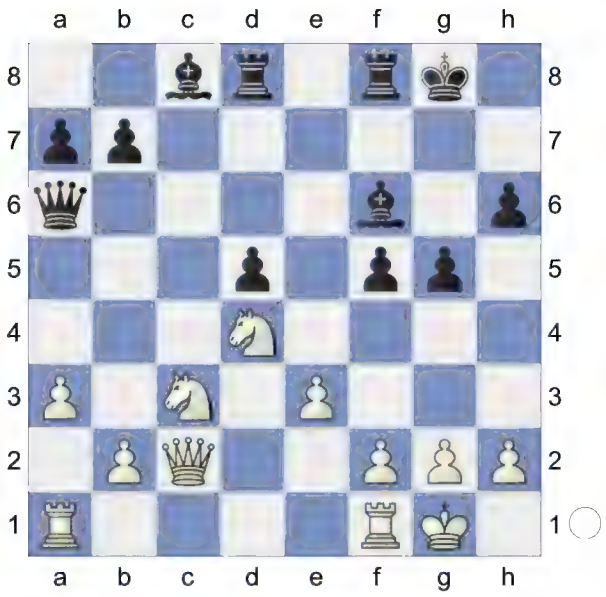
16.Qd1 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 g5 18.Bg3 Ne4 19.Be5 Prevents Qxb2. **19...Qa6 20.Qd1 f6** 0.73/17

[20...Rfe8= 0.26/19]

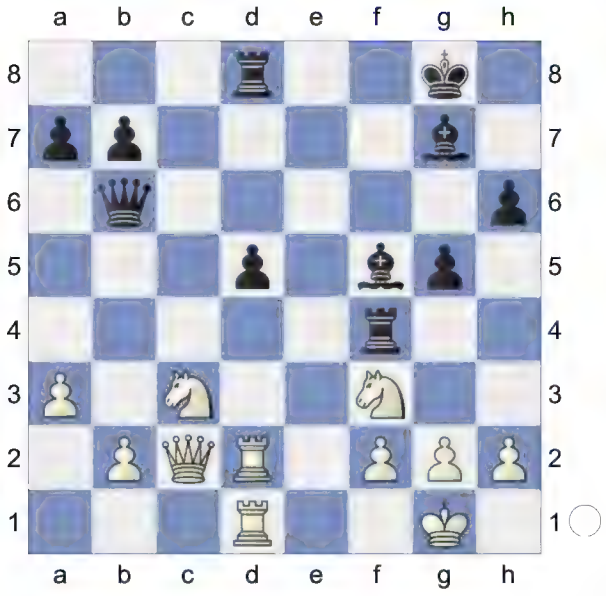


21.Bc3± Rad8 22.Nfd4 Bc8 23.a3 Nxc3! 24.Nxc3 f5 25.Qc2 Bf6

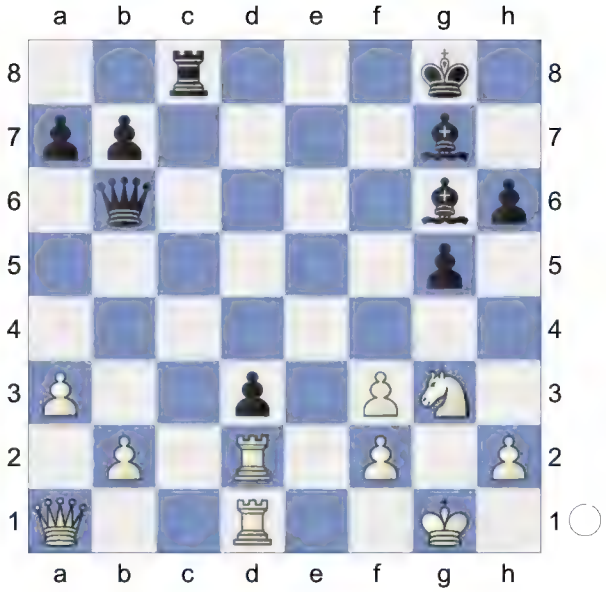
(Diagram)



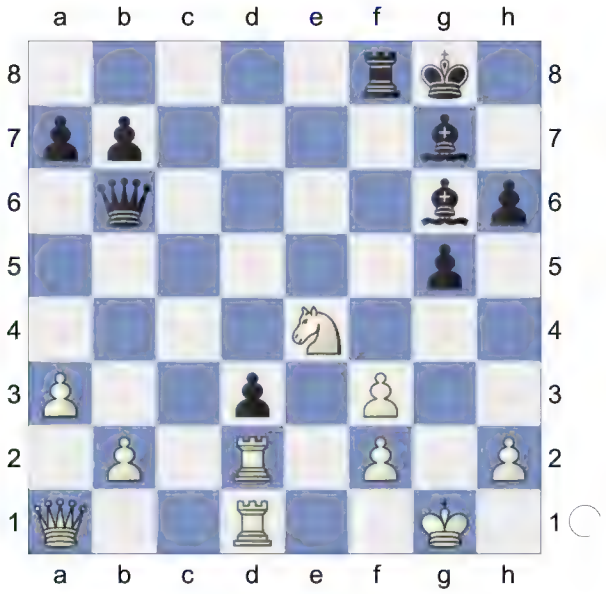
26.Rad1 White is more active.
[26.Nxf5? Bxf5 27.Qxf5 Bxc3-+]
26...Bg7 27.Rd2 0.20/4
[27.f4± 0.87/5]
27...f4= 28.exf4 Rxf4 29.Rfd1 Qb6!
30.Nf3 0.10/18 A dynamic duo of knights.
[30.Nxd5? Rxd5 31.Qxc8+ Rd8-+]
[30.Na4!± 0.51/17 might be stronger. Qa6 31.Nc5]
30...Bf5



31.Qc1 d4 ...Rc8 is the strong threat.
32.Ne2 Rc8 33.Qa1 Rxf3 34.gxf3 d3
35.Ng3 Bg6

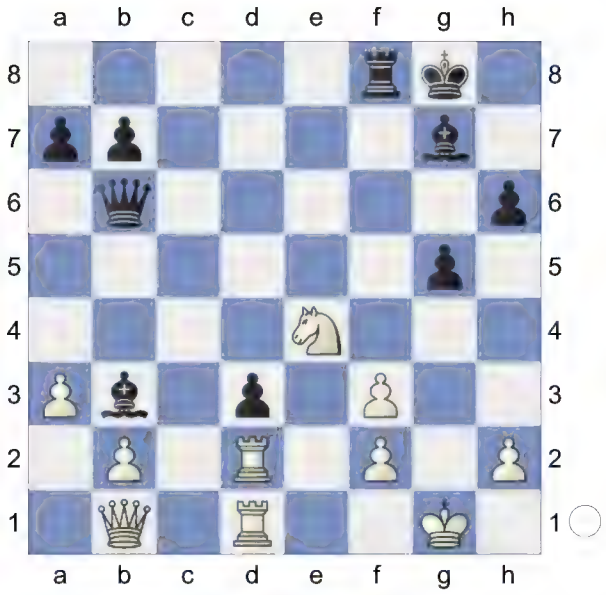


36.Ne4 1.56/3
[⌓36.Qa2+! 0.97/4 Kh8 37.Ne4]
36...Rf8±

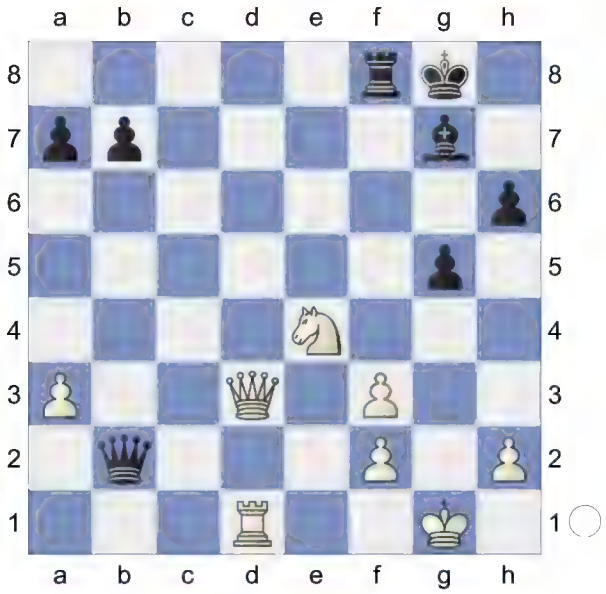


37.Qa2+ 1.01/17
[Stronger than 37.Rxd3 Bxe4 38.fxe4 Qxf2+ 39.Kh1 Qe2=]
[Better is 37.Qc1! 1.56/4]
37...Bf7 38.Qb1 Bb3? 2.47/3
[38...Bc4± 0.80/11 might work better.]

(Diagram)

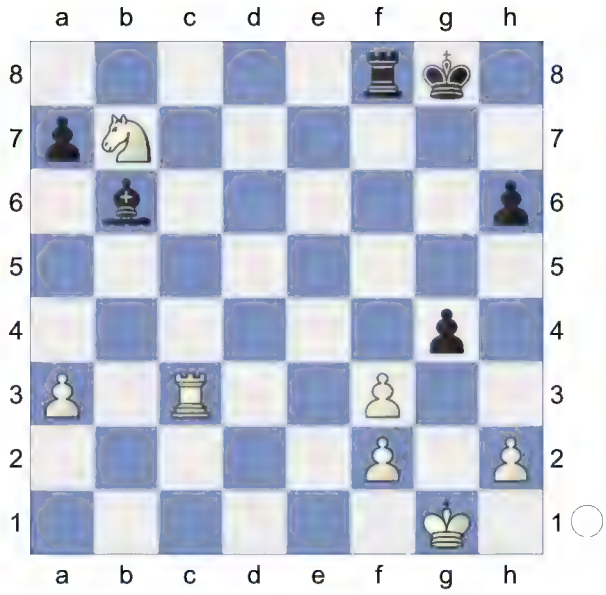


39.Qxd3? 0.96/17
[39.Re1!+- 2.47/3]
39...Bxd1 40.Rxd1 Qxb2

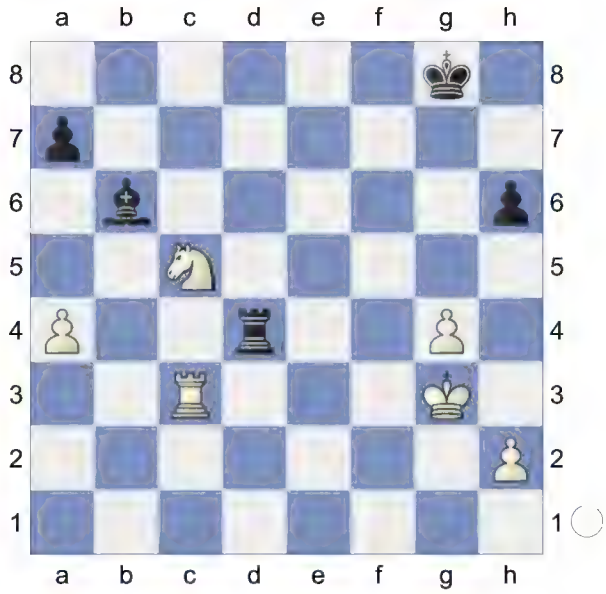


41.Nc5 0.03/20
[41.Kg2± 0.95/3]
41...Qc3!= 42.Qxc3 Bxc3± Endgame KRB-KRN. The position is equal. **43.Rd3 Ba5 44.Nxb7 Bb6 45.Rc3 g4**

(Diagram)

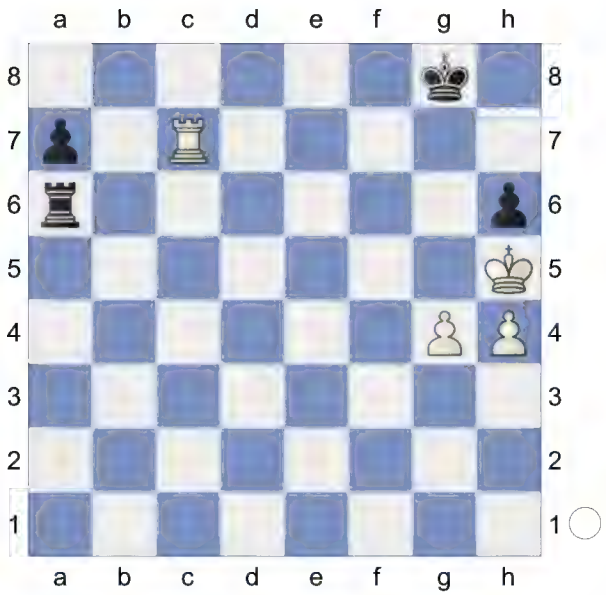


46.Kg2 Rf6 47.fxg4 Black must now prevent Nc5. **47...Rxf2+ 48.Kg3 Rd2 49.a4 Rd7 50.Nc5 Rd4**



51.Kh4 Bxc5 52.Rxc5 Rxa4= KR-KR **53.Kh5 Ra6 54.Rc7 Kh8 55.h4 Kg8**

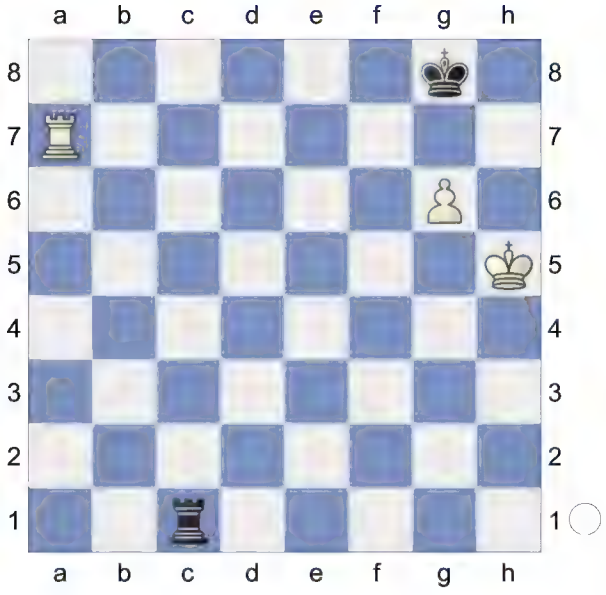
(Diagram)



56.g5 hxg5 57.hxg5 Rb6 58.Rxa7 Rc6 59.g6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)

59...Rc1



½-½

104 **C77**

□ **Abdrlauf,Elham** **2568**

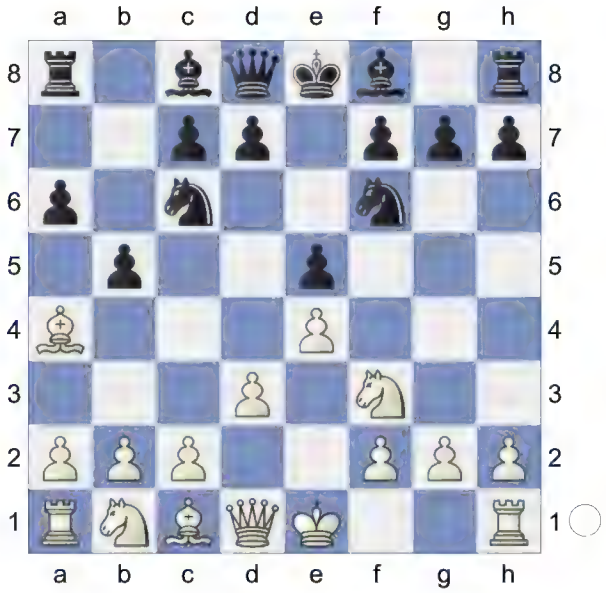
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

FIDE Grand Swiss (7) 01.11.2023

[TA]

C77: Ruy Lopez: 3...a6 4 Ba4 Nf6, unusual lines

In this chapter, we are going to study sidelines on move 5. They are by no means challenging from the theoretical perspective, but it's definitely important to know how to best deal with them. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 b5**



6.Bb3 Be7 7.Nc3 d6 8.a3 Rb8N

[8...Bb7 9.h3 Na5 10.Ba2 c5 11.b4 Nc6 12.Nd5 cxb4 13.axb4 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 a5 15.bxa5 Nxa5 16.Bxb7 Nxb7 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.0-0 Bf6 19.Be3 0-0 20.Qb1 Rc8 21.Qxb5 Rxc2 22.Rb1 Rc7 23.Bb6 1-0 (68) Rakshitta,R (2238)-Rindhiya, V (1786) Wch U18 Girls 2022 (10)]

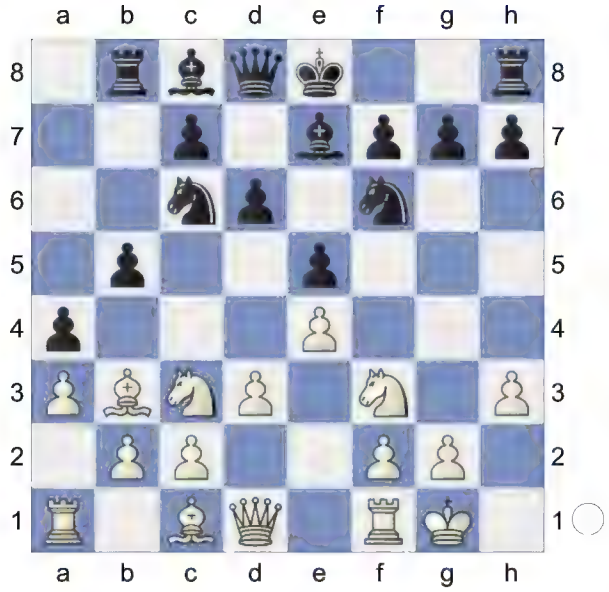
[8...0-0 9.Be3 *(9.0-0 Na5 10.Ba2 Be6 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 c5 13.dxc6 Nxc6 14.Re1 Re8 15.Bg5*

Qb6 16.c3 a5 17.Qb3 Rf8 18.d4 h6 19.Bh4 Qc7 20.dxe5 dxe5 21.Qxb5 Rab8 22.Qc4 Qb6 23.b4 e4 1-0 (59) Aizenberg,B (2366)-Aamodt, P (2022) Fagernes op-A 2023 (1)) 9...Na5 10.Ba2 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Ne2 c5 13.Ng3 Nc6 14.0-0 Qd7 15.a4 d5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Rxa8 18.exd5 exd5 19.Re1 Rf8 20.Bd2 Bd6 21.c4 bxc4 22.dxc4 dxc4 23.Qa4 0-1 (35) 5.♘g5 e6 6.♗d3 ♘gf6 469 (2653)-13.f4 ♗g7 14.0-0 e6 19421 (2557) Hastings 6667 1966 (1.2)]

[8...Nd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Ne2 c5 11.0-0 d5 12.exd5 0-0 13.c3 dxc3 14.Nxc3 Bb7 Sidelines on move 5 for White-White's sidelines on move 5]

9.h3 a5 10.0-0 White is slightly better.

10...a4



11.Ba2 0-0 12.Be3 Bd7 0.67/2

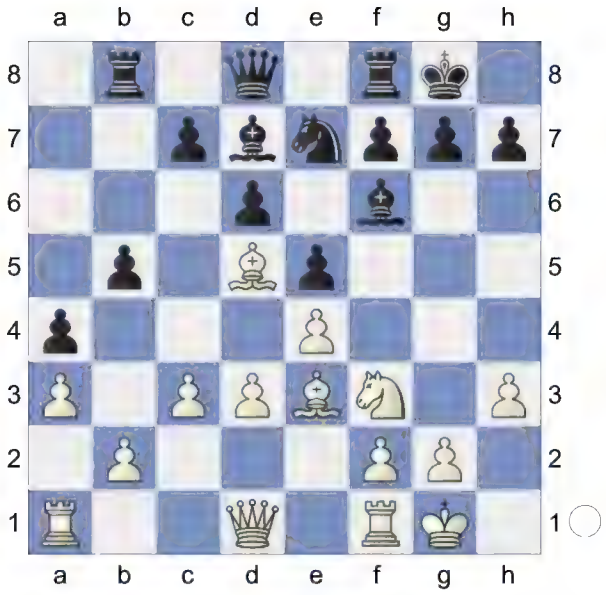
[12...h6 0.31/4]

13.Nd5 0.06/3

[13.Re1± 0.67/2]

13...Nxd5= 14.Bxd5 Bf6 15.c3 Ne7

(Diagram)



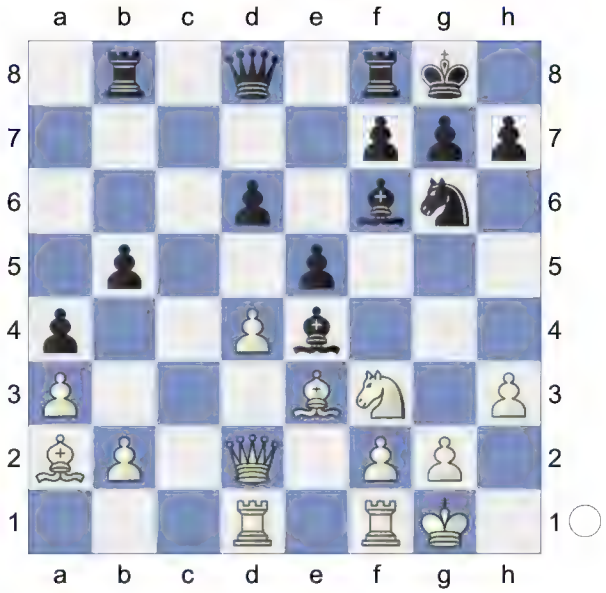
16.Ba2 c5 17.Qd2 -0.04/19

[17.d4± 0.35/14]

17...Bc6 18.Rad1 Ng6 19.d4 -0.42/19

[19.Rfe1= -0.01/16 deserves consideration.]

19...cxd4 20.cxd4 Bxe4

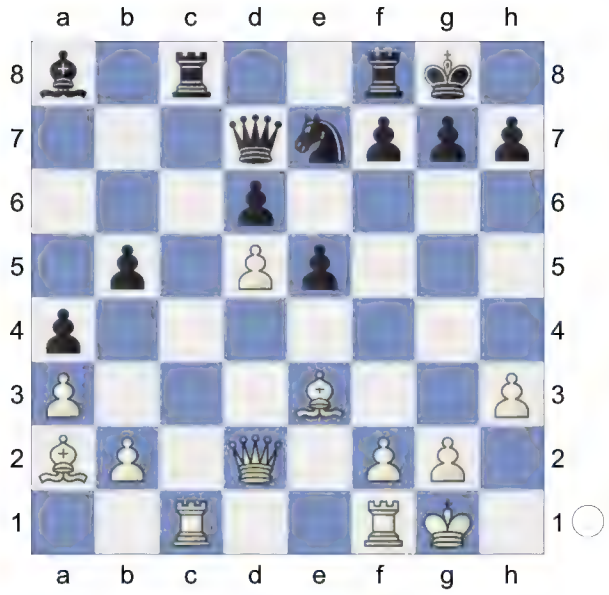


21.Ng5 -0.99/20

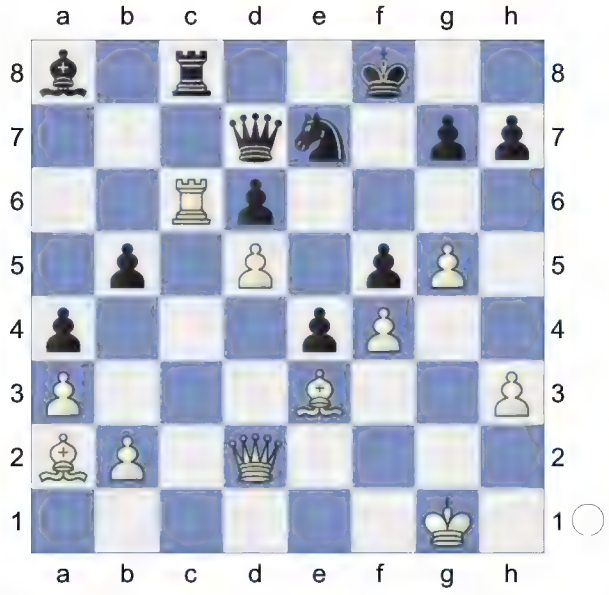
[21.dxe5!= -0.29/17 Nxe5 *(21...Bxf3 22.exf6 Bxd1 23.fxg7±)* 22.Nxe5 dxe5 23.Qe2]

21...Ba8 22.d5 Bxg5 23.Bxg5 Qd7 24.Be3 Rbc8 25.Rc1 Ne7

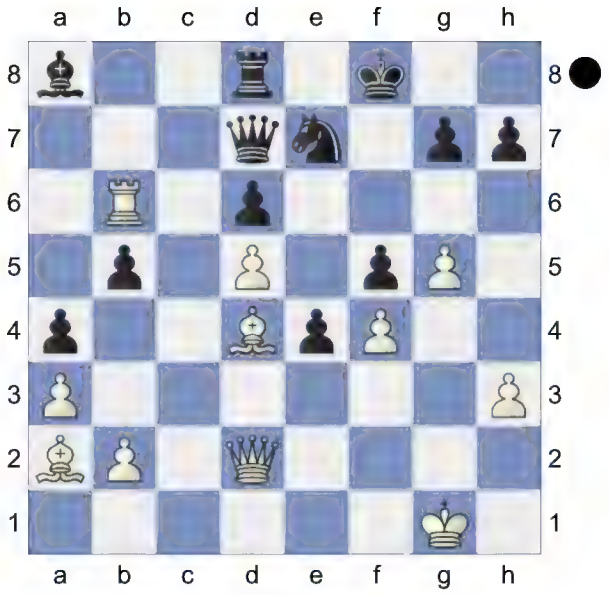
(Diagram)



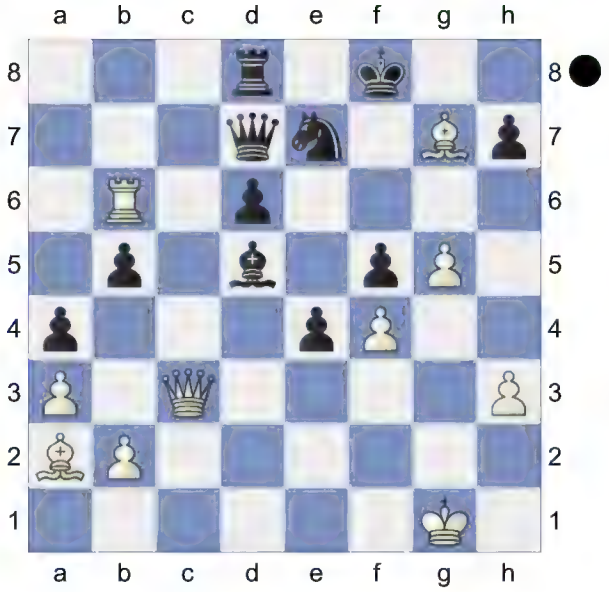
26.f4 e4 27.g4 f5 -0.67/2
[27...Ng6!∓ -1.31/16 and ...Rxc1 would now be decisive 28.Qb4 Rxc1 29.Rxc1 h5]
28.g5 -1.33/2
[28.Rxc8∓ -0.67/2 Rxc8 29.g5]
28...Rxc1 -0.57/3
[Black should try 28...Bb7∓ -1.33/2]
29.Rxc1∓ Rc8 30.Rc6 Kf8↑



Black is more active. **31.Rb6 Rd8!**
32.Bd4 -1.21/20
[32.Bf2∓ -0.45/20]

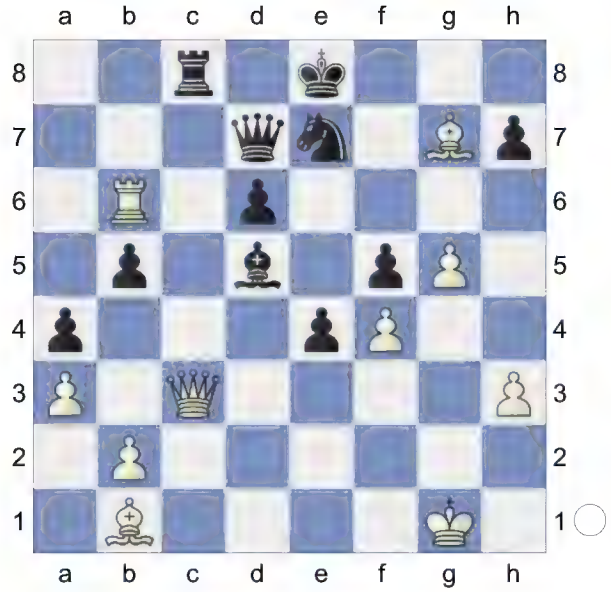


32...Bb7 -0.14/3
[32...Ke8!∓ -1.21/20 33.Bxg7 Nc8]
33.Qc3 -1.35/4
[33.Bc3= -0.14/3 keeps the balance.]
33...Bxd5∓ 34.Bxg7+



Ke8!
[34...Kg8 35.Bh6 Kf7 36.Qg7+ Ke8 37.Qf8#]
35.Bb1 -2.17/3
[35.Qf6!= 0.00/2 and White has nothing to worry. Qc7 36.Rxb5 *(36.Qf8+? Kd7-+)* 36...Bxa2 37.Qc3]

35...Rc8-+



36.Qe3

[36.Qf6 Qc7 *(36...Rc1+? 37.Kf2-+)* 37.Qd4 Qc1+ 38.Kg2 e3+-+ *(38...Qxb1? 39.Qe3-+; 38...Qxf4? 39.Rb8-+)*]

36...Bg8 37.Qd4 Qc7

[Don't play 37...Rc1+ 38.Kh2 Qc7 *(38...Rxb1 39.Rb8+ Nc8 40.Qc3∓)* 39.Qf2-+]

38.Rxd6 Qc1+ 39.Qd1? -4.74/18

[39.Kh2 -2.86/4]

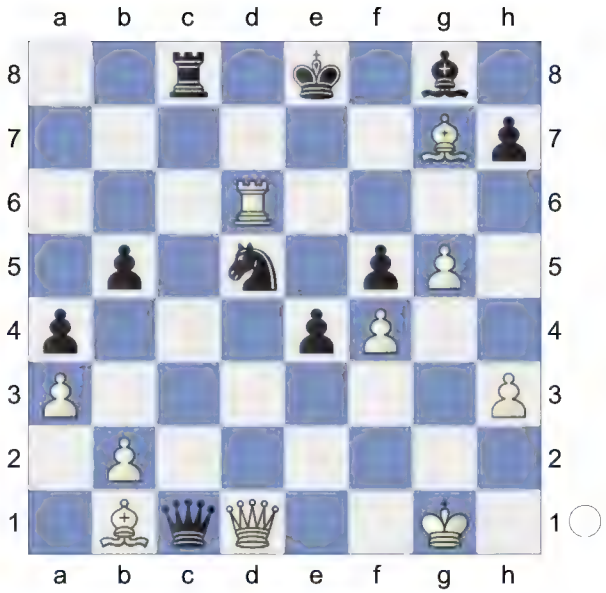
Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/ Black=0.16 (very precise)

39...Nd5

[Less strong is 39...Qxf4 40.Bc3-+]

[39...Qxd1+ 40.Rxd1 Bb3 41.Re1-+]

(Diagram)



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105 **E71**

□ **Narayanan,Sunilduth Lyna** **2651**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (5.21) 29.10.23

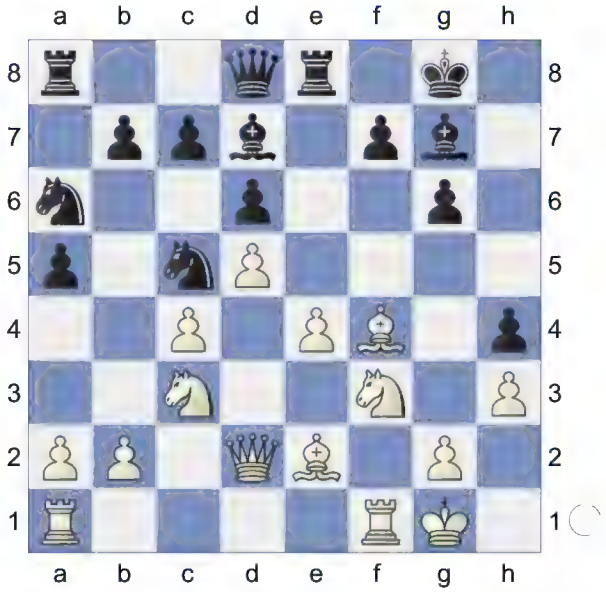
[Kitty Kat]

E71: King's Indian: 4 e4 d6 5 h3

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 e5

6.d5 a5 7.Be3 Na6 8.Be2N
White is slightly better.A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.
[8.Nf3 0-0 9.g4 Nd7 10.Rg1 *(10.g5 Ndc5 11.h4 Bg4 12.Be2 f5 13.Nh2 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 fxe4 15.0-0-0 Qd7 16.h5 Qf5 17.Kb1 Nd3 18.h6 Bh8 19.Rd2 Rae8 20.Rg1 Nac5 21.Nf1 Qf3 22.Ng3 b6 23.Bxc5 Nxc5 24.Ngxe4 Nxe4* 1-0 (41) Duda,J (2731)-Saric,I (2668) Julius GenCup Prelim 2022 (3)*; 10.a3 Nac5 11.Rg1 a4 12.Nd2 Bf6 13.g5 Be7 14.h4 f6 15.gxf6 Nxf6 16.h5 g5 17.Rxg5+ Kh8 18.Rg3 Rg8 19.Rxg8+ Qxg8 20.Bxc5 dxc5 21.Nf3 Bg4 22.Qd3 Rf8 23.Be2 Nxh5 24.Nxe5 Bxe2* 0-1 (29) Parligras,M (2591)-Saric,I (2653) EU-ch 21st Reykjavik 2021 (4) *)* 10...Ndc5 11.h4 Kh8 12.Qd2 Bd7 13.h5 gxh5 14.g5 f5 15.gxf6 Qxf6 16.Be2 Nb4 17.Ng5 Bh6 18.0-0-0 Nxa2+ 19.Kb1 Nxc3+ 20.Qxc3 Bg4 21.Bxg4 Bxg5 22.Bf5 Bxe3 (48) Yankelevich,L (2480)-Saric,I (2660) Spilimbergo 145/(195) 2019]
[8.Bd3 0-0 9.g4 Nd7 10.Nf3 Ndc5 11.Rg1 c6 12.a3 cxd5 13.Nxd5 Nc7 14.Nc3 N7e6 15.Bc2 Nf4 16.h4 b6 17.a4 Be6 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.exd5 e4 20.Bxf4 exf3 21.Qxf3 Bxb2 22.Rb1 Bg7 ½-½ (43) Esipenko,A (2682)-Daneshvar,B (2600) Masters Open 2024 (5.1)]

8...h5 9.Nf3 Bd7N
[Vorgänger: 9...Nd7 1.29/19 9...Bd7 0.49 10.Ng5 0.14/23 *(10.a3!± 1.29/19)* 10...Ndc5 11.Qd2 Bd7 12.0-0 h4 0.82/18 *(12...f6= 0.29/19)* 13.f4 0.37/18 *(13.Rae1± 0.82/18)* 13...exf4± 14.Bxf4 aiming for Nxf7!. 0-0! 15.Nf3 -0.17/20 *(15.Bd1± 0.54/20)* 15...Re8 0.93/20 *(15...Bxc3= -0.17/20* remains equal. *16.Qxc3 Nxe4)*

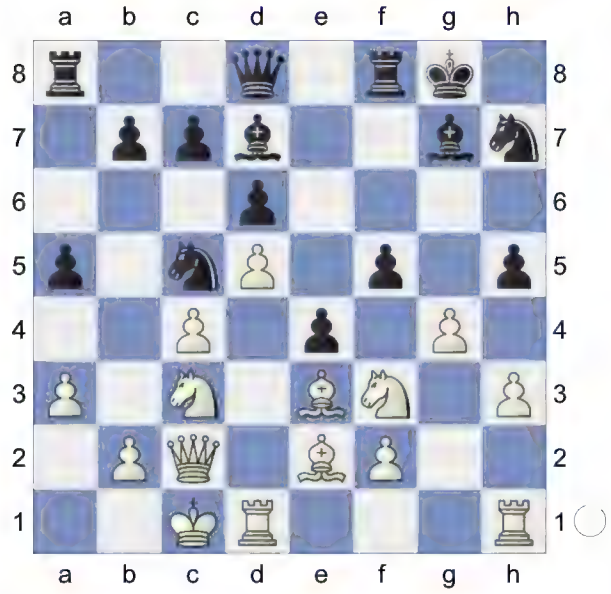


16.Bg5? -0.99/19 *(16.Bh6!± 0.93/20)* 16...Bf6? 3.79/20 *(16...Bxc3!∓* -0.99/19 and life is bright. *17.bxc3 Nxe4 18.Bxd8 Nxd2* Discovered Attack *19.Nxd2 Raxd8)*

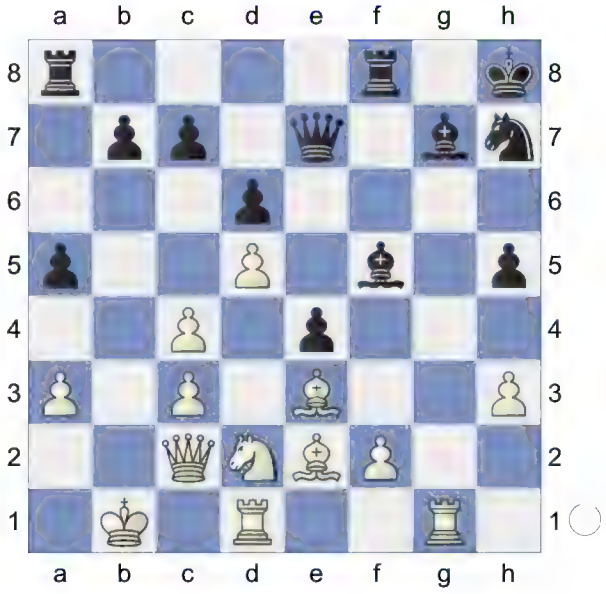
17.Bxf6!+- Qxf6 18.Ng5 Qe5 19.Nxf7 Nxe4 20.Nxe5 Nxd2 21.Nxd7 1-0 Thomas,A (2146)-Malka,S (2185) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Dec blitz 2021 (8)]

10.Qc2 Nh7 0.86/18
[10...b6± 0.41/21]

11.g3 f5 1.14/20
[⌓11...Nf6 0.73/20]
12.a3 0-0 13.exf5 0.88/19
[White should try 13.0-0-0 1.38/18]
13...gxf5 1.44/21
[Better is 13...Bxf5 0.88/19 14.Qd1 e4]
14.0-0-0± White is more active. **14...Nc5**
15.g4 e4

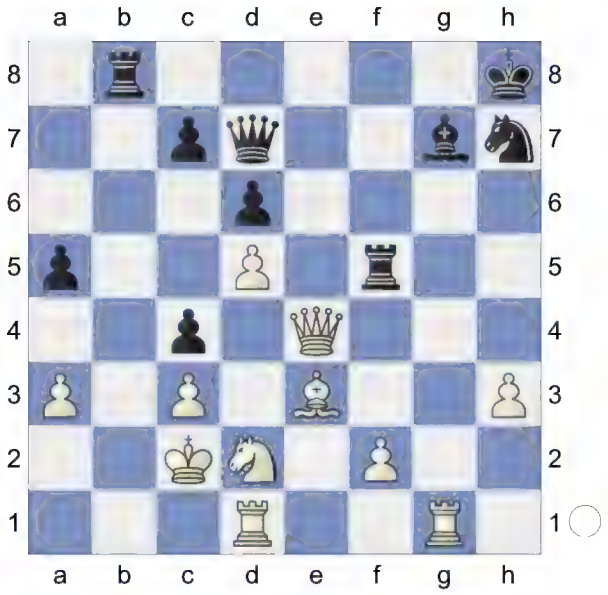


16.Nd2 Qe7 2.13/19
[16...Qh4 1.61/15 17.Rdg1 *(17.gxh5 Kh8±)* 17...Rae8]
17.Kb1
[17.gxh5?! Kh8±]
17...Kh8 18.Rhg1
[18.gxh5?! Rg8±]
18...Na4 19.gxf5 Nxc3+ 20.bxc3 Bxf5 2.37/18
[20...Nf6± 1.44/17 might work better.]

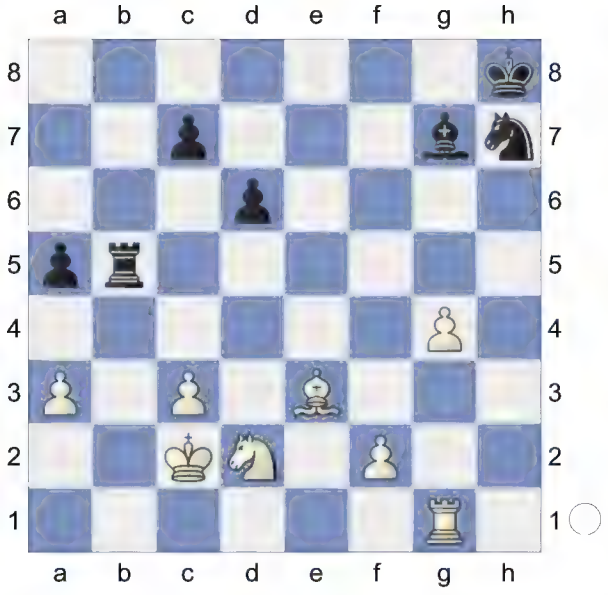


21.Bxh5+- b5 22.Bg6
[22.cxb5 Nf6±]
22...bxc4 23.Bxf5
[But not 23.Nxc4?! Rf6 24.Bxf5 Rxf5±]
[23.Nxe4?! Rab8+ 24.Kc1 Qxe4 25.Qxe4 Bxe4 26.Bxe4 Bxc3±]
23...Rxf5 24.Qxe4
[24.Nxc4 Nf6±]
24...Rb8+ 25.Kc2 Qd7

(Diagram)

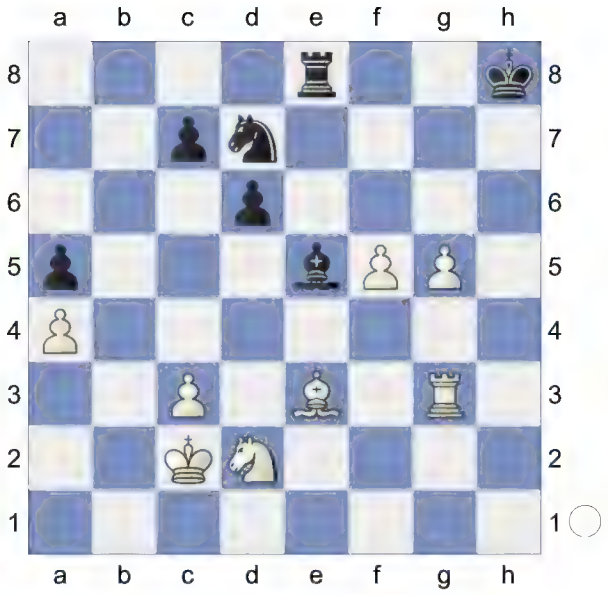


26.Qxc4→ Black is in trouble.
[26.Nxc4 Nf6 27.Qd3 *(27.Qh4+ Rh5=)* 27...Rxd5±]
26...Re5 27.Qg4 Qxg4 28.hxg4 Rxd5 29.Rb1 Rdb5 30.Rxb5 Rxb5

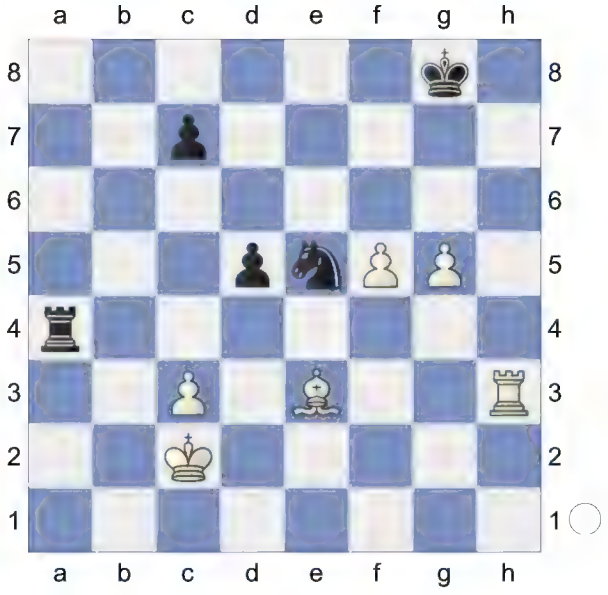


31.a4 Rb8 32.g5 Dodges Nf6 **32...Nf8 33.f4 Re8 34.Rg3 Nd7 35.f5 Be5**

(Diagram)

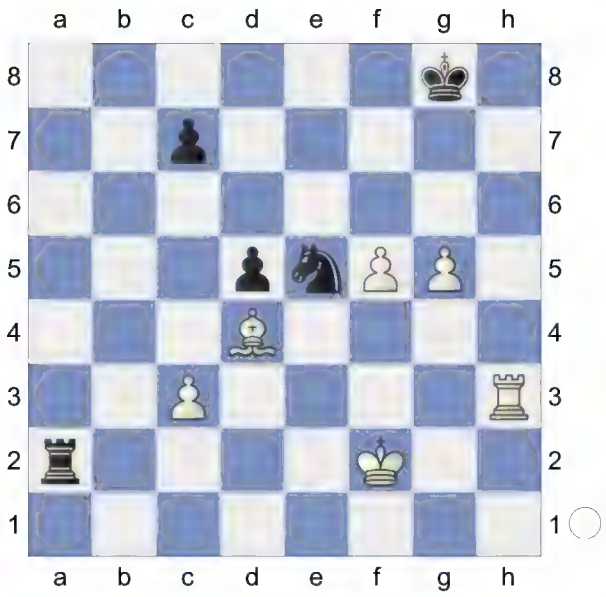


36.Rh3+ Kg8 37.Nc4 d5 4.71/20
[⌓37...Rf8 3.35/19 38.f6 *(38.Nxa5 Rxf5 39.Nc6 Rf1+-)* 38...Re8]
38.Nxa5 White is clearly winning.
38...Ra8 39.Nc6 Rxa4 40.Nxe5 Nxe5



Endgame KRB-KRN. White is a pawn up. **41.Bd4 Ra2+ 42.Kd1 Ra1+ 43.Ke2 Ra2+ 44.Kf1 Ra1+ 45.Kf2 Ra2+**

(Diagram)



46.Ke3 Ra4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.53

47.g6

[Less strong is 47.Bxe5 Re4+ 48.Kd2 Rxe5±]

1-0

106 **C55**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

■ **Ponomariov,Ruslan** **2641**

FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (2.20) 26.10.23

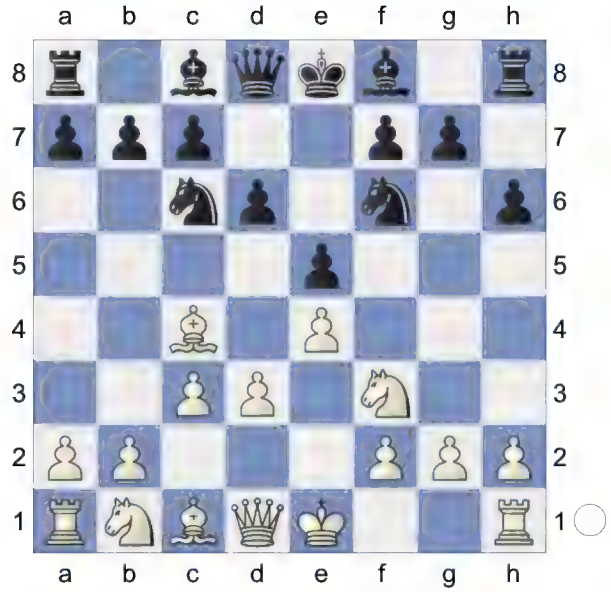
[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack

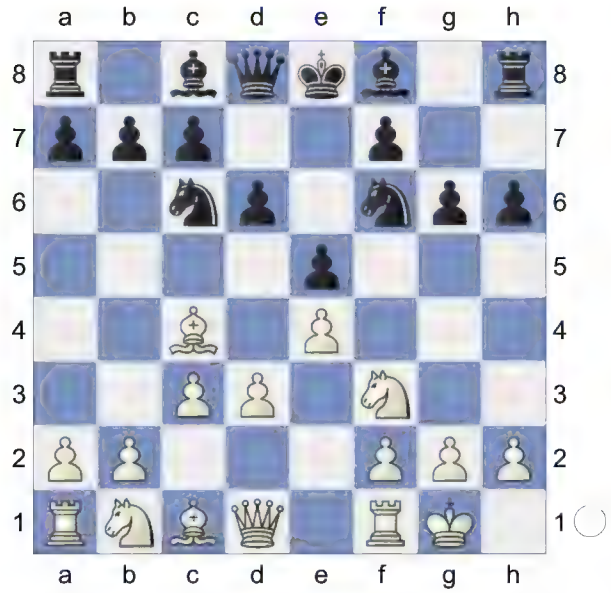
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.c3N

[5.Nc3 Bc5 6.Be3 *(6.h3 a6 7.Be3 d6 8.Bxc5 dxc5 9.Nd5 0-0 10.a4 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 Nb4 12.Bb3 Qd6 13.0-0 Be6 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.Qd2 a5 16.Qc3 b6 17.Nd2 Nc6 18.Nc4 Rad8 19.Rae1 Rfe8 20.b3 f6* ½-½ (87) Van Foreest,J (2694)-Sargissian,G (2711) Santiago de Compostela Bicapawn GP Rap rapid 2022 (6)*; 6.0-0 d6 7.Be3 Bb6 8.Na4 Bg4 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.h3 Bh5 11.a3 0-0 12.g4 Bg6 13.Qe2 Na5 14.Ba2 d5 15.Nxe5 dxe4 16.Nxg6 exd3 17.cxd3 Re8 18.Qd2 Qd6 19.Nf4 Qc6 20.Rac1 Qd7* 1-0 (35) Vieira,L (1400)-Emmerich,M (1800) Florianopolis op 9th 2023 (3) *21.Ne2 h5 22.Bf4 hxg4 23.Rxc7 Qf5 24.Bxf7+ Kh7 25.Bxe8 Nxe8 26.Re7 gxh3 27.Qe3 Qg4+ 28.Qg3 Qh5 29.Kh2 Kg8 30.Rg1 g6 31.Qxg6+ Qxg6 32.Rxg6+ Ng7 33.Rgxg7+ Kf8 34.Nd4 Rd8 35.Ne6#* 1-0 9♗g2 ♘bd7 10.00 ♘b6 11.b (1400)-Tot,B (1800) CCOL11 fin-02 9298 1992 (3)*)* 6...Bb6 7.Qd2 d6 8.h3 Be6 9.Bb3 Qd7 10.Ne2 Ba5 11.c3 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Ng3 Nxe3 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Qxe3 Bb6 16.Qe2 Qd6 17.0-0 0-0-0 18.Rad1 Rhf8 19.b4 Rd7 ½-½ (63) Coimbra,C-Carvalho,C POR-ch (Women) 1999 (3)]

5...d6

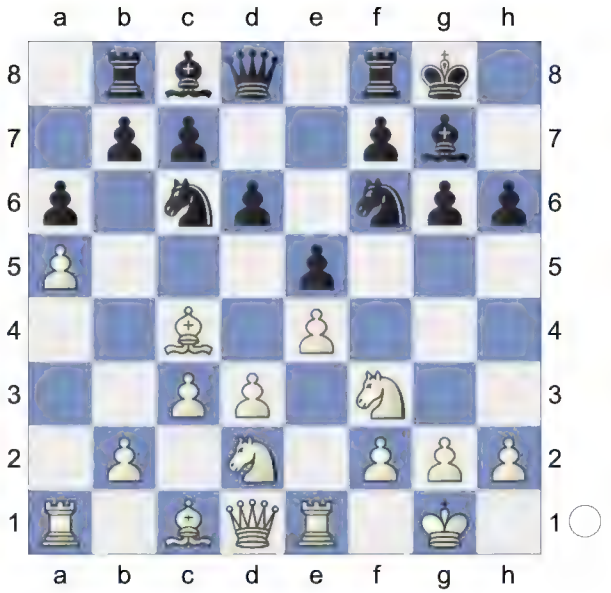


6.0-0 g6 0.91/10
[6...Na5!= -0.18/4]

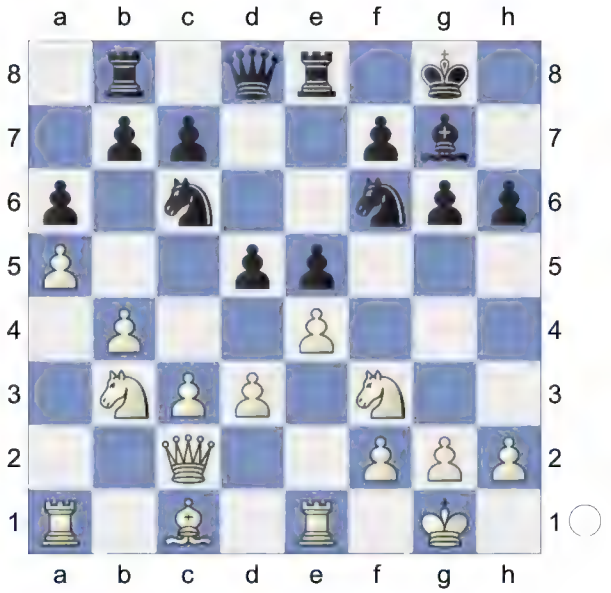


7.a4 0.02/3
[7.d4!± 0.91/10]
7...Bg7 0.46/13
[7...Na5!= 0.02/3]
8.a5 a6 9.Nbd2 White is slightly better.
9...0-0 10.Re1 Rb8

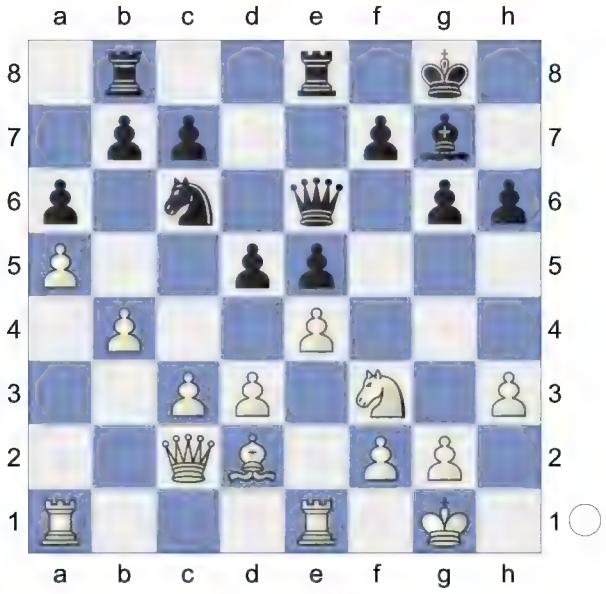
(Diagram)



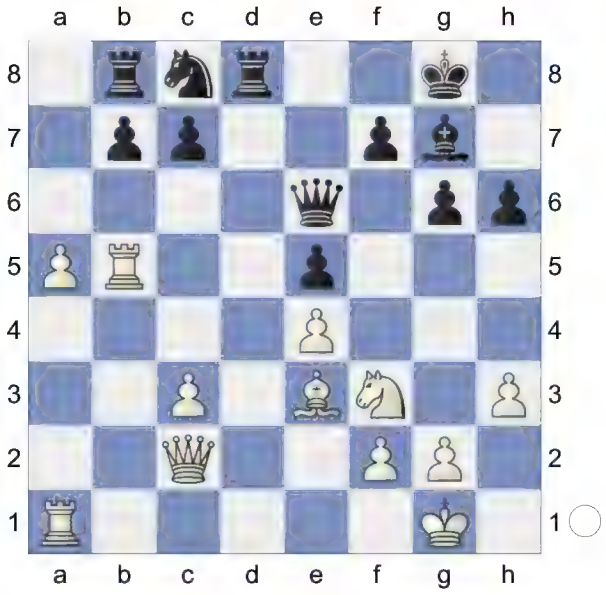
10...Be6 is the modern continuation.
10...Le6 ist die moderne Fortsetzung.
11.b4N
[Vorgänger: 11.Nf1 Nh7 0.82/8 *(11...d5=* 0.24/9 keeps the balance. *12.exd5 Nxd5)* 12.h3± Kh8 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 Ng5 16.Bb3 0.61/8 *(16.d5±* 0.98/17 *)* 16...f5± 17.exf5 Bxf5 1-0 Ozer,O (2336)-Akash,G (2456) Mersin op 4th 2019 (7)]
11...Re8 12.Qb3 Be6 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 14.Qc2 Re8 15.Nb3 d5



16.Be3 Qd6 17.h3 Nd7 18.Bd2 Nf8 19.Nc5 Ne6 20.Nxe6 Qxe6

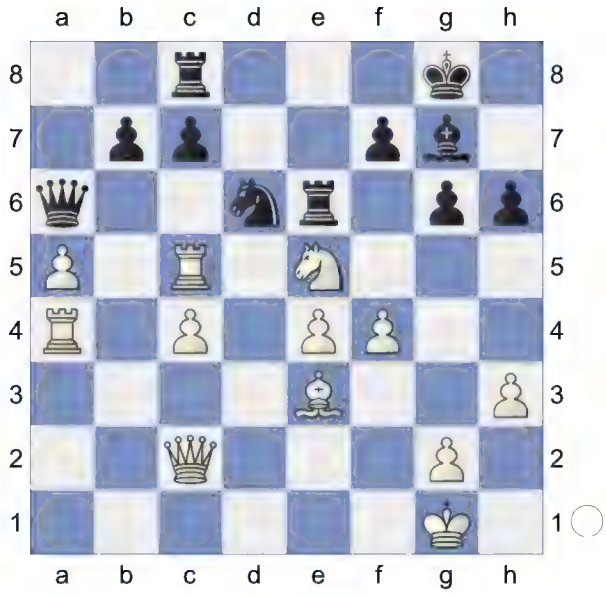


21.Reb1 Red8 22.Be3 Ne7 0.75/16
[22...Ra8= 0.21/20]
23.b5± axb5 24.Rxb5 dxe4 25.dxe4 Nc8

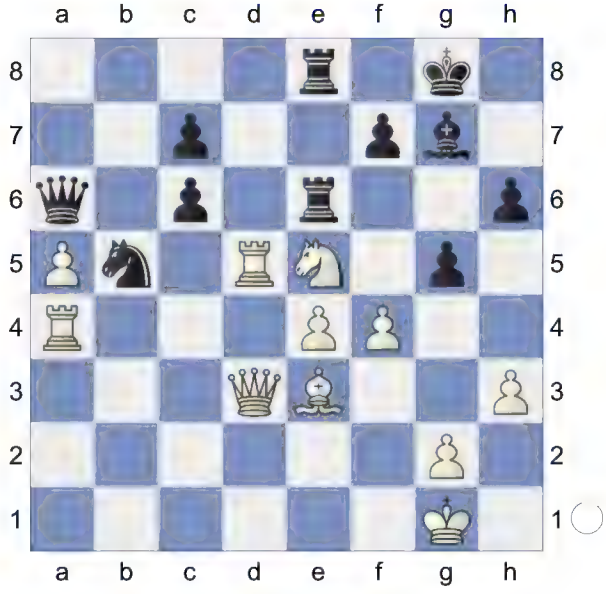


26.c4 Qa6 27.Ra4
[27.Nxe5 Na7 28.Bxa7 Qxa7∓]
27...Nd6 28.Rc5 Rbc8 29.Nxe5 Re8 30.f4 Re6 1.08/15
[30...c6!± 0.67/18]

(Diagram)

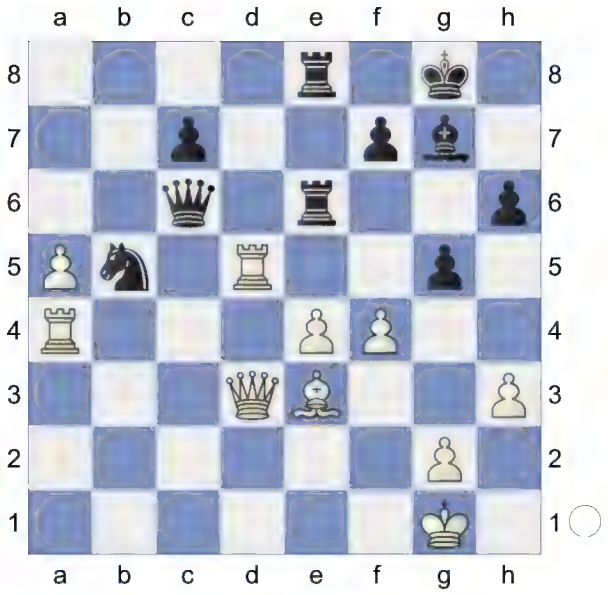


31.Rd5! Rce8 32.c5 Nb5 33.Qd3 0.47/16
[33.Bc1± 1.03/18]
33...g5± 34.c6 0.00/22 White is more active.
[34.Bd2!± 0.64/18]
34...bxc6

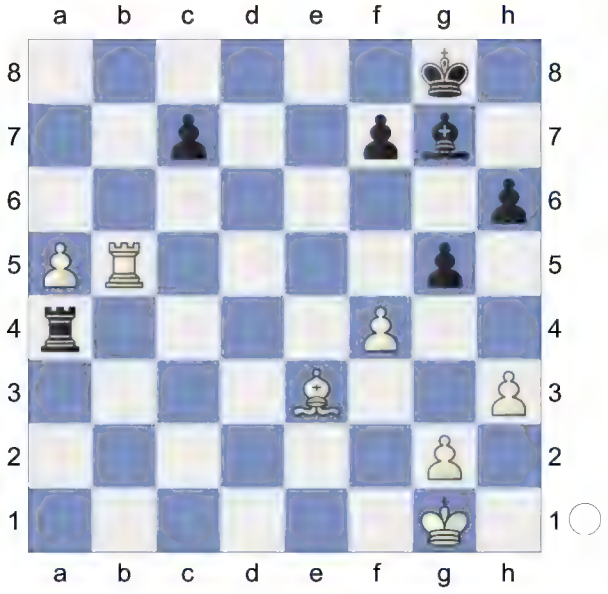


35.Nxc6! Qxc6

(Diagram)

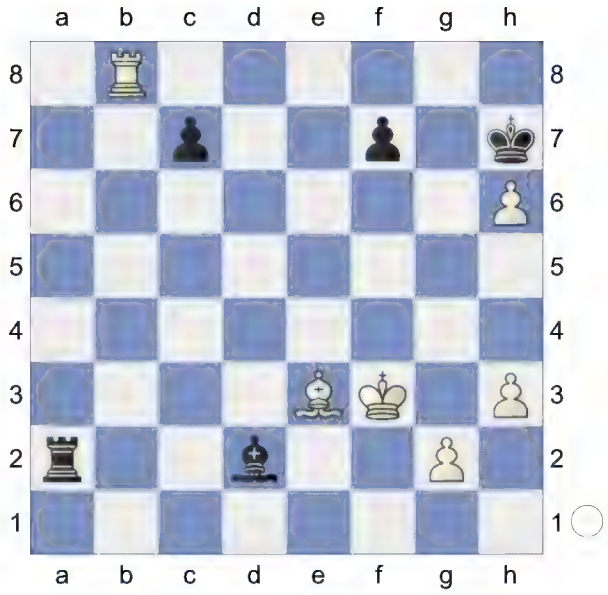


36.Qxb5 Qxb5 37.Rxb5 Rxe4 38.Rxe4 Rxe4= Endgame KRB-KRB **39.Bd2 Rd4 40.Be3 Ra4**

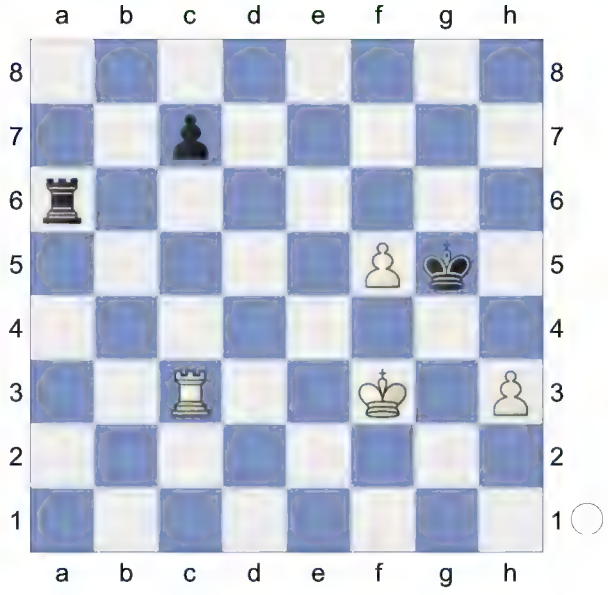


41.fxg5 Bc3? 1.90/19
[Black should try 41...h5!± 0.35/18]
42.gxh6+- Rxa5 43.Rb8+ 0.94/5
[⌓43.Rxa5 1.48/18 Bxa5 44.g3]
43...Kh7± 44.Kf2 0.01/16
[44.Rf8± 0.94/21 Rf5 45.Re8]
44...Ra2+!= The position is equal.
45.Kf3 Bd2!

(Diagram)

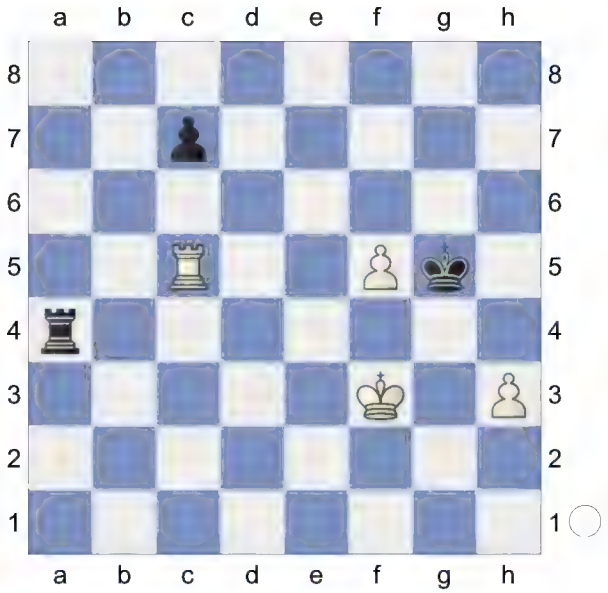


46.Rb3 Bxe3 47.Rxe3 Ra6 48.g4 And now g5 would win. **48...Kxh6 49.Rc3 f5 50.gxf5**
[Much less strong is 50.Rxc7 Kg5±]
50...Kg5



51.Rc5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)
51...Ra4

(Diagram)



½-½

107 **B48**
□ **Lee,Jun Hyeok** **2379**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
Asian Games Men Team 2023 (8.5)
[Kitty Kat]

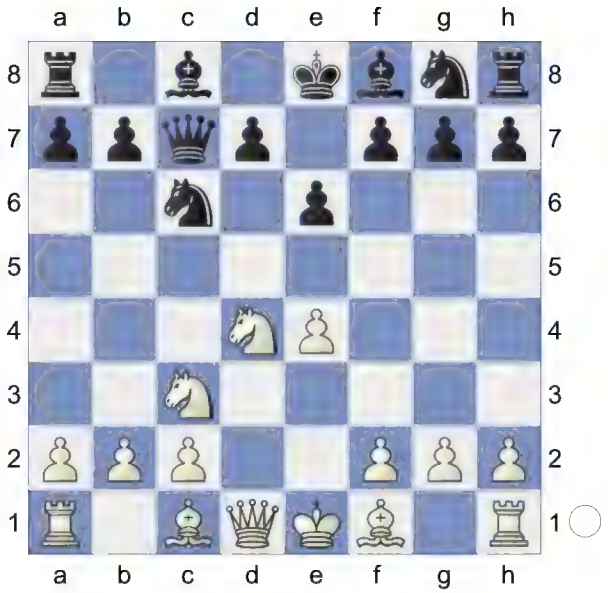
B48: Sicilian: Taimanov: 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be3 a6 without Be2

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6

[4...d6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Qb6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 g6 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Qc2 0-0 11.Be3 Qc7 12.Rac1 Ng4 13.Bxg4 Bxg4 14.h3 Be6 15.Ne2 c5 16.Nf4 Rfb8 17.Rb1 a5 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.exd5 1-0 (27) Fuks,M (2095)-Dalkiran,S (1993) 4/385 United States 1967 (4)]

5.Nc3 Qc7

(Diagram)

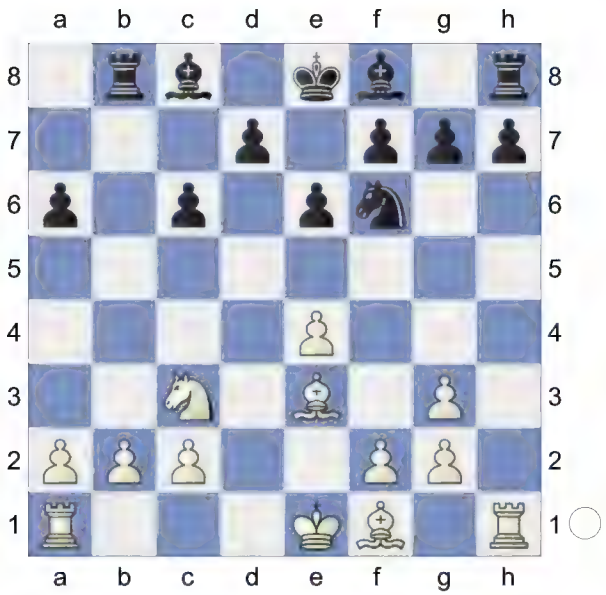


6.Be3N

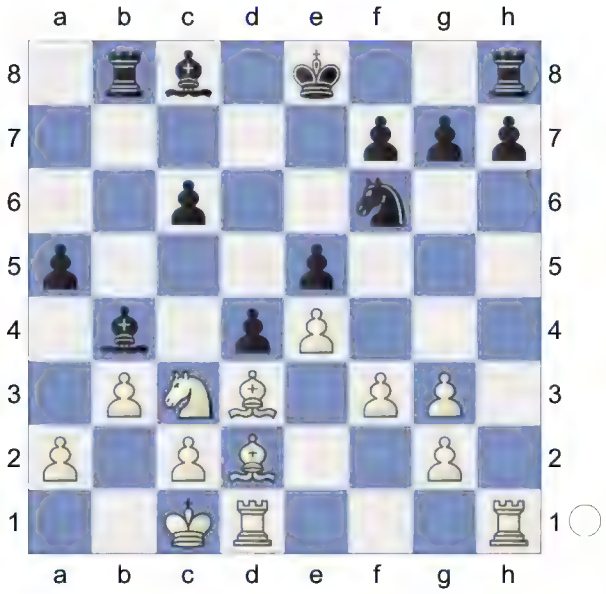
[6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nce2 0-0 10.c4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 d6 12.b3 Bd7 13.Bb2 Bc6 14.Rac1 b6 15.Nc3 Qb7 16.Rfe1 Rfd8 17.Qe3 Re8 18.Qd2 b5 19.Nd5 exd5 20.cxd5 Bd7 ½-½ (37) Damjanovic,M-Langeweg,K 1/269 Beverwijk 1966 21.e5 Ng4 22.h3 Nh6 23.e6 Bc8 24.g4 Qb8 25.g5 Nf5 26.Be4 fxe6 27.Bxf5 e5 28.Qd3 Bxf5 29.Qxf5 Qd8 30.h4 Rf8 31.Qe6+ Kh8 32.Re4 Qb6 33.Rc2 Rae8 34.Rxe5 Qd8 35.Rf5 Rg8 ½-½ (37) Damjanovic,M-Browne,W 8/457 San Juan 1969]

6...a6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Qf3 is the new trend. ist der neue Trend. **8...Nf6 9.Qg3 Qxg3** The position is equal. **10.hxg3 Rb8**

(Diagram)



11.b3 Bb4 12.Bd2 d5 13.Bd3 e5 14.f3 a5N 0.73/10
[Vorgänger: 14...h6 15.0-0-0 0-0 16.Kb2 d4 0.76/3 *(16...Rd8=* 0.16/8 *)* 17.Na4± Nd7 1.31/9 *(⌓17...Bxd2* 0.82/16 *18.Rxd2 Re8)* 18.Bxb4± Rxb4 19.c3 dxc3+ 20.Kxc3 Rd4 ½-½ Van Foreest,J (2622)-Lenderman, A (2645) Saint Louis Fall-A 2019 (7)]
[14...h6± 0.37/21]
15.0-0-0 0.24/5
[15.a3± 0.73/10 Bc5 16.Nd1]
15...d4=



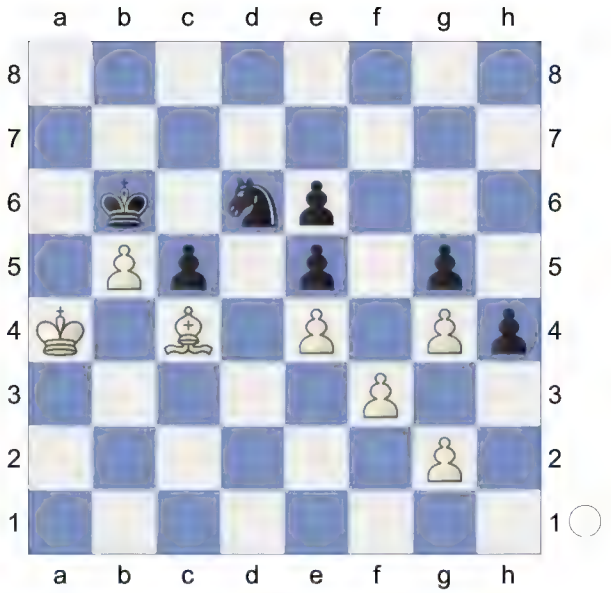
16.Na4 Be6 17.Bxb4 -0.25/4
[⌓17.c3 0.27/9 dxc3 18.Nxc3 *(18.Bxc3 Bxc3 19.Nxc3 h5±)*]
17...axb4 18.Nc5 Ke7 19.Be2 Kd6 20.Nxe6 fxe6

21.Kb2 Ra8 22.Ra1 White is weak on the dark squares **22...h5 23.a4 bxa3+ 24.Rxa3 Rxa3 25.Kxa3∓** Endgame KRB-KRN **25...g5**

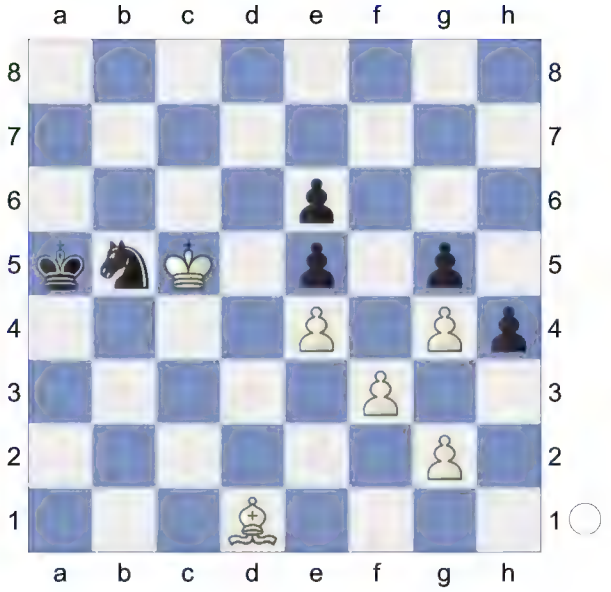
26.Kb2 h4 27.g4 Prevents Nh5 **27...Ra8 28.Ra1! Rxa1 29.Kxa1=** KB-KN **29...Kc5 30.Bc4 Nd7** -0.31/23
[30...Ng8!∓ -1.15/23 31.Kb2 Ne7]

31.Kb2!∓ Nf8 -0.09/22
[31...Kb4∓ -0.93/28 ...Nf8 would now be deadly. 32.Bxe6 Nc5]
32.c3!= Kb6 33.Bf1 -1.37/34
[33.b4!= -0.09/31 was the only way to keep the balance.]
33...c5∓ 34.b4! Ng6 -0.12/2
[Better is 34...cxb4!∓ -1.18/19 35.cxb4 Ng6]
35.b5 dxc3+

36.Kxc3 Ne7 37.Kb3 Nc8 38.Be2 Nd6 39.Ka4 Nb7 40.Bc4 Nd6

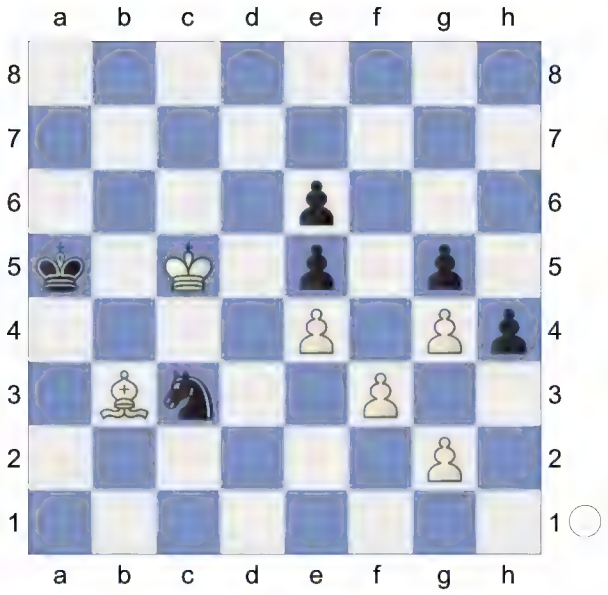


41.Be2 c4 42.Kb4 Nxb5 43.Kxc4 Nd4
44.Bd1 Ka5? 3.88/24
[44...Kc6= 0.00/42 and Black is okay.]
45.Kc5+- Nb5

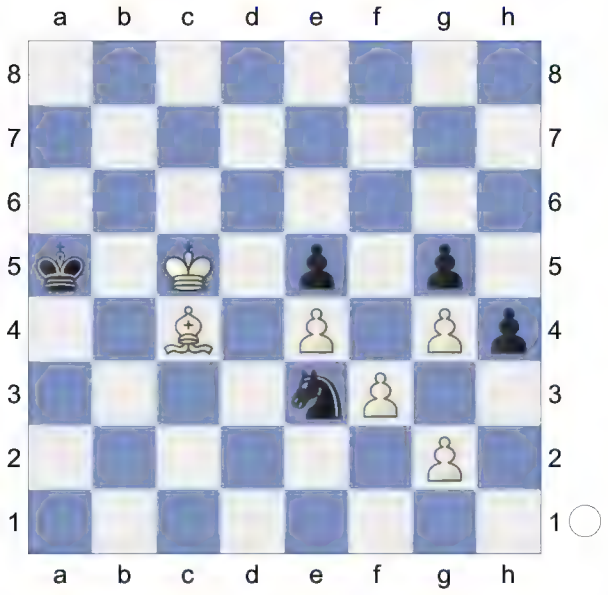


46.Bb3 2.92/5
[⌓46.Bc2! 1.93/13]
46...Nd4 47.Bd1 Nb5 48.Bb3? 0.10/14
[48.Bc2+- 3.01/13]
48...Nc3? 3.43/21
[48...Nd4= 0.10/14 49.Bd1]

(Diagram)



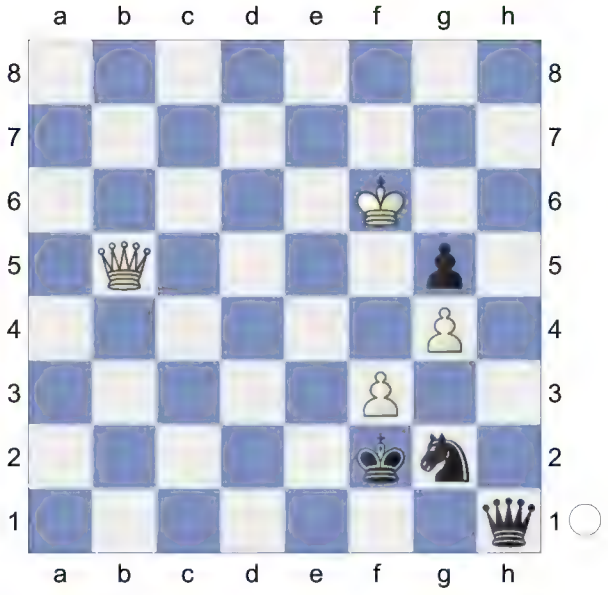
49.Bxe6? 0.39/13
[White has to play 49.Bc2!+- 3.43/21 Hoping for Kd6. Ne2 50.Bd3]
49...Nd1!± 50.Bc4? 0.10/5
[50.Kd5+- 2.79/4]
50...Ne3=



51.Be2 Nxg2 52.Bf1 h3 53.Kd6 Kb4 54.Kxe5 Kc3 White should prevent ... Kd2. **55.Kf6! Kd2**

(Diagram)

56.e5
[56.Kxg5? Ke1 57.e5 Kxf1-+]
56...Ke1 57.e6 Kxf1 KN-K3P **58.e7 h2 59.e8Q h1Q**
[59...h1R? 60.Kxg5 Ne1 61.f4 Nf3+ 62.Kf5+-]
[59...Nh4 feels hotter. 60.Qb5+ Kf2 61.Kxg5 h1Q]
60.Qb5+ Kf2



61.Qb2+ Kg3
[61...Kxf3? 62.Qb3+ Kxg4 63.Qe6+ Kg3 64.Kxg5∓]
62.Kxg5 Qh4+ 63.Kg6 Qe7

[63...Kxf3 64.Qb7+ Kf2 *(64...Kxg4 65.Qxg2+ Qg3 66.Qxg3+ Kxg3=; 64...Kg3 65.Qb3+ Kh2 66.Qb8+ Kh3 67.Qb3+ Kxg4 68.Qd1+ Kg3 69.Qd3+ Kh2 70.Qd6+ Kg1 71.Qd1+ Ne1 72.Kf5∓)* 65.Qb2+ Kg3 66.Qb3+ Kxg4 67.Qd1+ Kg3 68.Qd3+ Kf2 69.Qc2+ Kg1 70.Qd1+ Ne1 *(70...Kh2 71.Qd6+ Kg1 72.Qd1+ Ne1 73.Kf5∓)* 71.Kf5∓]

[63...Nf4+ 64.Kf7∓]

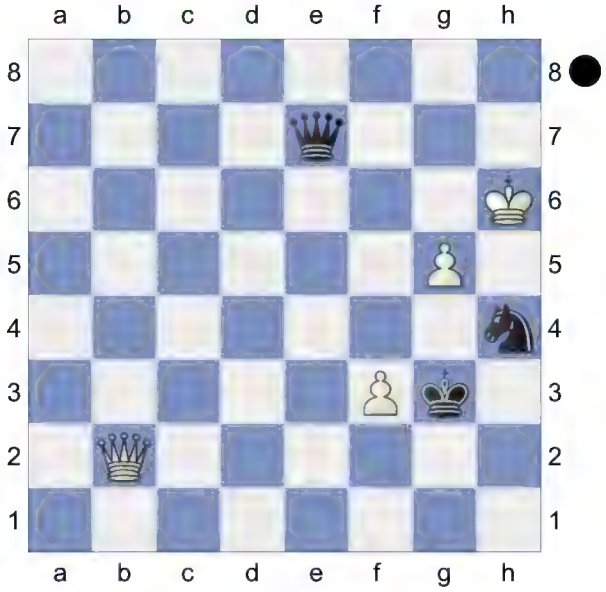
64.g5? -9.10/4

[64.Qg7= -0.10/7 Qd6+ *(64...Qxg7+ 65.Kxg7 Kf4 66.Kf6=)* 65.Kh7]

64...Nh4+-+

[Weaker is 64...Kxf3 65.Kh6∓]

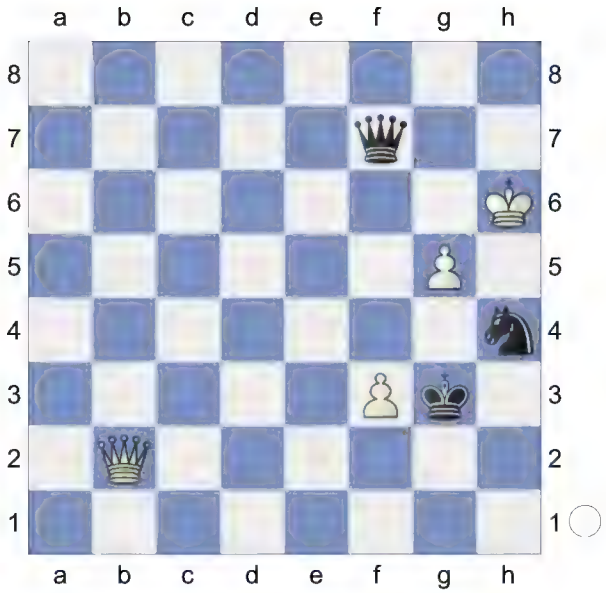
65.Kh6



Qf7!

[Not 65...Kxf3 66.Qf6+ Qxf6+ 67.gxf6 Nf5+ 68.Kh5=]

(Diagram)



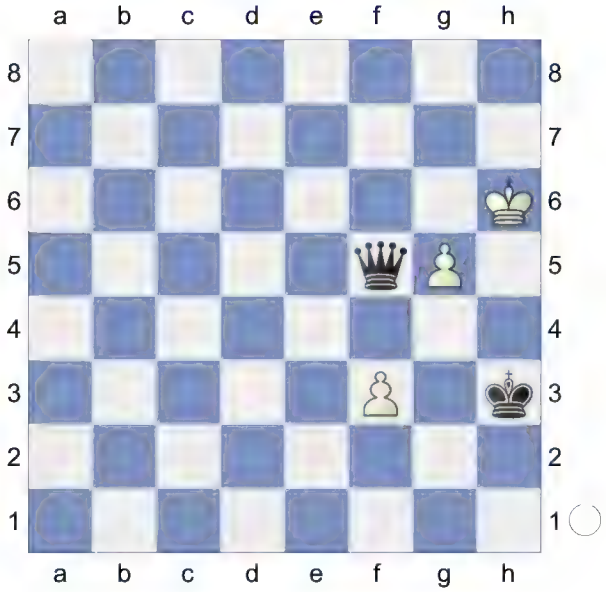
66.Qe5+ Kh3! Black mates.

[66...Kxf3 67.Qc3+ Kg4 68.Qd4+ Kh3 69.Qd3+ Nf3 70.g6=]

67.Qf6 Nf5+ 68.Qxf5+ What a bad dream for White.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.33

68...Qxf5

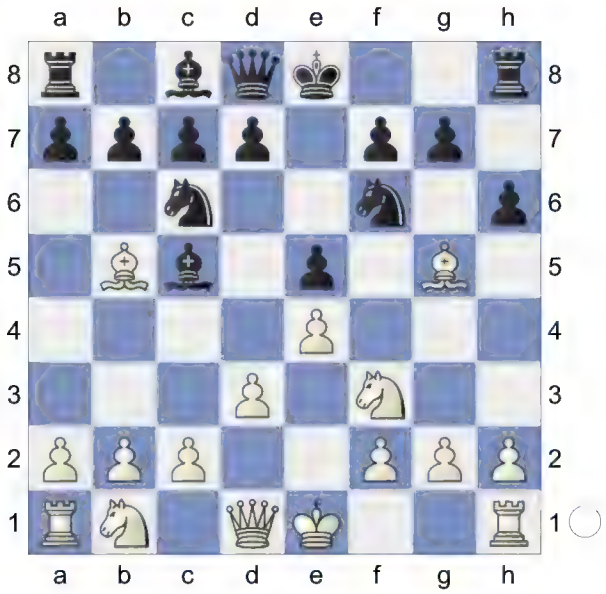


0-1

108 **C65**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2726**
Asian Games Men Team 2023 (6.5)
[TA]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5

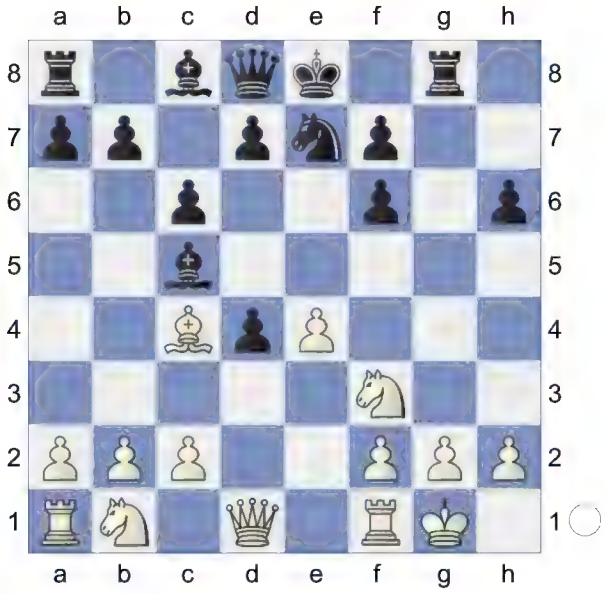
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bg5 h6



6.Bh4 Ne7 7.d4 exd4 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.0-0

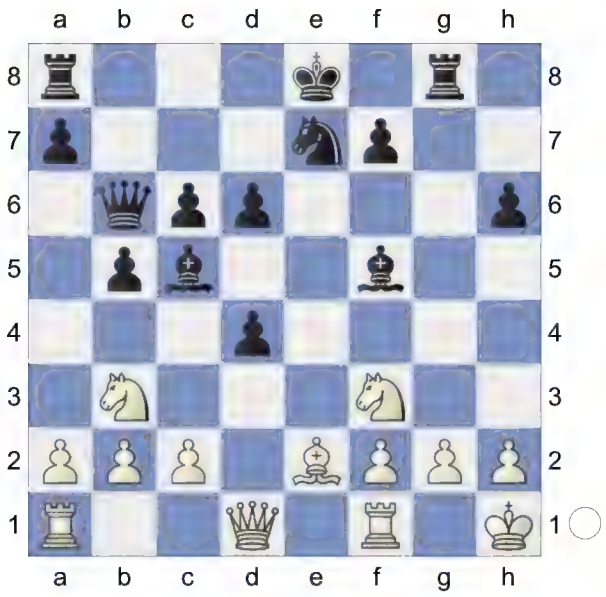
[9.Nbd2 c6 10.Bc4 b5 11.Bd3 d6 12.a4 b4 13.Nb3 Bg4 14.Be2 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 a5 16.Nxd4 Qb6 17.c3 bxc3 18.bxc3 Bxd4 19.cxd4 Qb4+ 20.Kf1 Rb8 21.g3 Qb3 22.Kg2 Qxd1 23.Rhxd1 Kd7 0-1 (92) Sikorova,J (2718)-C 06/32 (2736) Erin 101/117 2007 (4.1) 24.Bg4+ Kc7 25.Rd3 h5 26.Bd1 Rb4 27.h4 f5 28.exf5 Nxf5 29.d5 c5 30.Rf3 Nd4 31.Rxf7+ Kb6 32.Rd7 c4 33.Rxd6+ Kc5 34.Rd7 Rb2 35.Rc1 Rf8 36.Bxh5 Rfxf2+ 37.Kh3 Nf5 38.Kg4 Ne3+ 0-1 (92) Gukesh,D (2718)-Aronian,L (2736) Dusseldorf WR Masters playoff 2023 (4.1)]

9...c6 10.Bc4 Rg8

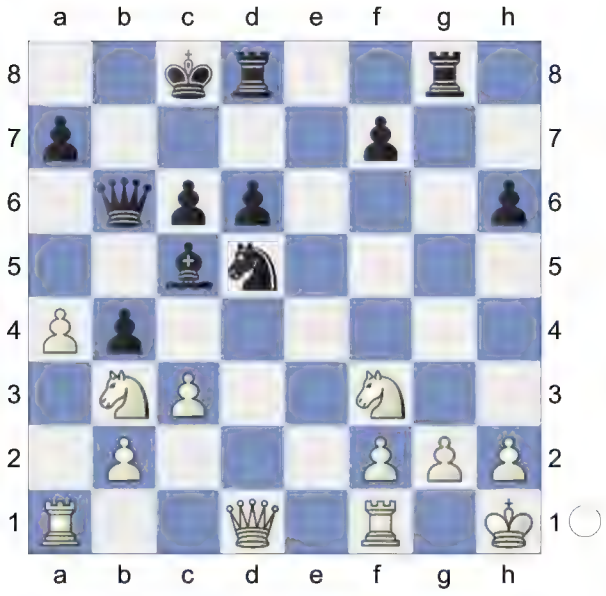


11.Kh1 b5N 0.05/22
[11...d6∓ -0.31/23
is more appropriate.]
[11...Qb6 12.Bb3 d6 13.Nbd2 Bg4 14.Qe2 Ng6 15.Qc4 Qc7 16.Nxd4 b5 17.Qc3 Nf4 18.f3 Bc8 19.g3 b4 20.Qe3 Ne6 21.c3 h5 22.Ba4 h4 23.g4 Bd7 24.N2b3 bxc3 25.Nxe6 fxe6 26.Nxc5 0-1 (62) Vokhidov,S (2586)-Lou,Y (2492) PRO League KO Stage rapid 2023 (3.3)]
12.Be2 Qb6 0.54/22
[12...d5= -0.13/22 13.exd5 Qxd5]
13.Nbd2± d6 1.02/19
[Black should try 13...a6± 0.47/21]
14.Nb3± f5 15.exf5
[15.Nbxd4? fxe4 16.c3 exf3-+]
15...Bxf5

(Diagram)

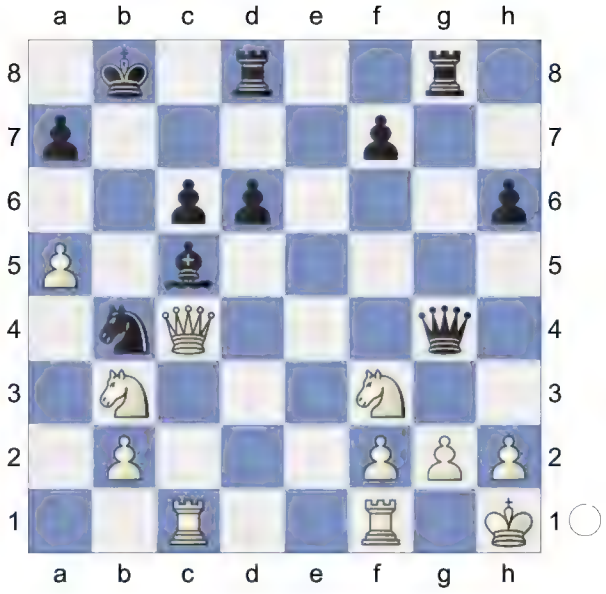


16.Nfxd4
[16.Nbxd4 Be4 17.Bd3 Bd5±]
16...Be4 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Nxf3 0-0-0 19.a4 b4 20.c3 Nd5



21.Qc2 Kb8? 5.25/2
[21...Qc7± 1.45/12 is more resistant. 22.Qd3 bxc3]
22.a5+- Qc7 23.cxb4 0.98/4
[23.g3+- 1.82/6]
23...Nxb4± 24.Qc4 Qd7 25.Rac1 1.01/5
[White should play 25.Nxc5+- 1.69/3 dxc5 26.Rae1 *(26.Qxc5 Nd3±)*]

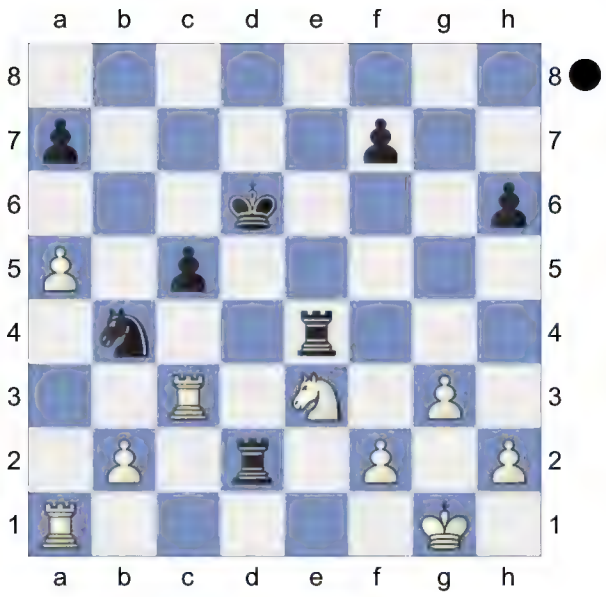
25...Qg4



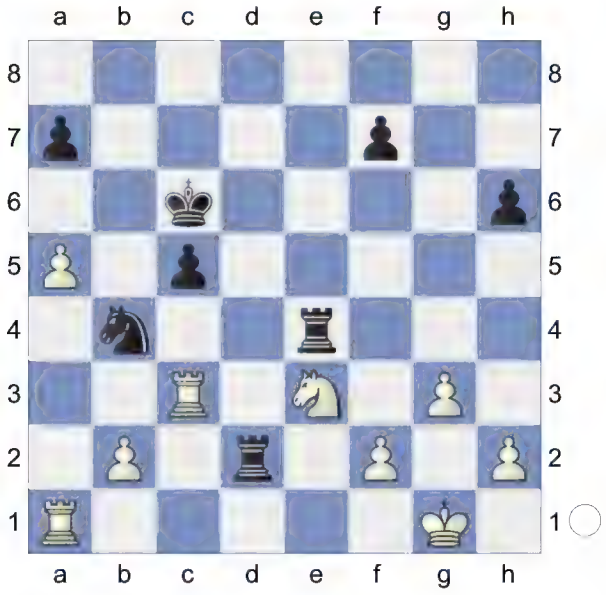
26.Qxg4
[26.Qxf7? Qxg2#]
26...Rxg4 27.Nxc5 dxc5 28.Rxc5 Rf4
Against Rf5 **29.Rc3** 0.54/4
[29.Rh5± 1.36/4]
29...Rd5!± 30.Ra1 Kc7

31.g3 Re4 32.Kg1 c5 33.Nh4 Kd6 34.Ng2 Rd2 35.Ne3

(Diagram)

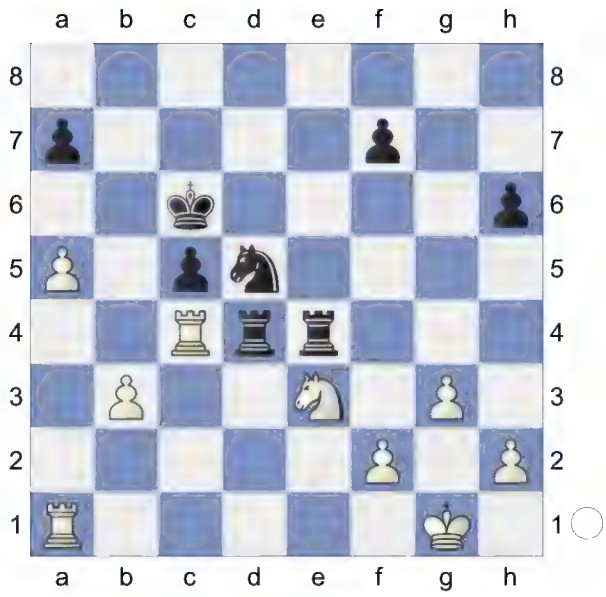


Kc6

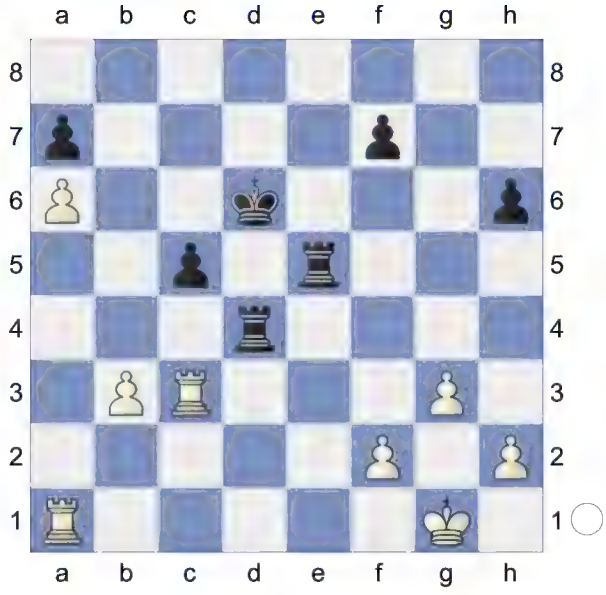


36.b3 Nd5 1.12/4
[36...h5± 0.61/7]
37.Rc4 0.69/4
[37.Nxd5± 1.12/4 And now Ne3 would win. Rxd5 38.Kg2]
37...Rdd4

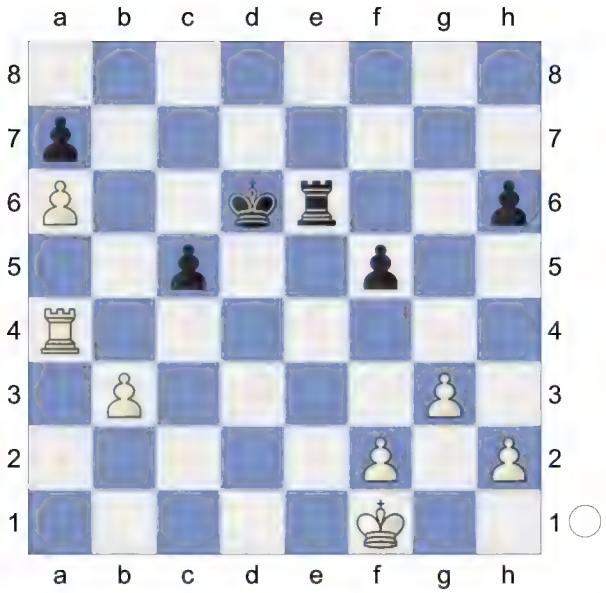
(Diagram)



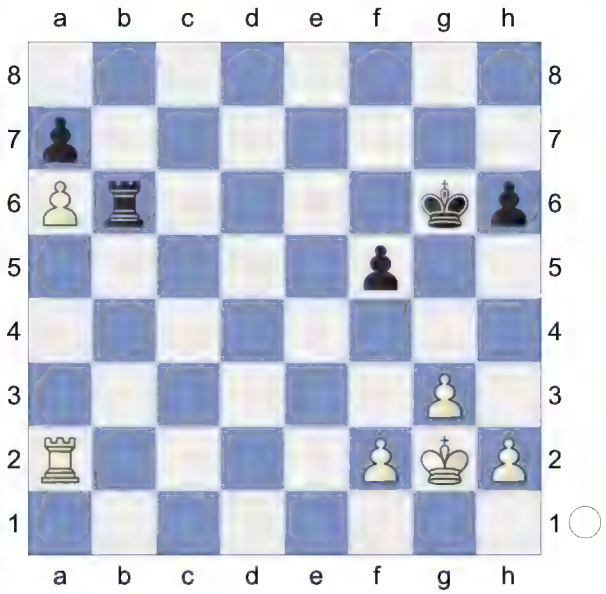
38.Nxd5 Kxd5± Endgame KRR-KRR. White is a pawn up. **39.Rc3 Kd6 40.a6** 0.53/19
[40.Rf3± 1.22/4]
40...Re5



41.Kf1 Rd2 0.99/19
[41...f5± 0.60/20]
42.Rf3 f5 43.Ra4 0.61/24
[43.Ra5± 1.18/18]
43...Rd4 and ...Rxa4 would now be decisive **44.Rf4 Rxa4 45.Rxa4±** KR-KR. White is a pawn up. **45...Re6**
(Diagram)

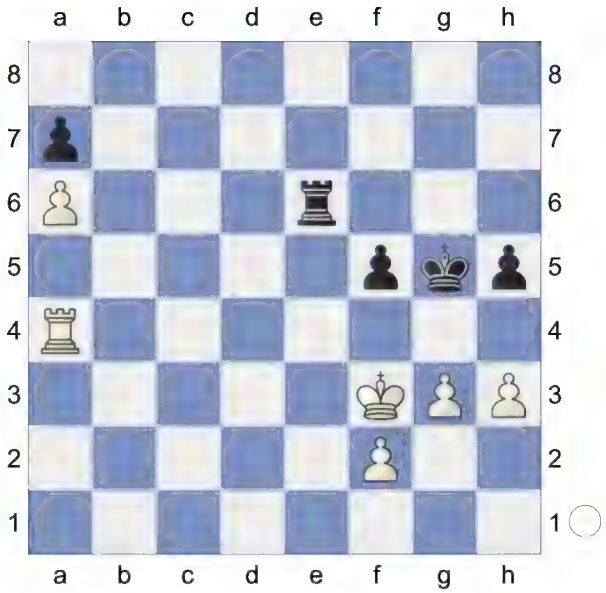


46.b4 cxb4! 47.Rxb4 Ke5! 48.Ra4 Kf6 49.Ra2 Kg6 50.Kg2 Rb6

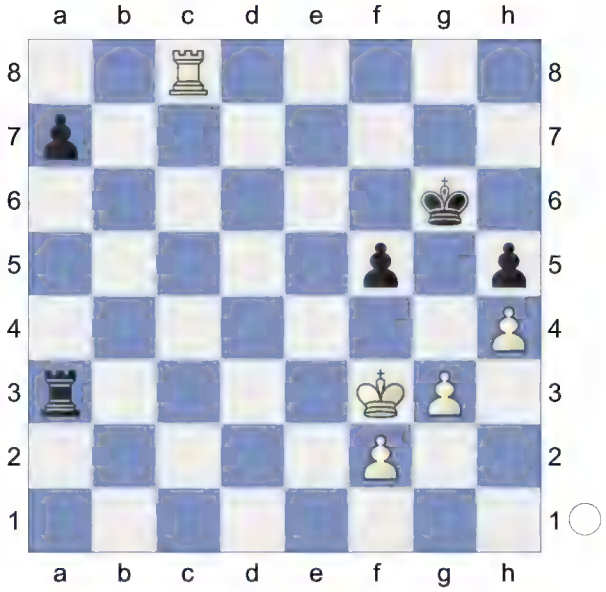


51.Kf3 Re6 52.Ra4 Kg5 53.Ra5 Kf6 54.Ra4 Kg5 55.h3 h5

(Diagram)

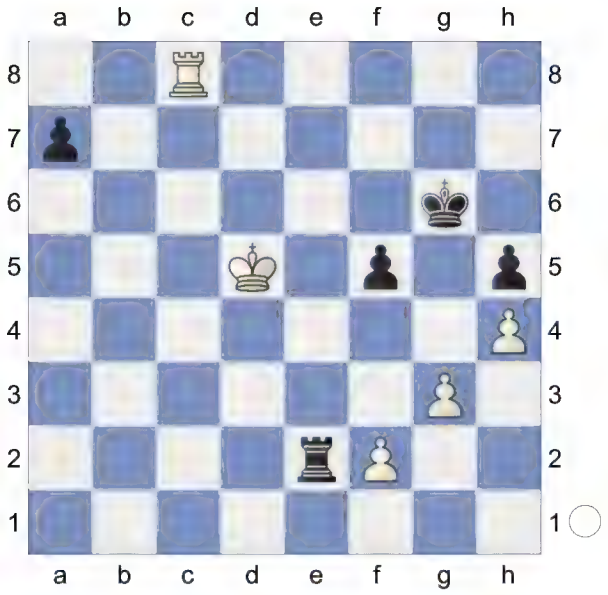


The position is equal. **56.h4+ Kg6 57.Kf4 Kf6 58.Kf3 Kg6 59.Rc4 Rxa6 60.Rc8 Ra3+**

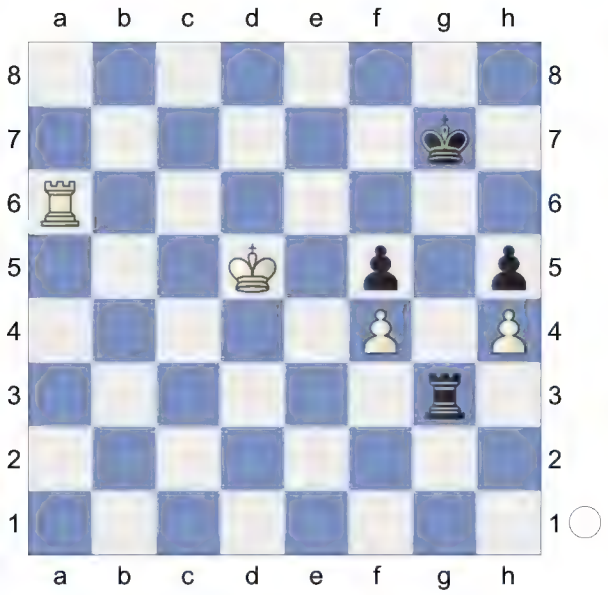


61.Kf4 next Rc6+ is good for White. **61...Ra4+ 62.Ke3 Ra3+ 63.Kf4 Ra4+ 64.Ke5 Re4+ 65.Kd5 Re2**

(Diagram)



66.Rc6+ Kg7 67.f4 Re3 68.Ra6 Rxg3 69.Rxa7+ Kf6 70.Ra6+ Kg7

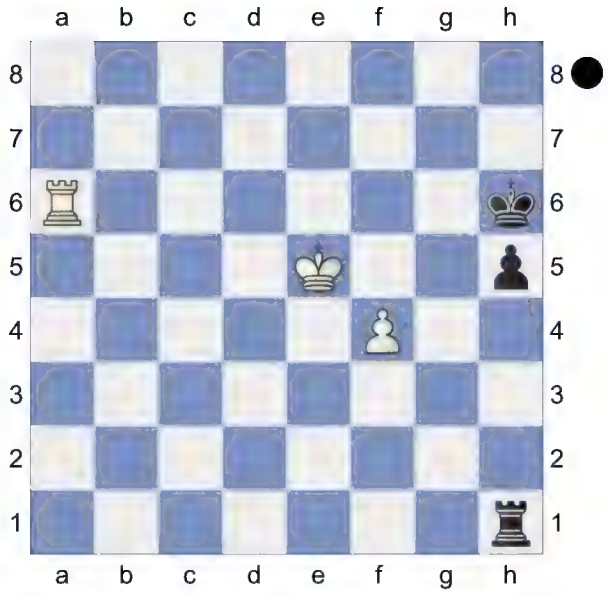


71.Ke5 Rg4 72.Kxf5 Rxh4 73.Ra7+ Kh6 74.Ke5 Rh1 White really could win this.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)

75.Ra6+

(Diagram)



½-½

109 **D49**

□ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2707**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

Asian Games Men Team 2023 (5.1)

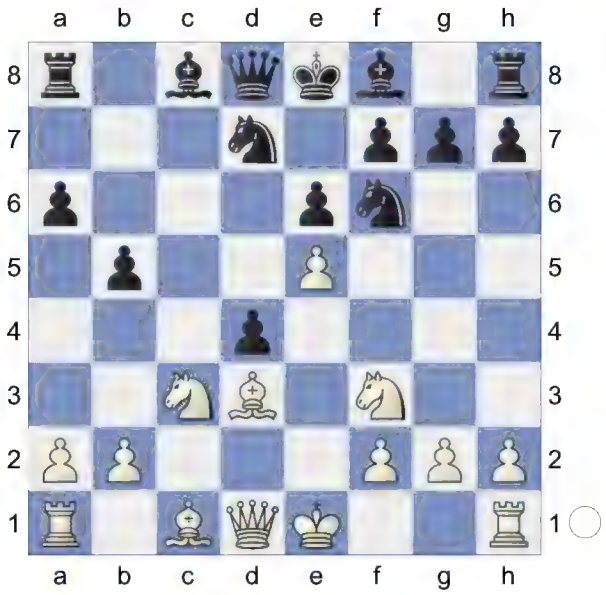
[TA]

D49: Semi-Slav: Meran System: Main line with 9 e4 c5 10 e5 cxd4 11 Nxb5

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7

(Diagram)

6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 cxd4



11.Nxb5 axb5 12.exf6 Bb4+ 13.Bd2 Bxd2+ 14.Qxd2 Qxf6 15.Bxb5 e5N

[15...0-0 16.Qxd4 Qf5 17.Bxd7 Bxd7 18.Qxd7 Qe4+ 19.Kf1 Qc4+ 20.Kg1 Rfd8 21.Qe7 Qe2 22.h4 Qxb2 23.Rf1 Re8 24.Qd7 Red8 25.Qc7 Rdc8 26.Qf4 Rxa2 27.Rh3 Rd8 28.Ng5 Qb7 29.Rf3 Ra7 30.Qg4 1-0 (36) Becker,A-Sacconi,A Tatatovaros 1935 (15)]

16.0-0 0-0 White has an edge. **17.Rfe1 Rd8 18.Qe2 Ba6 19.Bxa6** Deflection

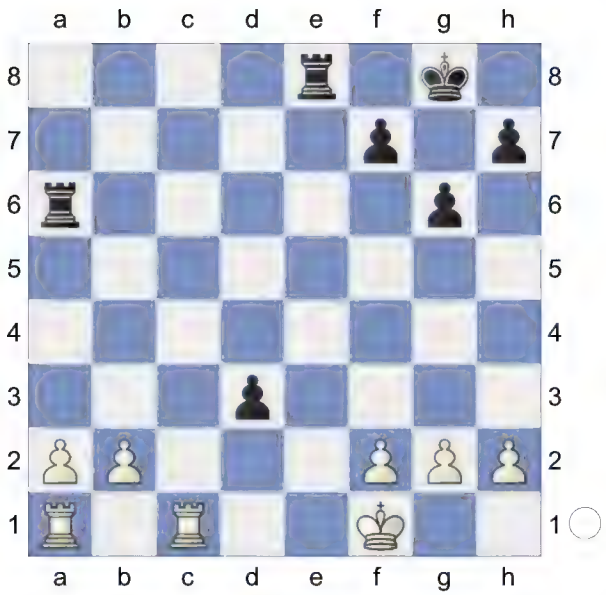
[19.a4 seems wilder. Bxb5 20.Qxb5 Rab8 21.Qd5]

19...Qxa6 20.Qxa6 Rxa6

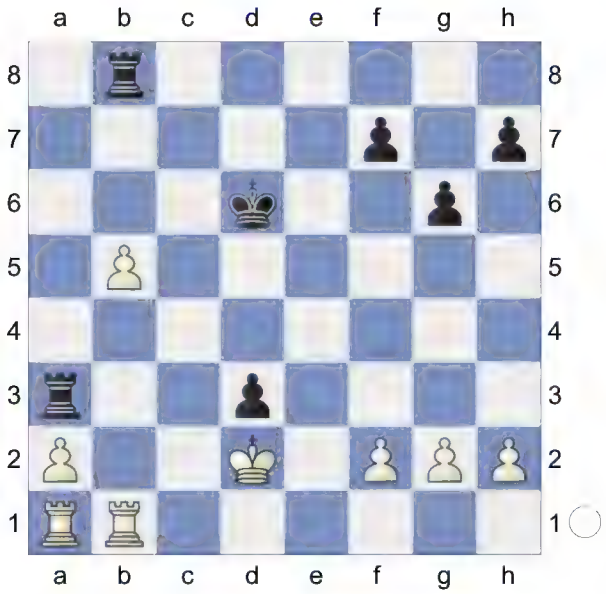
21.Nxe5 Nxe5 22.Rxe5= Endgame KRR-KRR. White is a pawn up. **22...d3** Prevents Re2 **23.Kf1 g6 24.Ree1 Rc8! 25.Rec1 Re8**

[25...Rxc1+ 26.Rxc1 Rxa2 27.Rd1∓]

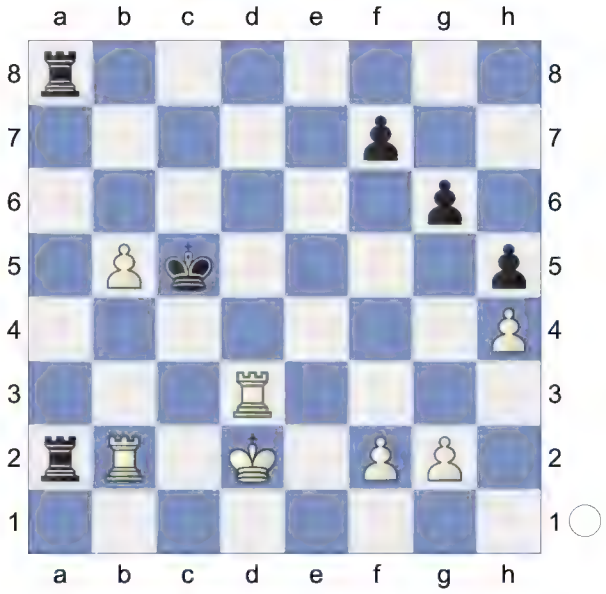
(Diagram)



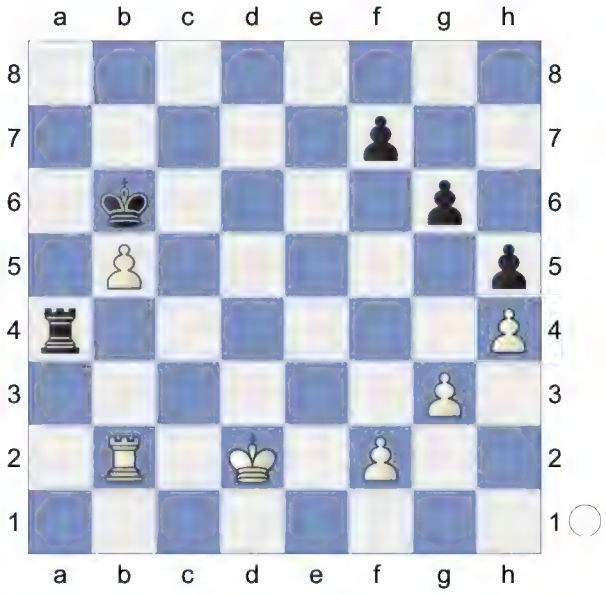
26.b4 0.13/23
[26.Re1± 1.21/22 Rc8 27.Rad1]
26...Ra3 27.Rcb1 Rb8 1.68/20
[27...Re2± 0.39/24]
28.b5+- Kf8 29.Ke1 Ke7 30.Kd2 1.41/24
[30.b6+- 1.90/24]
30...Kd6



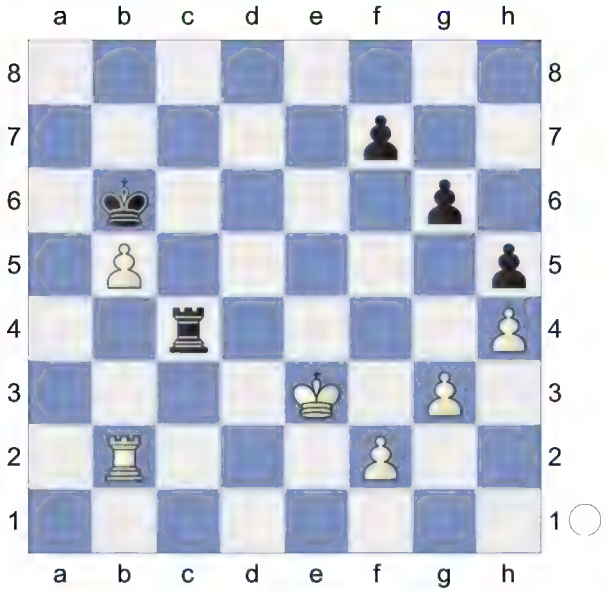
31.Rb2 h5 2.37/23
[31...Rb6± 1.08/22 32.Re1 Ra5]
32.h4 1.23/24
[White should play 32.Re1+- 2.37/23]
32...Re8 33.Re1 Prevents Re2+.
[33.Rb3 Re2+ *(33...Rxb3 34.axb3 Re5 35.Ra8=)* 34.Kxd3 Rxb3+ 35.Kxe2 *(35.axb3 Rxf2 36.Rc1 Rxg2±)* 35...Rxb5]
33...Rea8 2.40/23
[33...Rxe1± 1.21/23 34.Kxe1 Kc7]
34.Re3 Rxa2 35.Rxd3+ Kc5



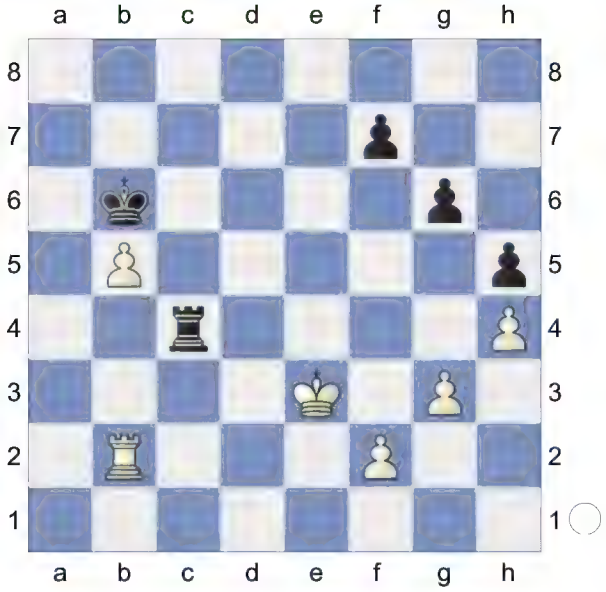
36.Rc3+! Kd6 37.Rxa2 Rxa2+ KR-KR. White is a pawn up. **38.Rc2 Ra4 39.Rb2! Kc7 40.g3** 0.09/24
[White has to play 40.b6+!+- 1.93/30 Kb7 41.Ke3]
40...Kb6=



41.Ke3 Rc4? 2.52/26
[41...f6!= 0.13/20 and Black has nothing to worry.]



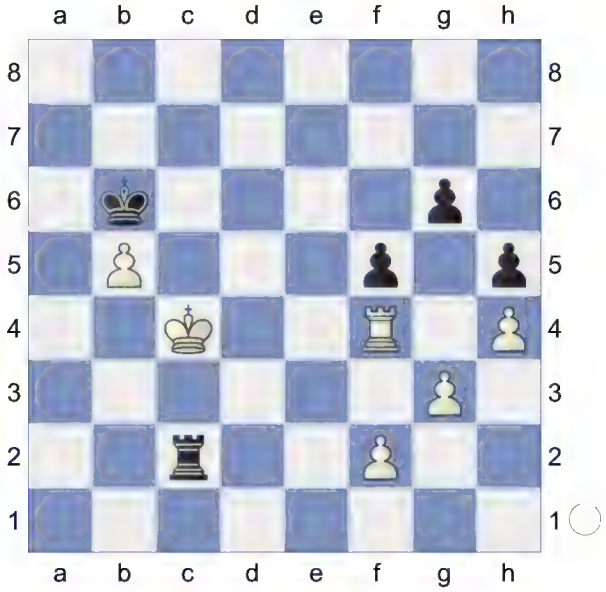
42.Kf3? 0.09/25
[42.Rd2!+- 2.52/26]
42...Rd4 0.76/22
[42...f6= 0.09/25 keeps the balance.]
43.Ke3 Rc4 1.93/23
[Black should try 43...Ra4!± 0.45/19]



44.Kd3? 0.07/24
[44.Rd2!+- 1.93/23]

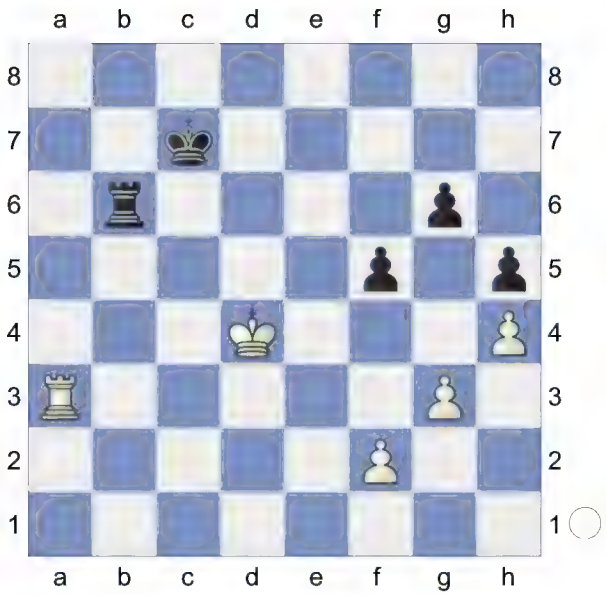
44...Ra4! 45.Kc3 Re4

46.Rb4 Re2 47.Rf4 f5 48.Kc4 Rc2+ 49.Kd5 Re2 50.Kc4 Rc2+

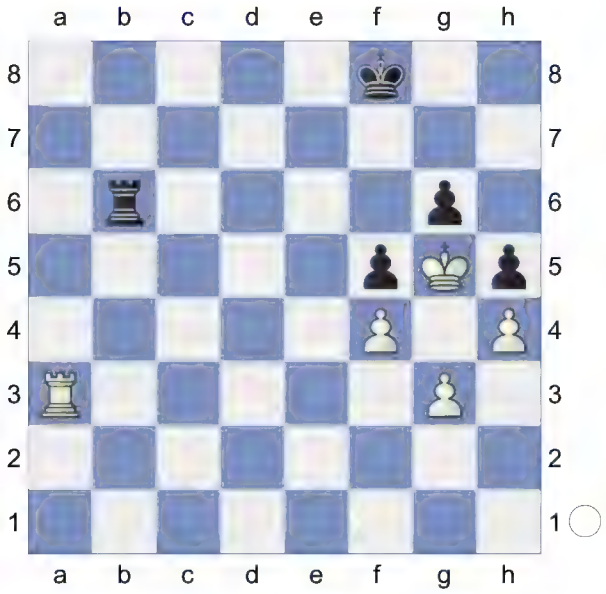


51.Kd3 Rb2 52.Ke3 Rb3+ 53.Kd4 Rxb5 54.Rf3 Kc7 55.Ra3 Rb6

(Diagram)



Wards off Ra6 **56.Ke5 Kd7 57.Kf4 Rb2 58.f3** and Kg5 should not be overlooked **58...Rb6 59.Kg5 Ke7 60.f4 Kf8**



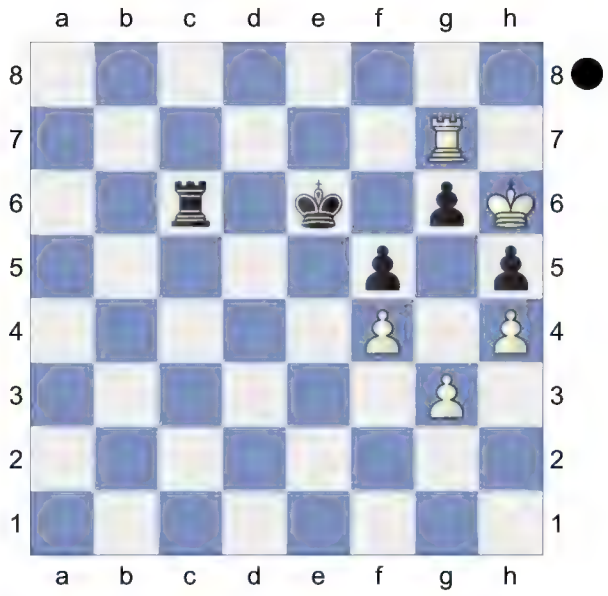
61.Kh6 Rc6 62.Ra8+ Kf7 63.Ra7+ Ke6? 5.82/26

[63...Kf8= 0.18/33]

Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.38

64.Rg7? 0.13/38

[64.Kxg6+- 5.82/26 Rc3 65.Ra6+ *(65.Kxh5 Rxg3 66.Ra6+ Kf7=)* 65...Ke7 66.Kxf5 *(66.Kxh5 Rxg3 67.Rg6 Rc3±; 66.Ra7+ Ke6±)*]



Loss on time!?

1-0

110 **B06**

□ **Orozbaev,Eldiar** **2286**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

Asian Games Men Team 2023 (4.5)

[TA]

B06: Modern Defence

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 c6 5.Qd2 b5

(Diagram)

6.g3 0.06/18
[6.Nf3± 0.70/17]
[6.Bd3 Nd7 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.0-0 Ngf6 9.Bh6 0-0 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.Ne2 c5 12.c3 a6 13.Ng3 e5 14.Rad1 Re8 15.Bb1 Nf8 16.h3 Ne6 17.Ne2 h6 18.Nh2 Qa7 19.b4 cxd4 20.cxd4 Ng5 ½-½ (35) Ivanov,A (2563)-Milov,V (2653) Minneapolis HB Global op 2005 (8)]
[6.h4 h5 7.Nh3 Bxh3 8.Rxh3 Nf6 9.f3 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.Kb1 Nb6 12.Bd3 Nfd7 13.Ne2 Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.c3 d5 16.e5 e6 17.g4 c5 18.gxh5 cxd4 19.cxd4 Rxh5 20.Nf4 Rb8 0-1 (33) Salvador,L (2166)-Chernyavsky,A (2339) Bangkok Big Rook op 2023 (3)]

6...Nf6N
[6...Nd7 7.Bg2 Nb6 8.b3 Nf6 9.e5 Nfd5 10.Nxd5 Nxd5 11.f4 0-0 12.Nf3 Nxe3 13.Qxe3 Bf5 14.0-0 Qb6 15.c3 Rac8 16.Rfe1 Rfd8 17.Rad1 c5 18.d5 e6 19.exd6 exd5 20.Ne5 d4 21.cxd4 0-1 (23) Lagerborg,K-Yang,Y RUS-ch U14 Nizhnij Novgorod 1999 (3)]

7.Bg2 Ng4 8.Bf4 The position is equal.

8...e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 -0.53/19
[10.Bh6± 0.36/17 Nc4 11.Qc1 Bxh6 12.Qxh6]

10...dxe5∓

11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Bh3 Na6 13.Bxc8 Rxc8 14.Nf3 Ke7 -0.18/20
[14...Kc7∓ -0.54/17]

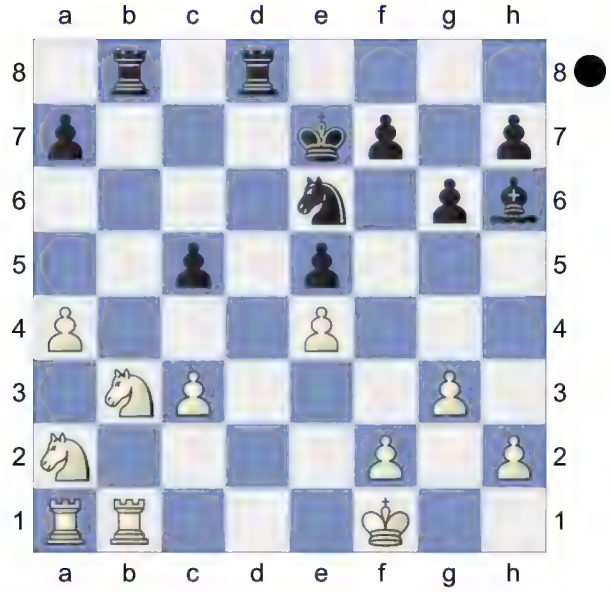
15.Nd2 -0.84/20
[15.0-0= -0.18/20]

15...Rhd8!∓

16.Ke2 Nc5 17.Nb3 Ne6 18.a4 b4 19.Na2 c5 20.c3 -1.60/19
[⌓20.Rhd1 -0.87/20]

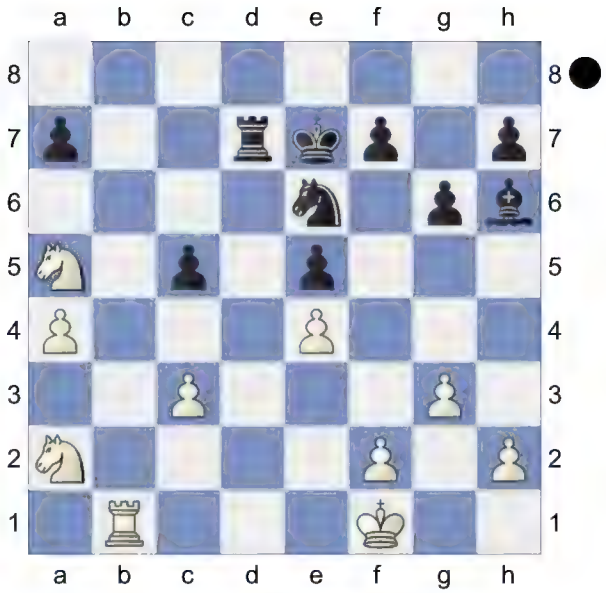
20...bxc3

21.bxc3 Rb8 22.Rhb1 Bh6
Black is much more active. **23.Kf1**

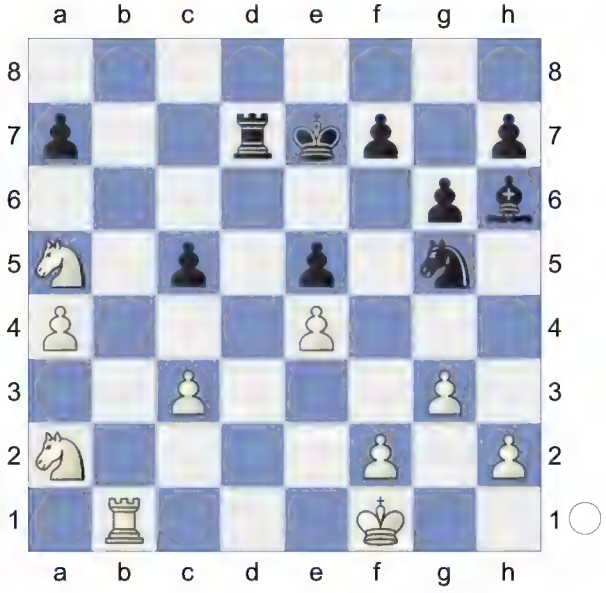


Rd7! White is weak on the dark squares **24.Na5** Dodges Rdb7 **24...Rxb1+ 25.Rxb1**

(Diagram)

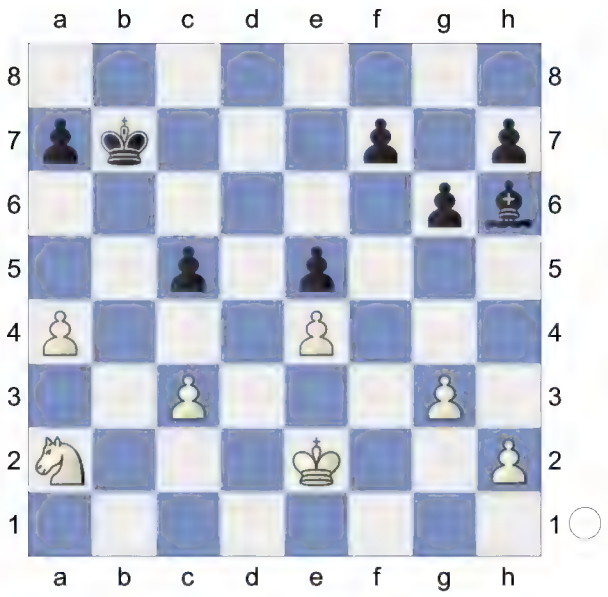


Ng5!↑

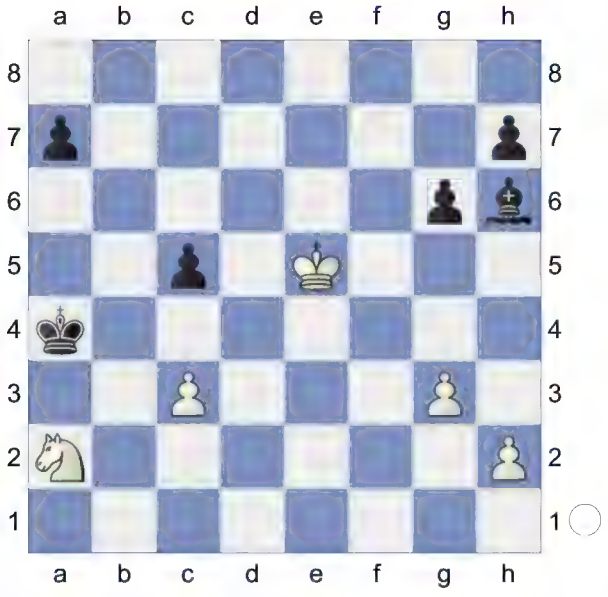


Black is really pushing. This move loses the game for White. **26.Rb7** -2.91/22
[26.Rb2∓ -1.42/18 was necessary.]
26...Rxb7!-+
[26...Nxe4 27.Nc6+ Ke6 28.Rxd7 Kxd7 29.Nxe5+ Ke6 30.Nc6∓]
27.Nxb7 Nxe4 Endgame KBN-KNN. Black is a pawn up. **28.Ke2 Kd7 29.f3 Kc7 30.fxe4 Kxb7**

(Diagram)

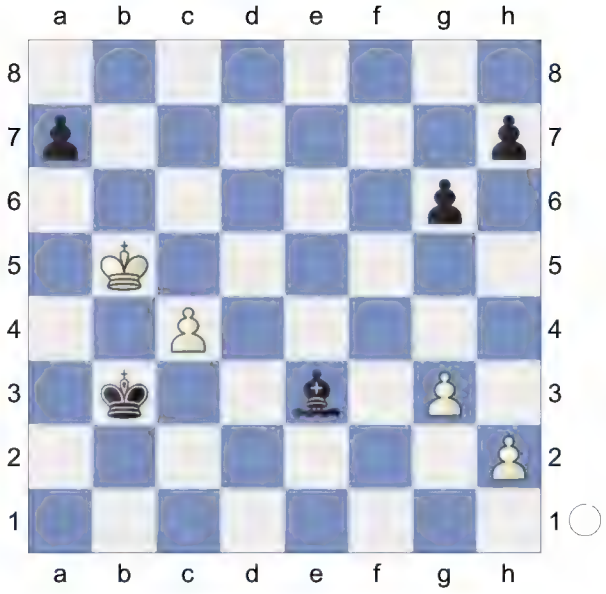


KB-KN. Black is a pawn up. **31.Kd3 Kb6 32.Kc4** -5.45/21
[32.c4 -3.59/23 is the only way for White.]
32...f5 Black is clearly winning. **33.Kd5** -7.20/23
[⌓33.exf5 -4.84/20 gxf5 34.Kd5]
33...fxe4 Hoping for ...Ka5. **34.Kxe4 Ka5 35.Kxe5 Kxa4**



36.Kd5 Kb3 37.Kxc5 Be3+ 38.Kb5 Kxa2 39.c4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.57/ Black=0.14 (very precise)

39...Kb3



0-1

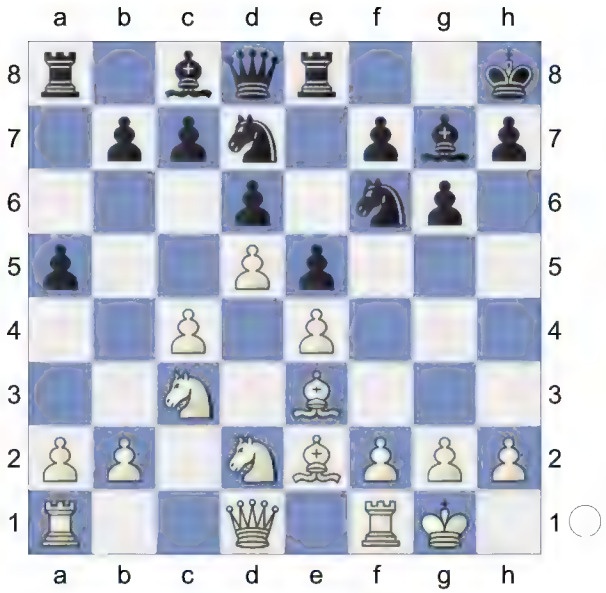
111 **E94**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Jumabayev,R** **2585**
Asian Games Men Team 2023 (3.9)
[TA]

E91: King's Indian: Classical: 6 Be2, unusual replies including 6...c5 and 6... Bg4
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0

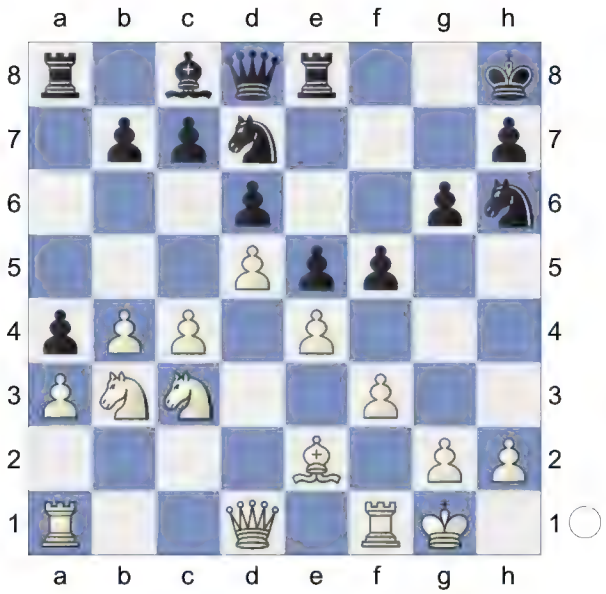
(Diagram)

6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Re8 8.d5 a5
[8...Nbd7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Bd2 Ngf6 12.b4 a5 13.a3 axb4 14.axb4 Rxa1 15.Qxa1 c5 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.Qa7 Re7 18.Qa8 Qc7 19.Ra1 Nb6 20.Qa5 Be6 21.c5 dxc5 22.Qxc5 Re8 23.Ra6 ½-½ (41) Gelfand,B (2660)-Van Foreest,J (2679) Gashimov Memorial Rapid 9th 2023 (8)]
9.Be3N
[9.a3 Bd7 10.Rb1 a4 11.Bd3 45) 6.Be2 e5 7.O-O Re8-6.Be2 e5 7.O-O Re8 8.d5 a5 #1]
[9.Qc2 Na6 10.a3 h6 11.Be3 Bd7 12.Rfb1 a4 13.Nd2 Nc5 14.b4 axb3 15.Nxb3 Nxb3 16.Rxb3 b6 17.a4 Ng4 18.Bxg4 Bxg4 19.Qd2 Kh7 20.Nb5 f5 21.f3 Bh5 22.a5 f4 23.Bf2 g5 1-0 (59) Nandinjiguur,C (1807)-Pooja,S (1615) Wch U10 Girls 2024 (3)]
9...Nbd7 10.Nd2 White is slightly better.
10...Kh8

(Diagram)

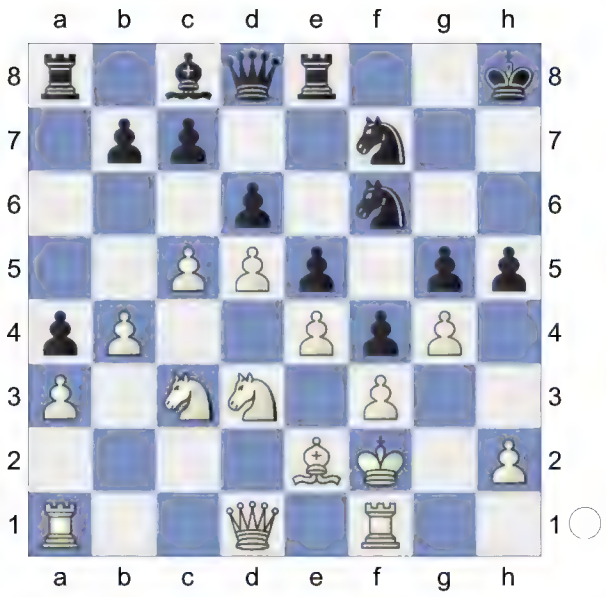


11.a3 Ng8 12.b4 f5 aiming for ...f4.
13.f3 Bh6 14.Bxh6 Nxh6 15.Nb3 a4

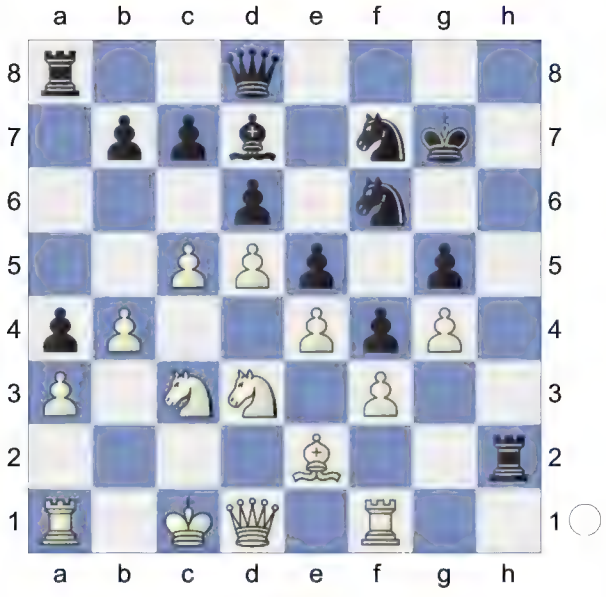


16.Nc1
[16.Na5!?]
16...Nf6 17.c5 f4 18.Nd3 g5 19.g4! Nf7 20.Kf2 -0.02/24
[20.Nxa4± 0.68/22 h5 21.Nc3]
20...h5=

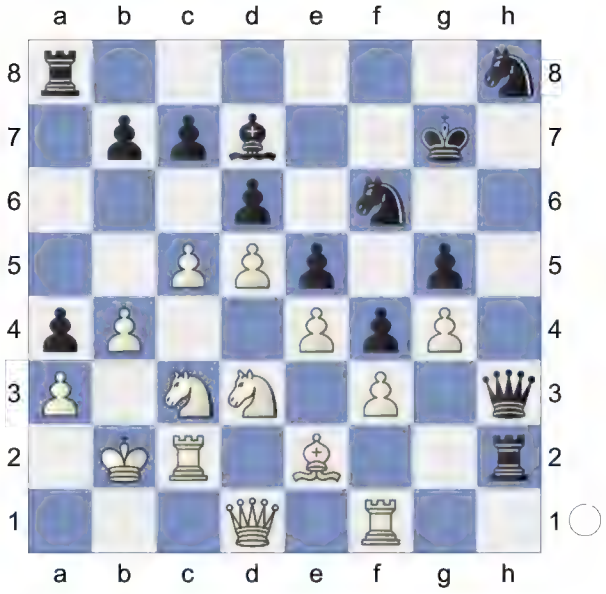
(Diagram)



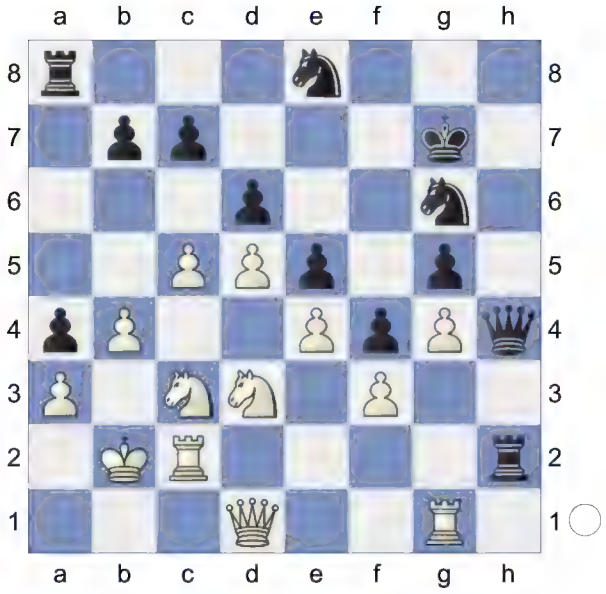
21.h3 Kg7 22.Ke1 -0.28/21
Active counter play!
[⌓22.Rc1 0.12/20]
22...Rh8 23.Kd2 -0.69/19
[23.Rc1= -0.27/22]
23...Bd7 0.06/21
[23...dxc5∓ -0.69/19 24.Nxc5 b6 25.N5xa4 c6]
24.Kc1 hxg4 25.hxg4 Rh2



26.Ra2 Qh8 0.61/19
[26...c6= 0.05/19]
27.Rc2 Qh3 28.Kb2 Nh8 1.05/16
[28...Rh8± 0.53/15]
29.Rf2 Rh1 30.Rf1 Rh2



31.Nf2 0.70/19
[White should try 31.b5± 1.24/18]
31...Qg3!± 32.Bb5 Be8 1.53/20
[32...dxc5 0.81/17 33.bxc5 Nf7]
33.Rg1 Qh4 34.Nd3 Ng6 35.Bxe8 Nxe8

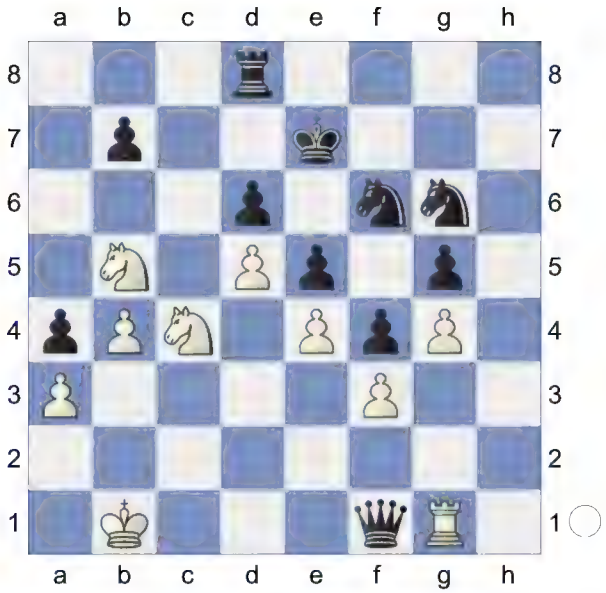


36.Nb5 Rd8 1.72/18
[36...Qh3± 1.34/18]
37.cxd6 1.15/21
[37.Rf1+- 1.72/18]
37...cxd6 0.66/3
[37...Nxd6± 1.15/21 38.Nxc7 Nc4+

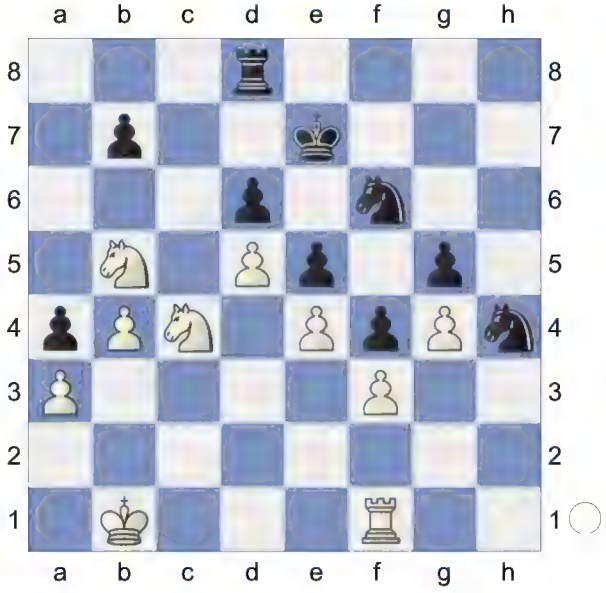
39.Ka1 Ne3 40.Rxh2 Qxh2]
38.Kb1 Rxc2! 39.Qxc2 Kf7 1.51/6
[Better is 39...Qh3± 0.70/7]
40.Qd1 0.97/19
[⌓40.Qg2 1.51/6]
40...Nf6? 2.79/4
[40...Qh3± 0.97/19]

41.Nb2 1.21/4
[41.Qxa4?! Qh3±]
[41.Rh1+- 2.79/4 has better winning chances. Qg3 42.Rg1 *(42.Qxa4? Qxf3 43.Rd1 Qxg4-+)*]
41...Ke7 1.64/4
[41...Qf2± 1.21/4]
42.Nc4 0.97/3
[42.Nxa4?! Qf2±]
[42.Qxa4?! Qh2 43.Rc1 Qe2±]
[42.Qc2?! Qh3 43.Qe2 *(43.Nxa4? Qxf3 44.Re1 Qg3-+; 43.Qc7+ Rd7=)* 43...Nh4=]
[42.Qf1+- 1.64/4]
42...Qf2± 43.Rf1 Qg2 44.Rg1!↑ White has strong initiative. Some like it hot **44...Qf2 45.Qf1** 1.85/18
[⌓45.Rf1 4.42/3 Qg2 46.Rg1 Qf2]
45...Qxf1++-

(Diagram)

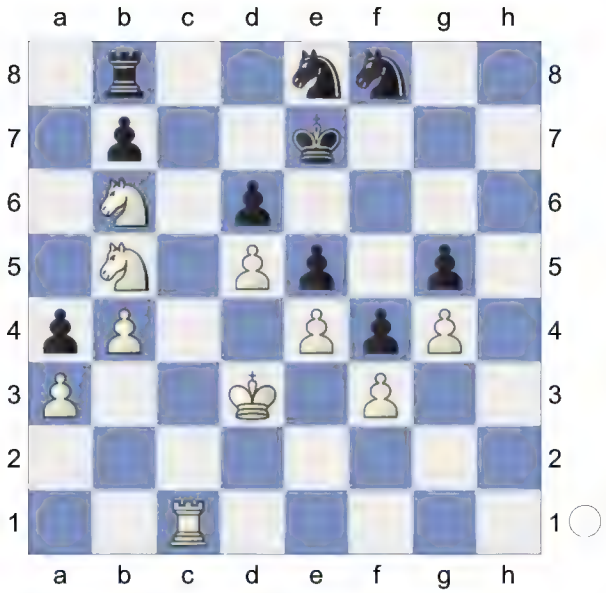


46.Rxf1 Nh4

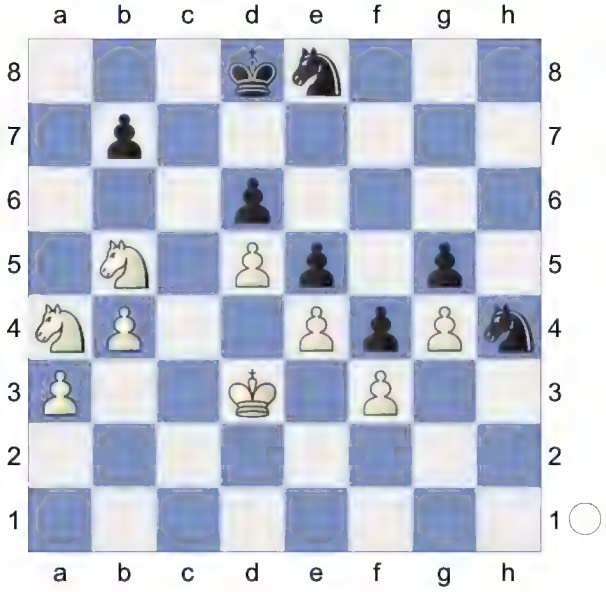


47.Kc2! Ng6 48.Kd3 Ne8 2.08/4
[48...Nh4 1.62/4 49.Ke2 Ng2]
49.Nb6 Nf8? 4.08/19
[49...Nh4 2.08/4 might work better. 50.Nxa4 Nxf3]
50.Rc1
[50.Nxa4 Ra8+-]
50...Rb8

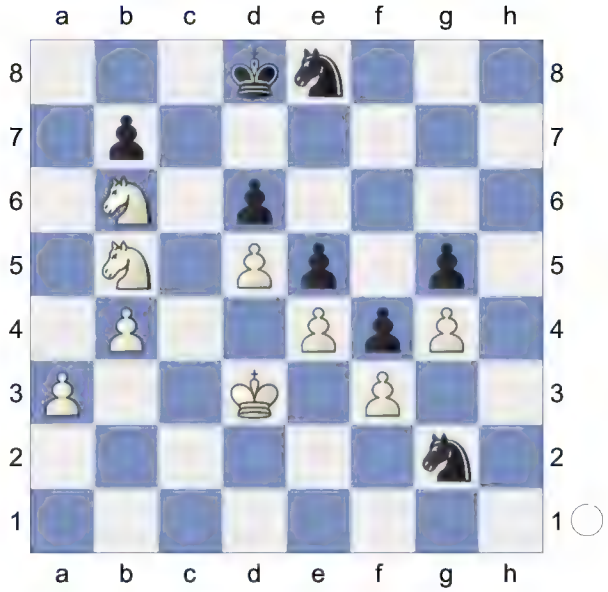
(Diagram)



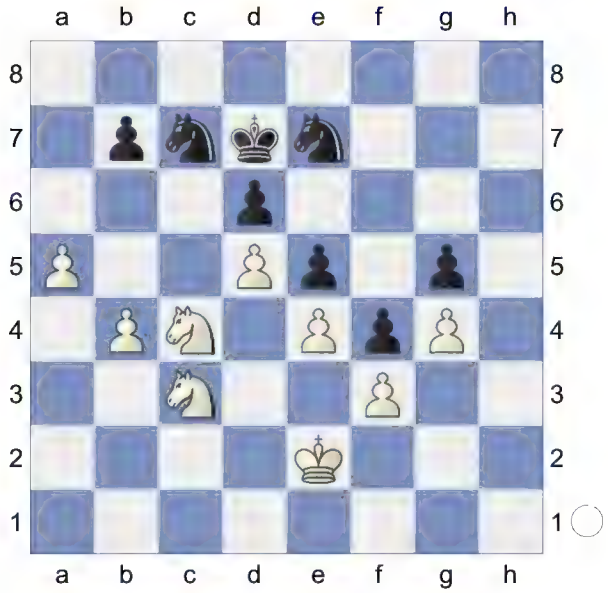
51.Rc2
[51.Nxa4 Ra8 52.Nb6 Ra6]
51...Ng6? 4.49/2
[51...Kd8 2.64/3 52.Rh2 *(52.Nxa4 Rc8+-)* 52...Ke7 53.Nxa4 Rc8]
52.Rc8
[Much less strong is 52.Nxa4 Nh4 53.Ke2 Ra8+-]
52...Rxc8 53.Nxc8+ Endgame KNN-KNN **53...Kd7 54.Nb6+ Kd8 55.Nxa4 Nh4**



56.Ke2 Ng2 57.Nb6 Ne3 58.Kd3 Ng2 59.Kd2 Ne3 60.Kd3 Black must now prevent Nc4. **60...Ng2**

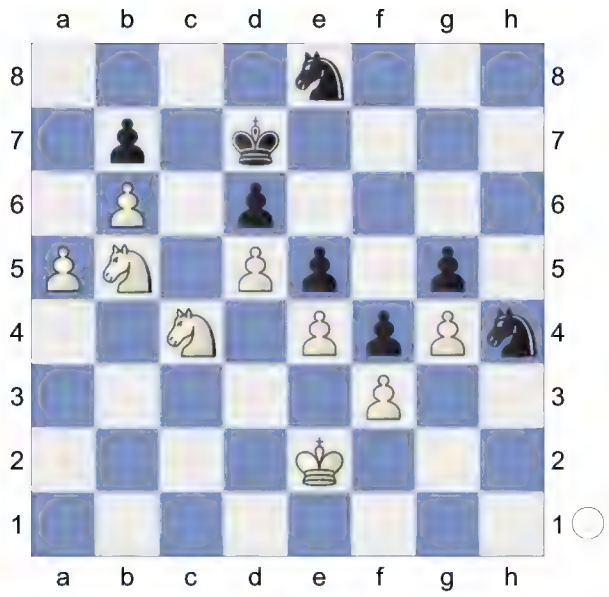


61.Nc4 Kd7 62.Ke2 Nh4 63.a4 Ng6 64.a5 Ne7? 6.25/18
[64...Nf8 3.54/7 65.Na7 Kd8]
65.Nc3 White is clearly winning.
65...Nc7

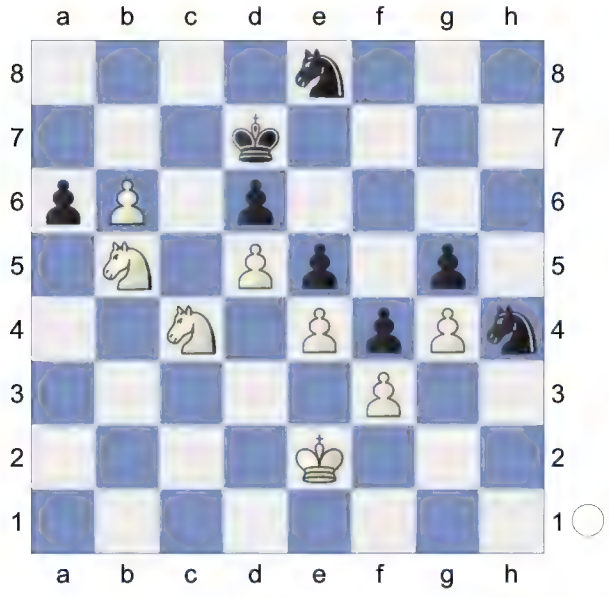


66.b5 Ng6 7.48/22
[⌓66...Nc8 4.84/21 67.Kd2 Ne7]
67.b6 Ne8 68.Nb5 Nh4

(Diagram)



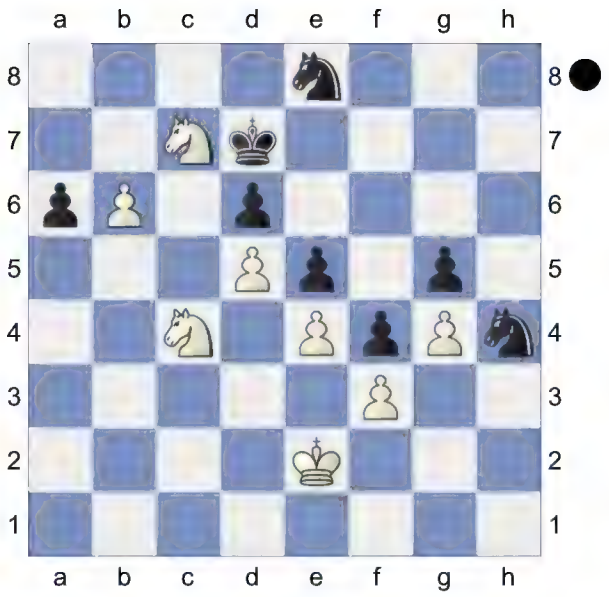
69.a6! bxa6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.30

70.Nc7!

(Diagram)



Promotion

1-0

112 **E11**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

■ **Rapport,Richard** **2752**

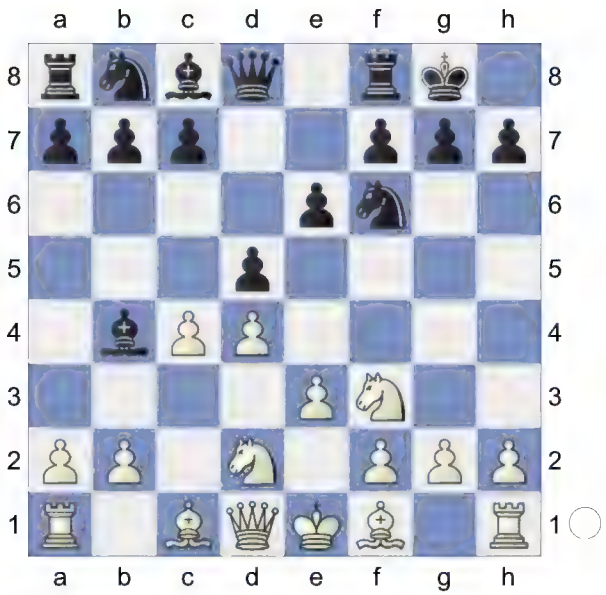
Armageddon Grand Finale L (2.2)

[Kitty Kat]

E11: Bogo-Indian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 d5 5.e3 0-0

(Diagram)



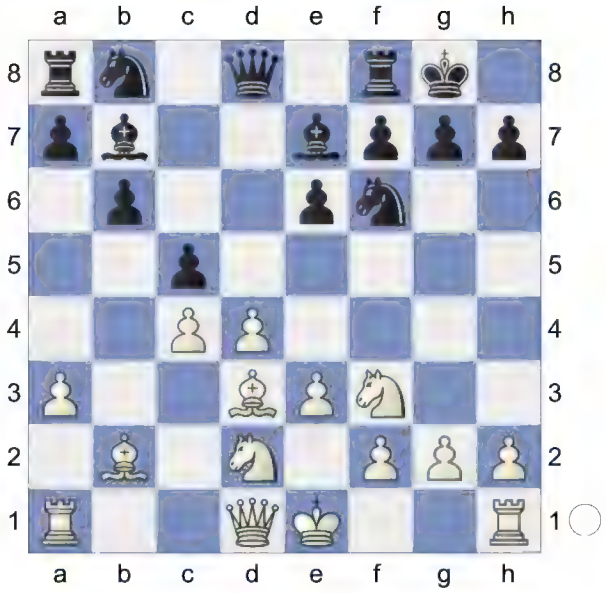
6.a3 Be7 7.b3 Recently 7.b4 got a lot of attention.7.b4 erhält neuerdings viel Aufmerksamkeit. **7...b6 8.Bb2 Bb7 9.Bd3** White has an edge. **9...dxc4N** A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

[9...Nbd7 10.0-0 c5 11.Qe2 cxd4 12.exd4 g6 13.Ng5 Nh5 14.Nh3 Bf6 15.f4 Nc5 16.Kh1 dxc4 17.Bxc4 Bxd4 18.Nf3 Bxb2 19.Qxb2 Qf6 20.Ne5 Rad8 21.Rae1 Rd6 22.b4 Nd7 23.Qa2 Kg7 24.Kg1 0-1 (35) Uhlmann,W-Antoshin,V 2/527 Zinnowitz 1966]

[9...Ne4 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Rc1 c5 12.Qe2 Nxd2 13.Nxd2 cxd4 14.exd4 Bf6 15.Nf3 dxc4 16.Bxc4 Rc8 17.Rfd1 Nb8 18.Rc2 Bd5 19.Ne5 b5 20.Bxd5 Qxd5 21.Rdc1 Rxc2 22.Qxc2 h6 23.h3 a5 24.Qc3 ½-½ (37) Grabinsky,J (2620)-Vangsgaard,C (2625) Bucuresti 108/207 2010]

[9...c5 10.0-0 cxd4 11.exd4 Nc6 12.Qe2 Re8 13.Rac1 Bf8 14.Rfe1 Rc8 15.h3 g6 16.c5 Bh6 17.b4 Nh5 18.g3 bxc5 19.dxc5 e5 20.b5 e4 21.bxc6 Bxc6 22.Ba6 Rb8 23.Be5 exf3 24.Qxf3 0-1 (33) Parkhov,Y (2485)-Van Foreest,J (2684) chess.com INT 2023 (7)]

10.bxc4 c5



11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Re1N

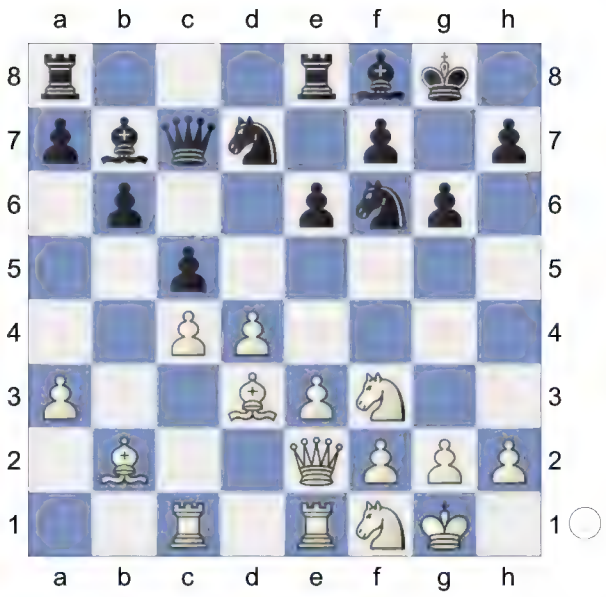
[Vorgänger: 12.Qe2 Qc7 13.Rfd1 Bd6 0.21/19 *(13...Rfe8* -0.17/19) 14.h3 Rfe8 15.Ng5 ½-½ Vasquez Schroder,R (2454)-Giaccio,A (2505) Buenos Aires zt 2.5 2000 (2)]

12...Qc7 13.Rc1 Rfe8 14.Qe2 g6 15.Nf1 -0.19/5

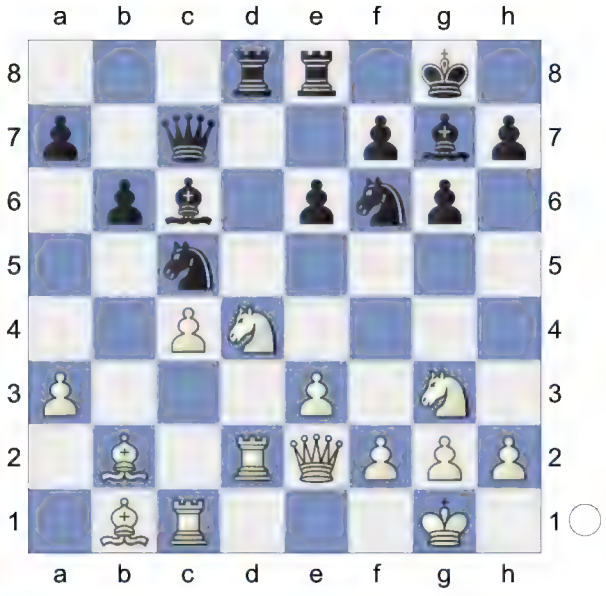
[15.h3± 0.38/3]

15...Bf8=

(Diagram)

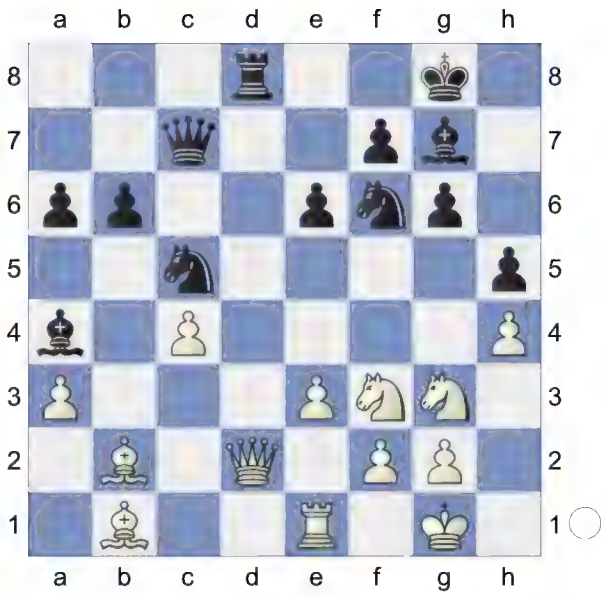


16.Ng3 Bg7 17.Bb1 -0.45/4
[17.h3= -0.04/5]
17...Rad8 18.Red1 -0.64/6
[18.Nd2= -0.27/15]
18...Bc6 -0.25/4
[18...cxd4∓ -0.64/6 19.exd4 b5]
19.Rd2 cxd4 20.Nxd4 Nc5



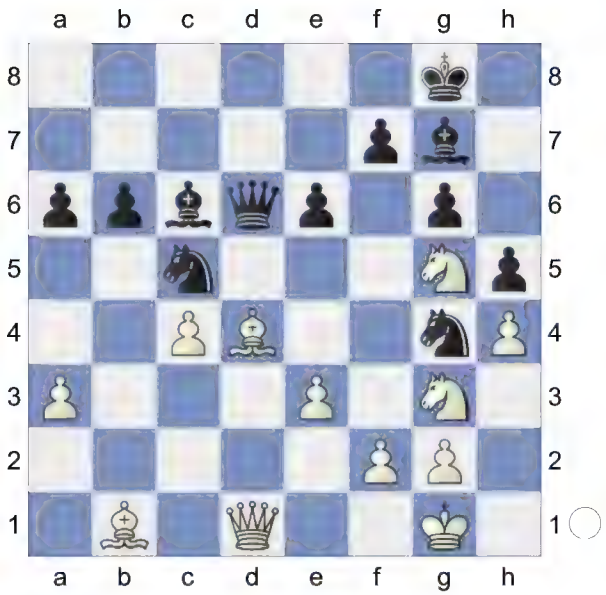
21.Rcd1 Ba4 Black is more active.
22.Re1 a6 23.h4 h5 24.Nf3 Rxd2 25.Qxd2 Rd8

(Diagram)

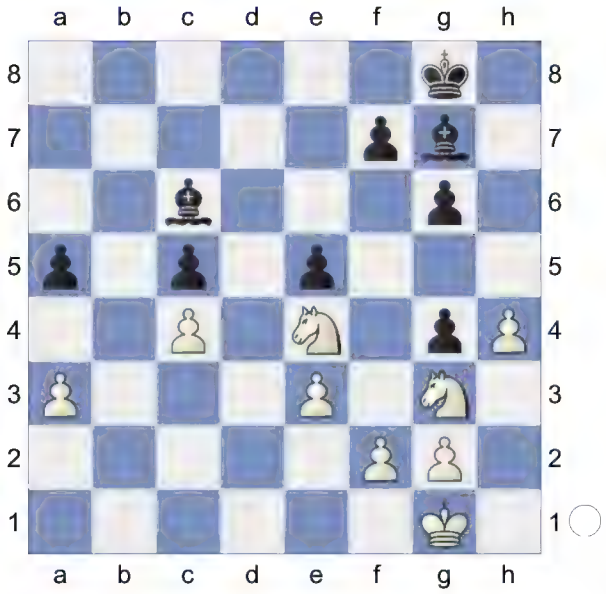


26.Qe2 Bc6 -0.66/18
[26...Ng4∓ -1.23/3 27.Bxg7 Kxg7]
27.Ng5 -1.15/5
[27.Rd1∓ -0.66/18]
27...Qe7 -0.50/15
[27...Ng4∓ -1.15/5 28.Bxg7 Kxg7]
28.Rd1∓ Rxd1+ 29.Qxd1 Ng4 30.Bd4 -0.81/9
[30.Bxg7∓ -0.40/17 deserves consideration. Kxg7 31.Bc2]
30...Qd6
[30...Bf6 31.Be4 Bxg5 32.Bxc5 Qxc5 33.hxg5 Qxc4 34.Nxh5 Qxe4 35.Qd8+ Kh7]

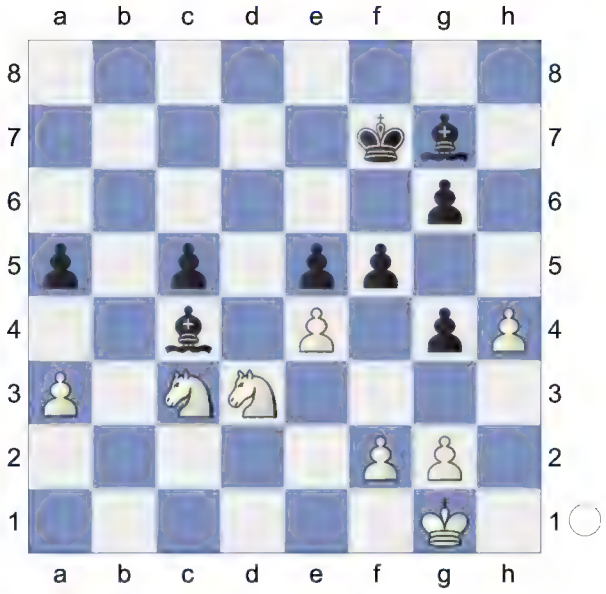
(Diagram)



The board is on fire. **31.Bc2 e5**
[31...Bf8 with more complications. 32.N5e4 Bxe4 33.Nxe4 Nxe4 34.Bxe4]
32.Bxc5 Qxd1+ 0.04/4
[32...Qxc5∓ -0.42/4 33.Qd8+ Qf8 *(33...Bf8? 34.Bxg6 fxg6 35.Qc7+-)* 34.Qxb6 Qd6 *(34...Qxa3? 35.Qxc6 Qb4 36.Nf1+-)*]
33.Bxd1= bxc5 34.Bxg4 hxg4∓
Endgame KBB-KNN **35.N5e4 a5**



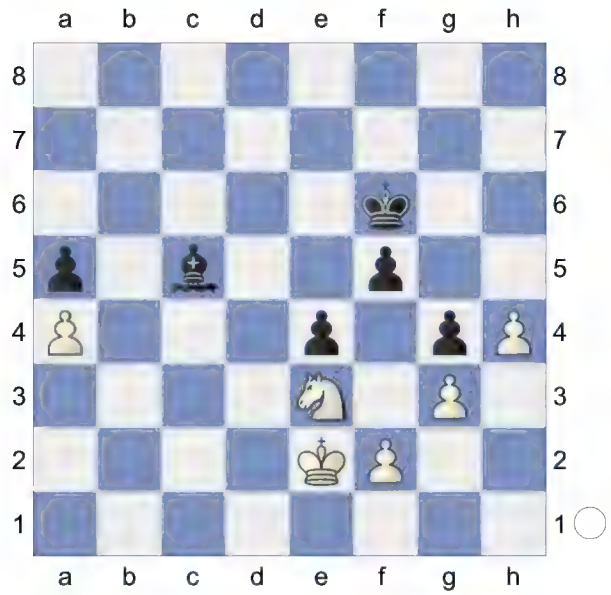
36.Nc3 f5 37.e4 Bd7 38.Nge2 Kf7
39.Nc1 Be6 40.Nd3 -0.40/20
[40.Nd5!= 0.02/18]
40...Bxc4



41.Nxc5 Bf8 42.Nd7 -2.95/19
[42.Nb7∓ -0.43/4]
42...Bd6-+
[42...Bxa3? 43.Nxe5+ Ke6 44.Nxc4+-]
43.a4 Ke6 44.Nb6 Bb4? 0.03/5
[44...Bd3-+ -3.66/19 and ...Bc5 should not be overlooked 45.exf5+ gxf5]
45.Nxc4= Bxc3

46.exf5+ gxf5 KB-KN **47.Kf1 e4 48.g3**

Bb4 49.Ke2 Kf6 50.Ne3 Bc5

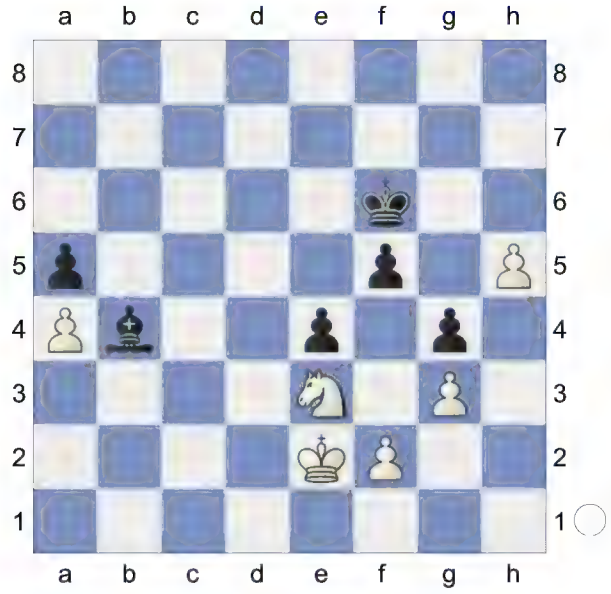


51.Nd5+ Ke5 52.Nf4 Kf6 53.Nd5+ Ke5 54.Ne3 Bb4 0.60/4

[54...Kf6= 0.00/32]

55.h5± Kf6 2.10/6

[55...Ke6± 0.60/4]



56.h6? 0.00/35

[56.Nd5+!+- 2.10/6 Kg5 57.Nxb4 axb4 58.a5]

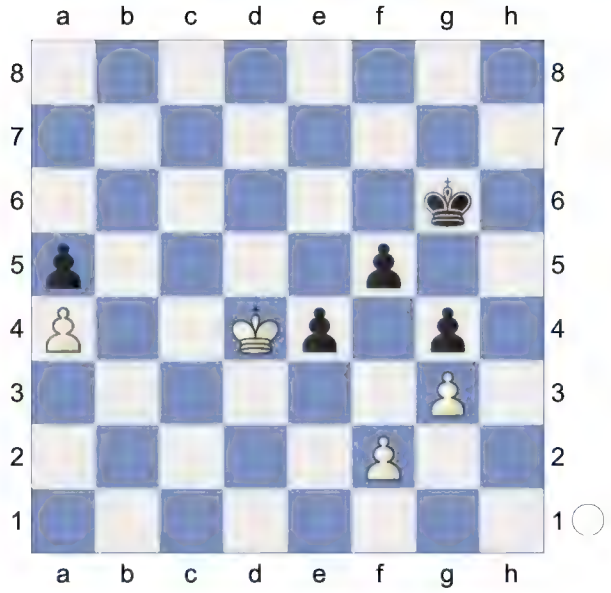
56...Kg6= 57.Nd5 Bc5 58.Ne3 Bxe3

[Don't play 58...Kxh6?! 59.Nxf5+ Kg5 60.Ne3±]

59.Kxe3 aiming for Kf4. **59...Kxh6 60.Kd4**

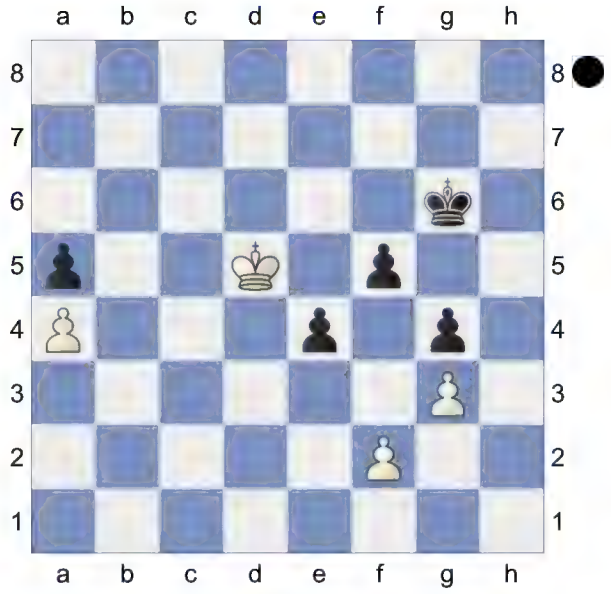
[60.Kf4!? Kg6□ 61.Ke5=]

60...Kg6



61.Kd5? -8.17/39

[61.Ke5= -0.11/7]

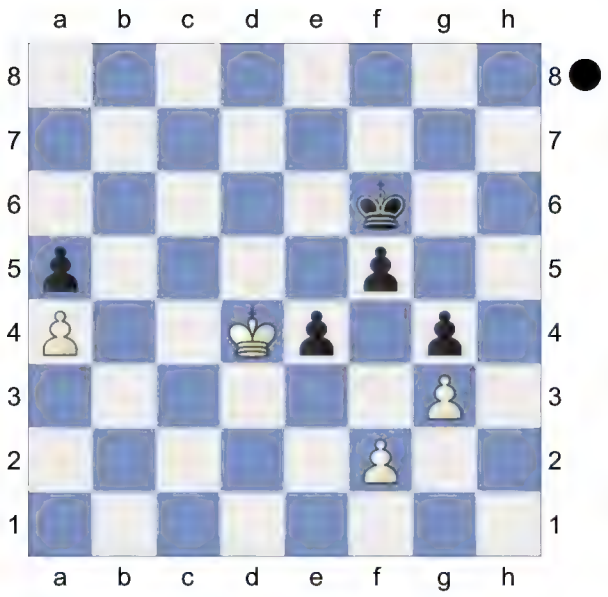


61...Kf6!-+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.24 (precise)

62.Kd4

(Diagram)

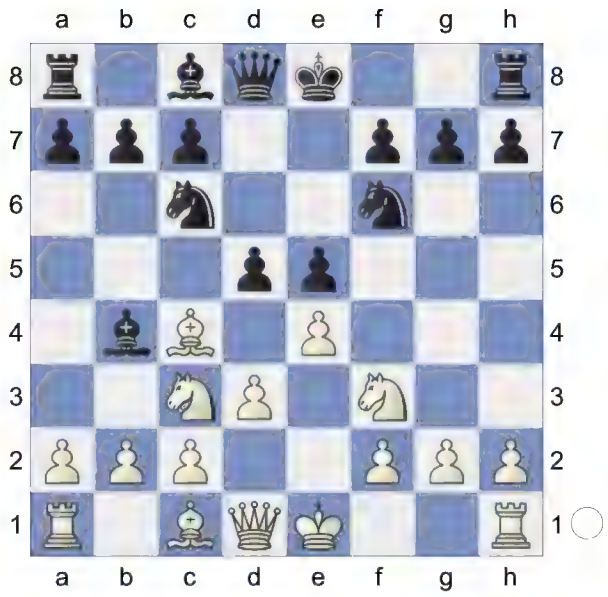


0-1

113 **C28**
□ **Rapport,Richard** **2752**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
Armageddon Grand Finale L (2.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d3 Bb4 5.Nf3 d5**

(Diagram)

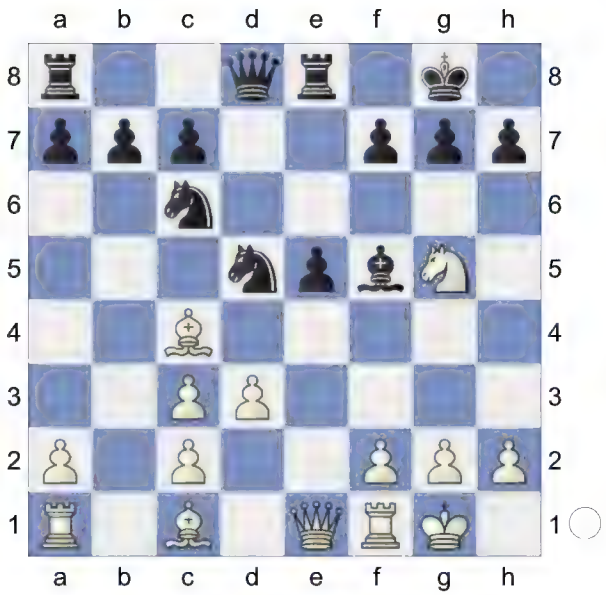


6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0! is currently scoring better than 7.Bd2.wohl besser als 7.Ld2. **7...Bxc3 8.bxc3 0-0** 8...Bg4 is not played anymore.8...Lg4 wird inzwischen seltener gespielt. **9.Qe1N**

[9.Bd2 Bg4 10.Re1 Qd6 11.Rb1 Nb6 12.Bb5 Rae8 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.c4 Na4 15.Qe2 f5 16.Qe3 e4 17.dxe4 Rxe4 18.Qxa7 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Rxe1+ 20.Bxe1 Nb6 21.c5 Qg6+ 22.Kf1 Nd5 23.Rb8 Qh5 C1 Nd4-Brochet,P 56/329 Debrecen 1992 (3) 1-0 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 25.Qb8+ Ke7 26.Qb3 Qxh2 27.Bd2 Qh1+ 28.Ke2 Qa1 29.c4 Qe5+ 30.Kf1 Nf6 31.Bc3 Qe6 32.a4 g5 33.a5 g4 34.a6 gxf3 35.Bxf6+ Qxf6 36.Qe3+ Kf7 37.Qxf3 Qa1+ 38.Kg2 Qxa6 Bernstein,O-Alekhine,A Match Paris (France) 1933 (3) 1-0]

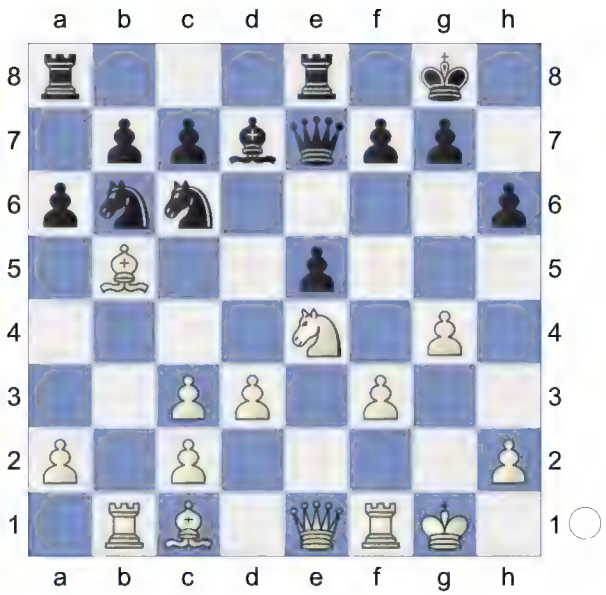
9...Re8 10.Ng5 Bf5

(Diagram)

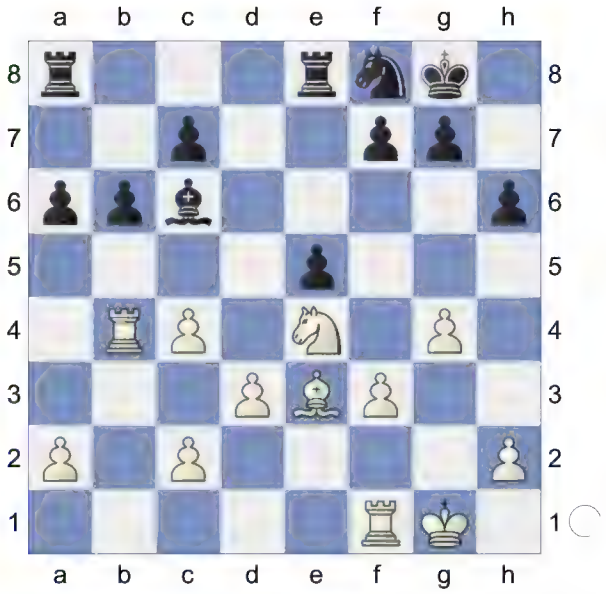


Prevents Qe1-e4 **11.Rb1** White has an edge. **11...h6 12.Ne4** 0.01/19
[12.Rb5± 0.45/21 was preferrable. hxg5 13.Bxd5]
12...Nb6N
[Vorgänger: 12...Rb8 13.f3 Nf4 14.Bxf4 exf4 15.Bb5 Re6 16.Qd2 Qh4 17.Qf2 Qd8 18.Nc5 Rg6 19.Bxc6 bxc6 0-1 Egorov,E (2459)-Ishkov,O (2311) Voronezh Master op 2003 (3)]
13.Bb5 Qe7 14.f3 Bd7 15.g4 -0.70/18
[15.Be3= -0.15/18]
15...a6∓

(Diagram)

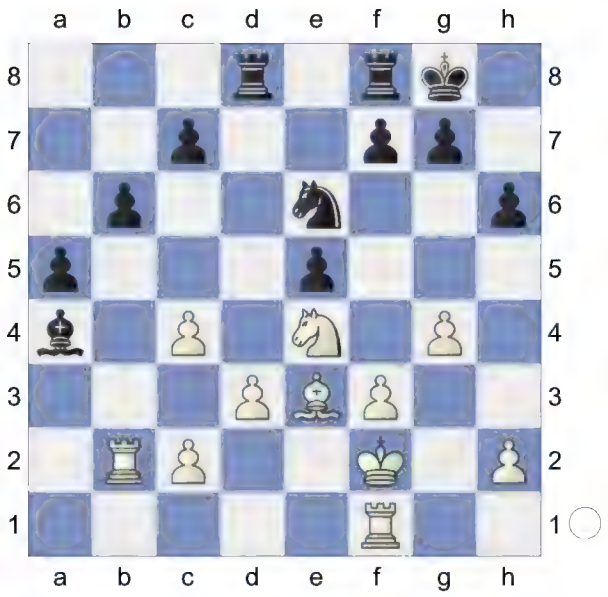


16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.c4 Nd7 18.Qb4 Qxb4 -0.44/22
[18...Qe6∓ -0.85/17 19.Ng3 a5]
19.Rxb4 Nf8 20.Be3 b6

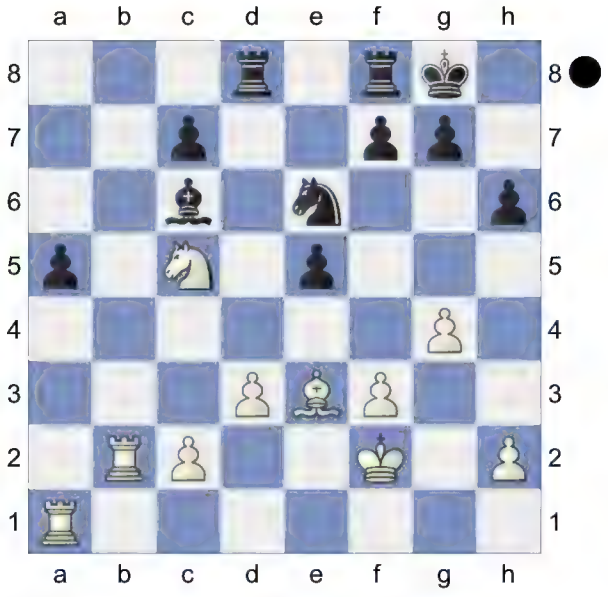


21.Nc3 Ne6 22.Kf2 Rad8 23.a4 -1.26/22
[23.Ne2∓ -0.59/19]
23...a5 24.Rb2 Rf8 25.Ne4 -1.53/21
[⌓25.Ke2 -1.12/20]
25...Bxa4 -0.60/23
[25...f5!∓ -1.53/21 26.gxf5 Rxf5]

(Diagram)



26.c5 bxc5 27.Nxc5 Bc6 28.Ra1



Nd4 0.01/22

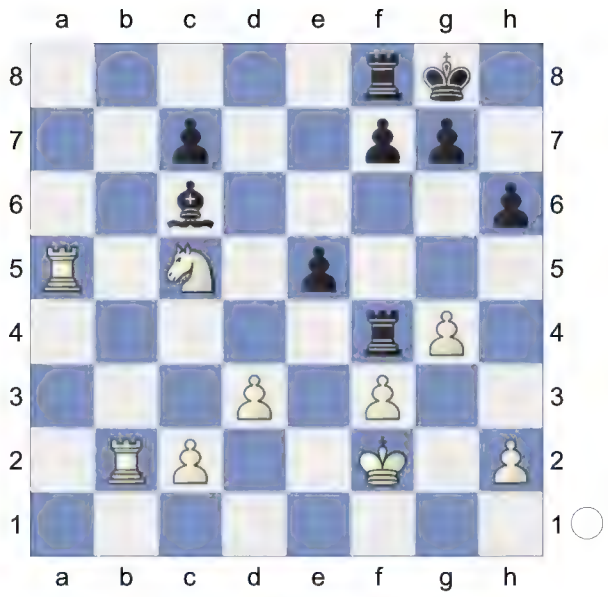
[Better is 28...Ra8!∓ -0.95/22 29.Rba2 Nxc5 30.Bxc5 Rfb8]

29.Bxd4 -1.05/23

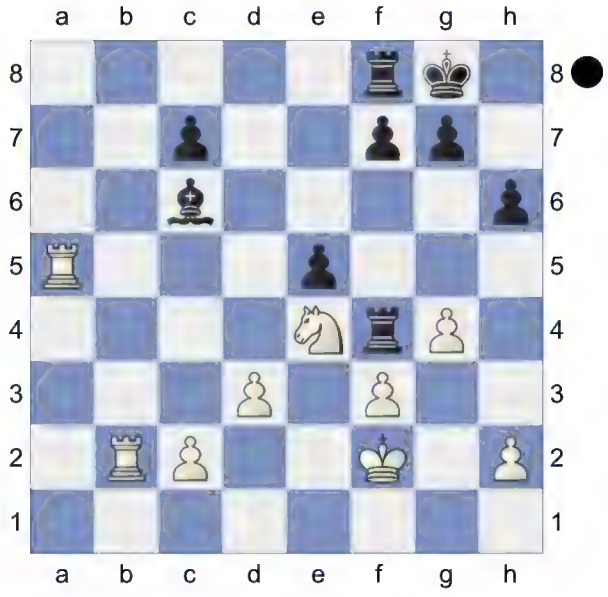
[29.Rxa5= 0.01/22 was the only way to keep the balance. Rd6 *(29...Nxf3 30.Ra6±)* 30.Ne4 Bxe4 31.Bxd4 *(31.dxe4 Rc6±; 31.fxe4 Rf6+ 32.Kg2 Nf3±)* 31...Rxd4 32.fxe4]

29...Rxd4∓ 30.Rxa5 Rf4

(Diagram)



31.Ne4



f5! 32.gxf5 R8xf5 -0.13/22

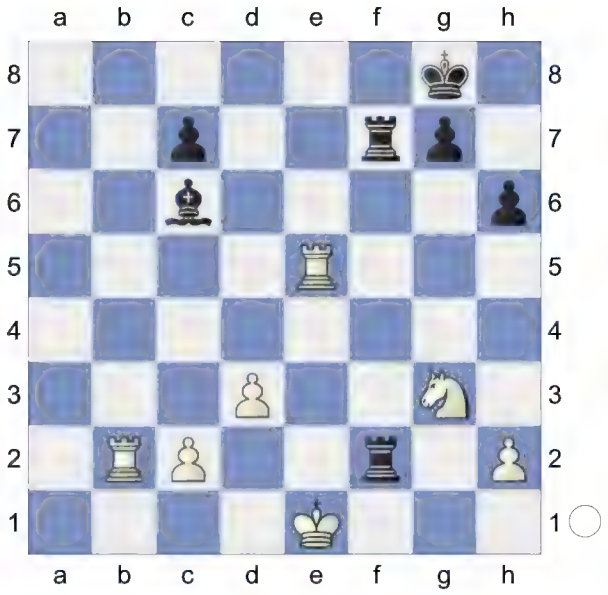
[32...R4xf5∓ -0.95/23 33.Nd2 Kh7 *(33...Bxf3 34.Nxf3 Rxf3+ 35.Ke1∓)*]

33.Ng3=

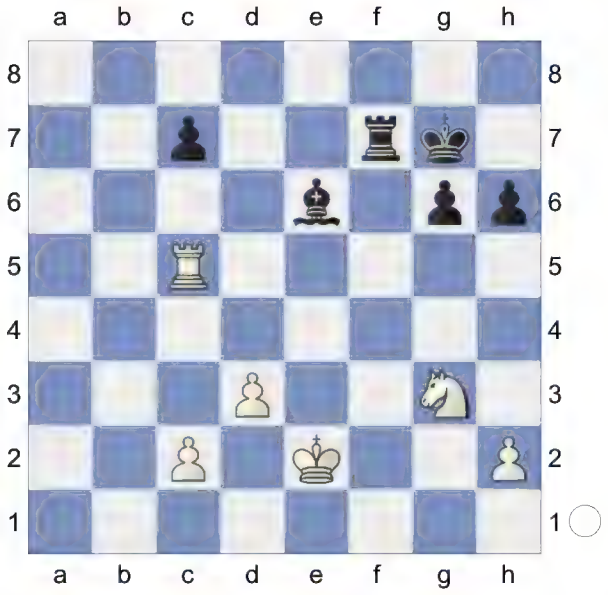
[Reject 33.Ke1 Rh4 *(33...Rxf3 34.Ng3=)* 34.Rb4 Rxh2∓ *(34...Rxf3? loses. 35.Nf6+ Discovered Attack Rxf6 36.Rxh4+-)*]

33...Rxf3+ 34.Ke1= Rf7 35.Rxe5 Rf2

(Diagram)

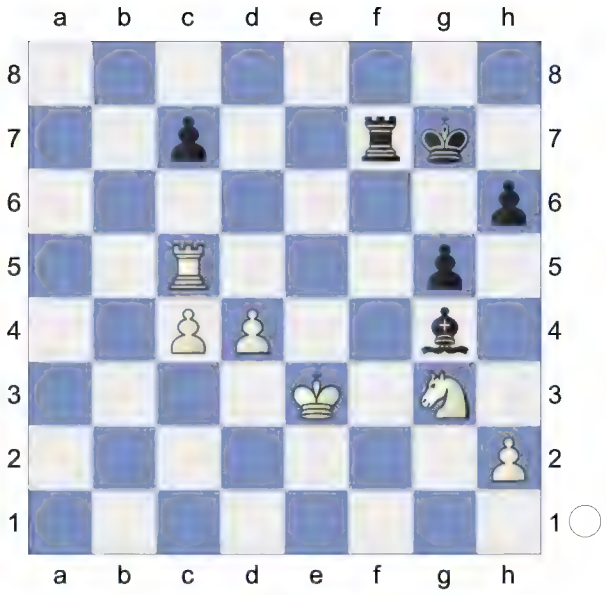


36.Re2 Rxe2+ 37.Kxe2 Endgame. KRB-KRN **37...g6** 0.44/20
[37...h5= 0.01/21 might be stronger.]
38.Rb4 0.01/19
[38.c4± 0.44/20]
38...Kg7 39.Rc4 Bd5 40.Rc5 Be6

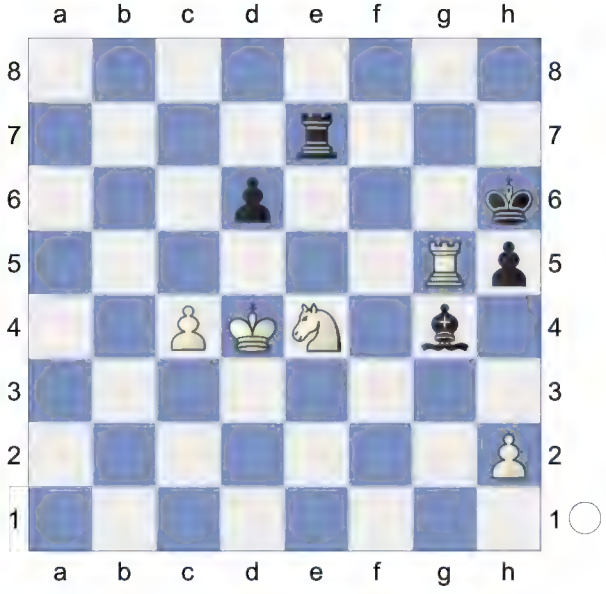


41.Ke3 Bg4= -0.01/20 **42.Ne4 Bf5 43.Ng3** -0.01/20 White is more active.
[43.Nc3± 0.69/21]
43...Be6 0.63/20 **44.c4 g5 45.d4 Bg4**

(Diagram)

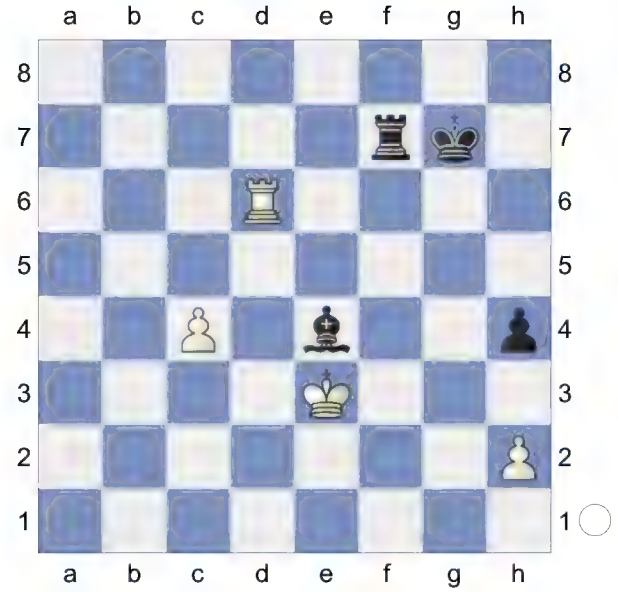


46.d5 h5? 3.01/21
[46...Bf3± 0.73/20 was necessary.]
47.Ne4+- Re7 ...Bg4-f5 would now be deadly. **48.Kd4 Kg6 49.d6?** 1.27/21
[49.Rc6++- 3.79/22 and the rest is easy. Kf7 50.Nxg5+ Ke8 51.Ne6]
49...cxd6± 50.Rxg5+ Kh6

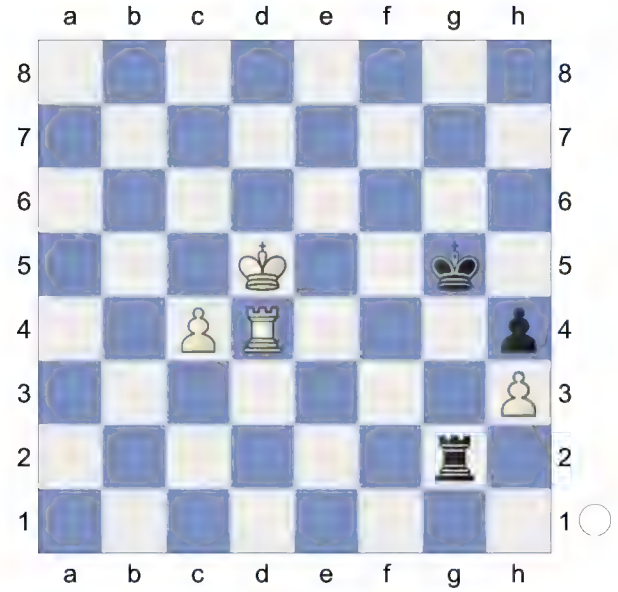


51.Rd5 Bf3 52.Rxd6+ Kg7 53.Ng3 Rf7 Repels Ng3-f5+ **54.Ke3** 0.54/24
[White should try 54.Ke5± 1.17/19]
54...h4± 55.Ne4 0.19/19
[55.Ne2± 0.59/21 is more appropriate.]

55...Bxe4!=

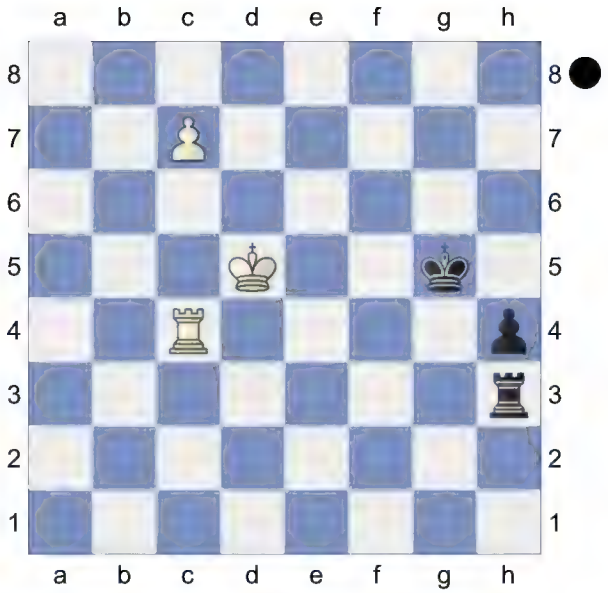


56.Kxe4 Black must now prevent h2-h3. KR-KR **56...Rf2 57.h3 Rh2?** 5.47/28
[57...Rc2= 0.03/26 and Black has nothing to worry.]
58.Rd3+- Kf6 59.Kd5 Rg2 60.Rd4 Kg5



61.c5 Threatens to win with c5-c6.
61...Rg3 62.c6 White threatens c6-c7 and mate. **62...Rc3 63.Rc4 Rxh3 64.c7**

(Diagram)

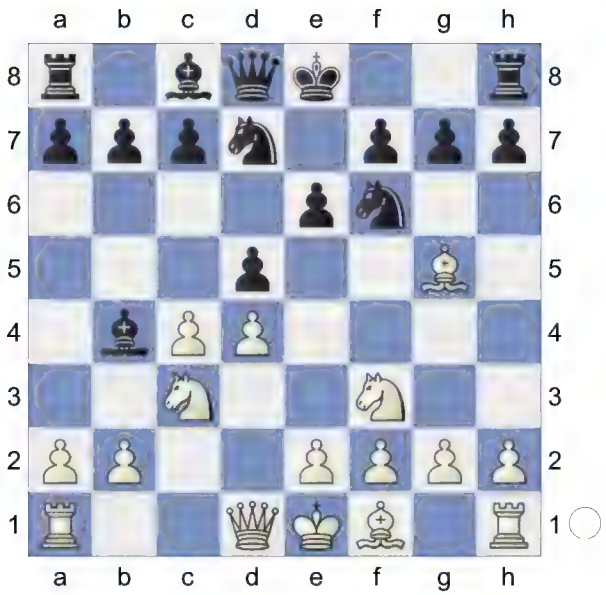


Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.45
1-0

114 **D38**
□ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2726**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
Armageddon Grand Final W (2.2)
[Kitty Kat]

D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4)
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 Nbd7

(Diagram)



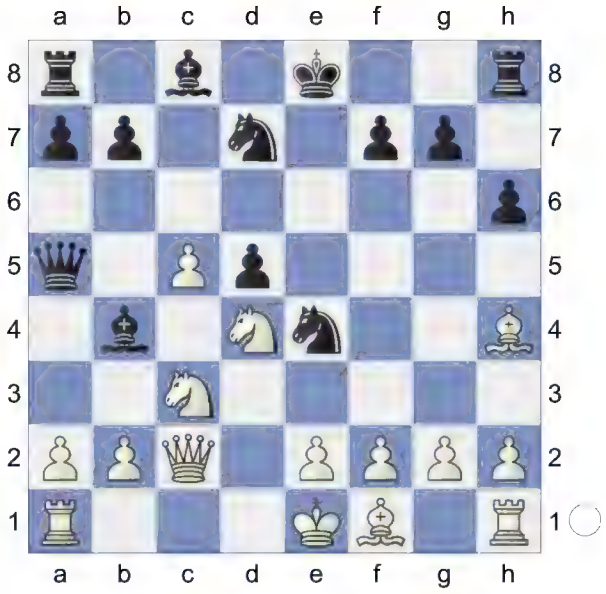
6.cxd5 exd5 7.Qc2 h6! is recently more successful than 7...c5. ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 7...c5. **8.Bh4 c5** has lost popularity (8...g5). verliert an Beliebtheit (8...g5). **9.dxc5N** -0.15/20

[9.e3± 0.51/18 Qa5 *(9...c4 10.Be2 Qa5 11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Ne4 13.Rfc1 Nb6 14.a4 Bf5 15.Qb2 0-0 16.Bd1 Rfe8 17.Ra2 f6 18.Nd2 Bd7 19.Nf1 Nxa4 20.Qxb7 Red8 21.Bxa4 Bxa4 22.f3 Rdb8 23.Rxa4 Qxa4 24.Qxd5+* (25) 7.♗d3 ♕h5 8. 00-Baliasnyj,T Yerevan (ol) 67/43 1996 *)* 10.Bd3 c4 11.Bf5 g6 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Rae1 Nb6 15.Ne5 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Qa4 17.Qb1 Qe8 18.f3 Kg7 19.h3 h5 20.e4 f6 21.exd5 fxe5 22.Rxe5 Qa4 23.Rfe1 Bf5 24.Qc1 ½-½ (42) Leko, P (2731)-Aronian,L (2797) Moscow Petrosian Memorial 2014 (4)]

9...Qa5= 10.Nd4N The position is equal.

[Vorgänger: 10.Bxf6 Nxf6 11.e3 Ne4 12.Nd2 -0.64/20 *(*Better is *12.Bd3=* -0.14/18 *)* 12...Nxc3∓ 13.bxc3 Bxc3 14.Rc1 Bb4 15.Bd3 0-0 16.Ke2 0-1 Izod,C (1882)-Berry,N (2267) Newcastle on Tyne op 2018 (3)]

10...Ne4



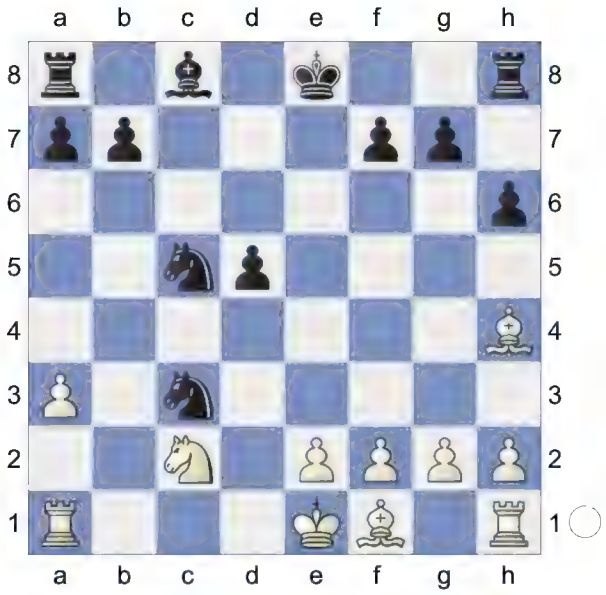
11.Nb3 Qa4 12.a3 -0.87/20

[12.f3∓ -0.44/19 might be stronger. Nxc3 *(12...Nexc5 13.Bf2=)* 13.bxc3]

12...Bxc3+∓

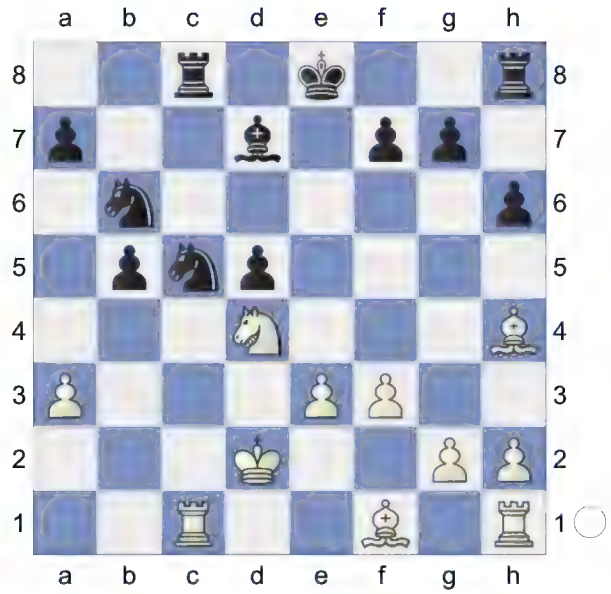
[12...Nexc5 13.axb4 Qxb3 14.Qxb3 Nxb3 15.Ra3+-]

13.bxc3 Ndxc5 14.Nd4 Qxc2 15.Nxc2 Nxc3



Black is much more active. A dynamic duo of knights. **16.Nd4** Prevents Nb3. White is weak on the light squares

16...Bd7 17.Rc1 N3a4 18.f3 Rc8 19.Kd2 Prevents Nd3. **19...b5 20.e3 Nb6**



21.Rb1 a6 22.Be2 Nc4+ 23.Bxc4 dxc4

[23...bxc4 24.Rhc1∓]

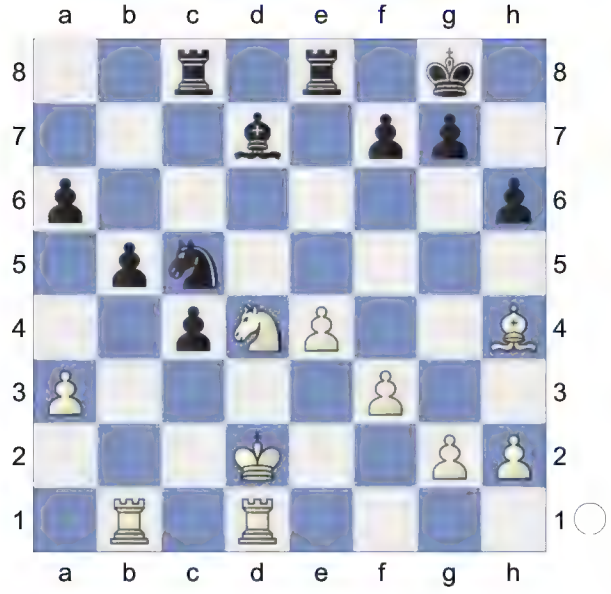
24.e4 0-0 -0.84/18

[24...h5-+ -1.73/19 25.Rhd1 Rh6]

25.Rhd1? -2.43/20

[25.Be7∓ -0.84/18]

25...Rfe8



26.g4 Rb8 27.Bg3 Rb7 -0.92/19

[Black should try 27...Rb6 -1.29/19 28.Kc2 Nd3]

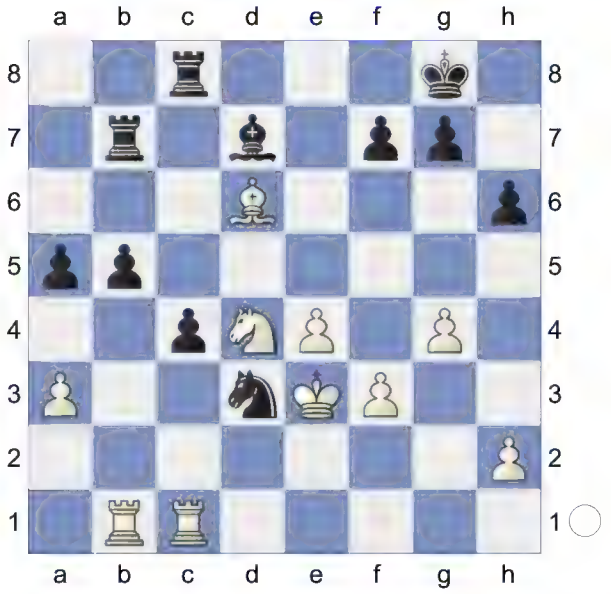
28.Bd6 Rc8 Black keeps a firm grip on the game. **29.Ke3** -1.77/18

[29.Bxc5!∓ -0.44/18 Rxc5 30.Kc3]

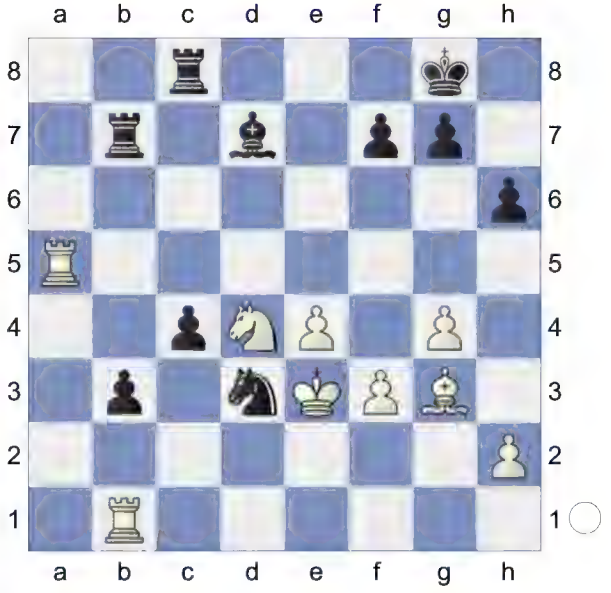
29...a5-+ 30.Rdc1 -2.77/20

[30.Bxc5∓ -1.53/17 Rxc5 31.h4]

30...Nd3

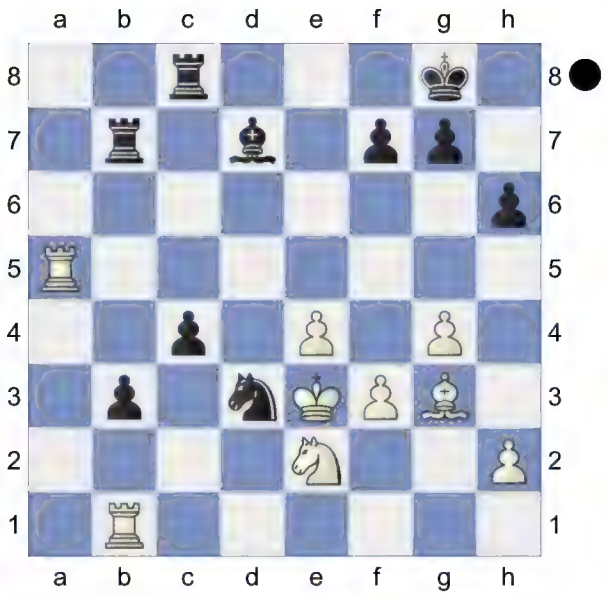


31.Rc2 Rb6 32.Bg3 b4 33.axb4 axb4 34.Ra2 Rb7 Wards off Ra7 **35.Ra5 b3**

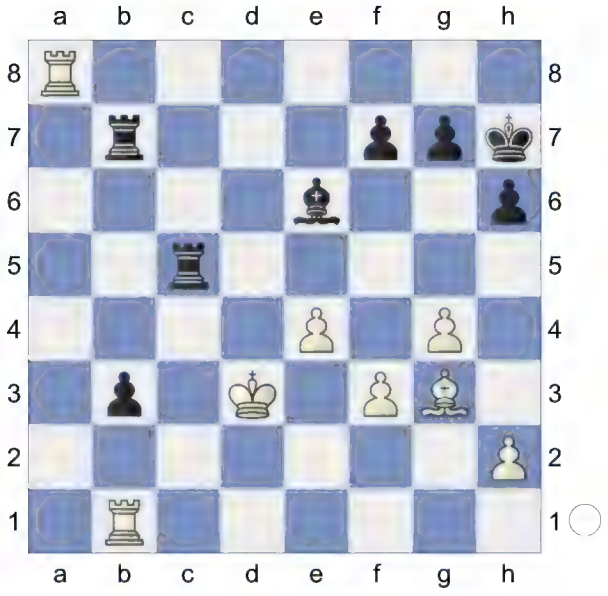


36.Ne2

(Diagram)

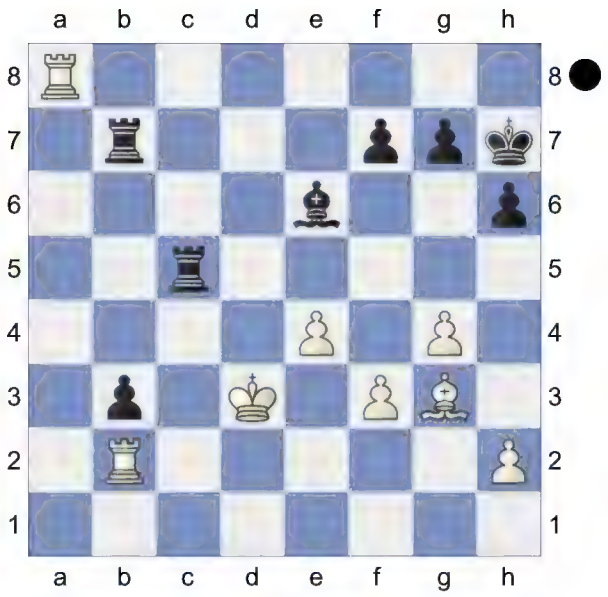


c3? -1.10/22 **37.Nxc3?** -3.16/20
[37.Kxd3∓ -1.10/22 c2 38.Rb2]
37...Rxc3 38.Kd2 Rc5 39.Ra8+ Kh7 40.Kxd3 Be6 -1.75/19
[⌓40...Bb5+ -3.17/23 41.Kd4 Rc4+ 42.Ke3 Rc3+ 43.Kf2 Bd3]



41.Rb2

(Diagram)



Rd7+ 42.Ke3? -4.26/18
[42.Ke2 -1.90/19]
42...Rc3+ 43.Ke2 Bc4+ 44.Kf2 Rdd3 45.Rc8 Rxf3+

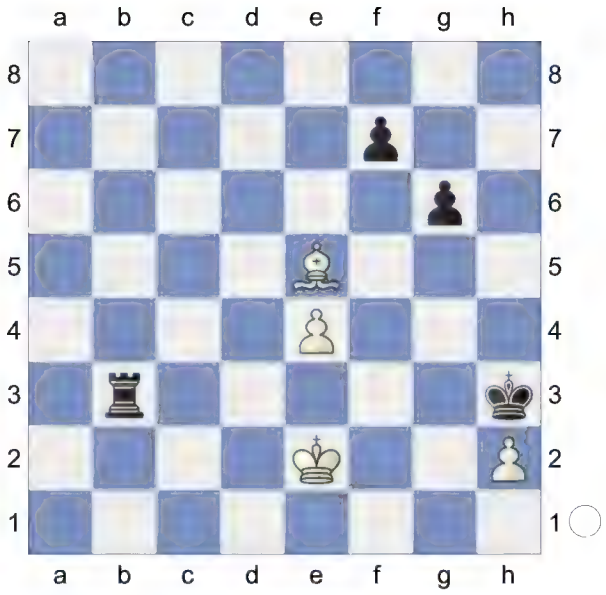
46.Kg1 Rf1+ 47.Kg2 Rc2+ 48.Rxc2 bxc2 49.Rxc4 c1Q
[49...c1R 50.Rxc1 Rxc1 51.Kf3∓]
50.Rxc1 Rxc1

(Diagram)

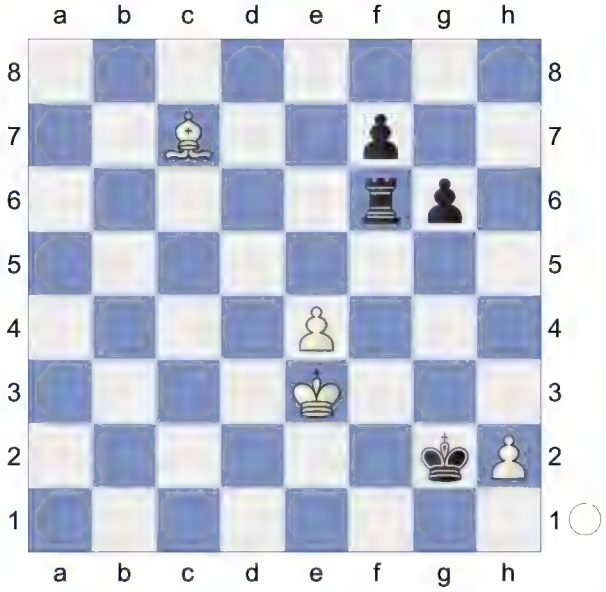
Endgame KR-KB **51.Kf3?** -5.60/20
[51.h4 -3.36/18 was forced.]
51...Rc3+ 52.Kf2 Kg6 53.Be5 Rb3 54.Bf4 h5 55.gxh5+ Kxh5

56.Bd6 Kg4 57.Be5 g6 58.Ke2 Rb5 59.Bd6 Rb3 60.Be5 Kh3

(Diagram)

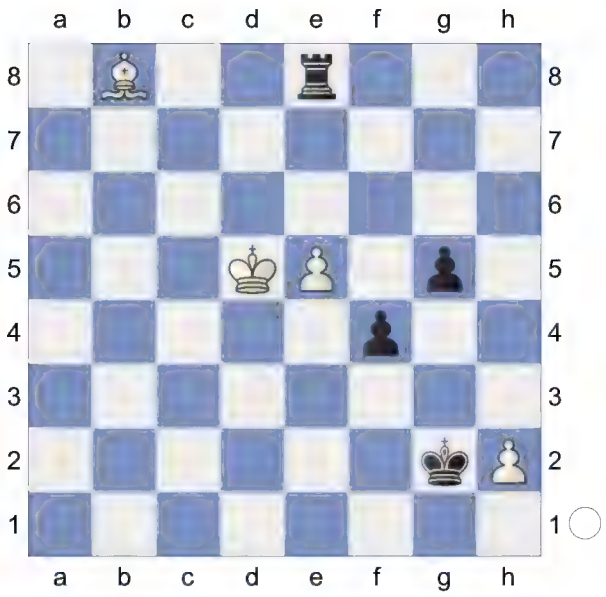


61.Kf2 Rb5 62.Bd6 Rb2+ 63.Kf3 Rb6 64.Bc7 Rf6+ 65.Ke3 Kg2



66.Be5 Re6 67.Bb8 f5 68.e5 g5
White must now prevent ...Re8!. **69.Kd4 f4 70.Kd5 Re8**

(Diagram)



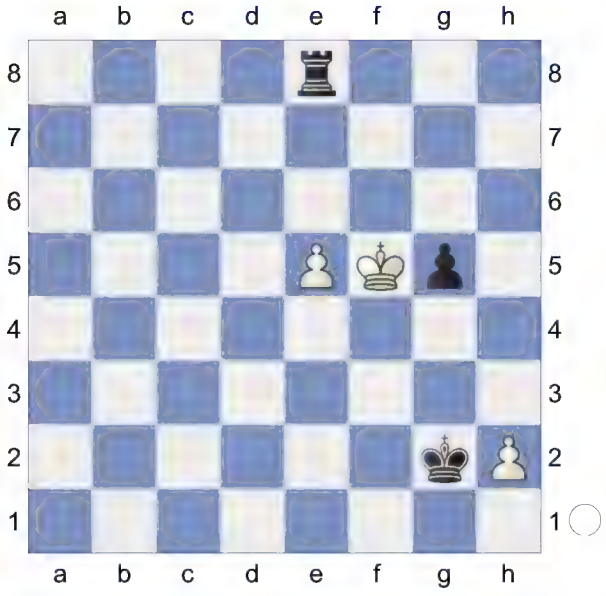
71.Ba7 f3 72.Ke4 f2

[Weaker is 72...Kxh2 73.Kxf3 Kh3 *(73...Rxe5 74.Bb8=* Pin *)* 74.Ke4-+]

73.Bxf2 Kxf2 74.Kf5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.48/ Black=0.26 (precise)

74...Kg2



0-1

115 **E92**

□ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2726**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

Armageddon Grand Final W blitz (2.2)

[TA]

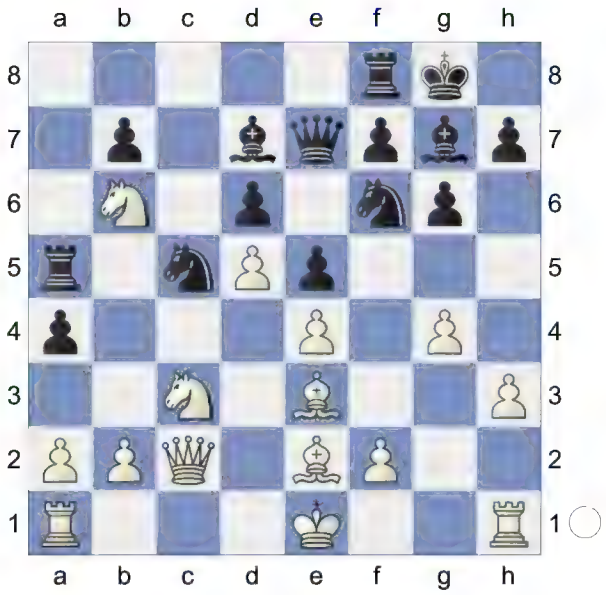
E92: King's Indian: Classical: 6 Be2 e5: 7 dxe5, 7 Be3 and Petrosian System without 7...Nbd7

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Be3 d6

6.h3 e5 7.d5 Na6! is recently more successful than 7...c5.ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 7...c5. **8.Nf3 Nc5** has lost popularity (8...g5).verliert an Beliebtheit (8...g5). **9.Nd2 a5 10.g4N c6**

[10...Nfd7 11.Rg1 Kh8 12.Qc2 Nb6 13.g5 f5 14.h4 f4 15.Bxc5 dxc5 16.Qd3 Bd7 17.Bh3 f3 18.Bxd7 Qxd7 19.0-0-0 Rf4 20.Rh1 Qg4 21.Rh2 h5 22.gxh6 Bxh6 23.Rdh1 Qh5 24.Kc2 Nd7 25.Nf1 Wang,H (2729)-Sandipan,C (2594) Dubai UAE 2014 [Vigorito, D] ½-½ (67)]

11.Be2
[11.Rg1 a4 12.Qc2 Qa5 13.Be2 a3 14.b3 Bd7 15.Rc1 Qb4 16.f3 Rfc8 17.Kf2 Ne8 18.h4 Bf6 19.h5 Bd8 20.Ndb1 Bb6 21.Qd2 Nxb3 22.axb3 a2 23.Nxa2 Bxe3+ 24.Kxe3 Qc5+ 25.Kd3 Qd4+ Khasin Tal (2420)-Gazi, M (2785) Moscow 2023 1873 Vienna [John Watson] 0-1]
11...a4 12.Qc2N 0.19/24
[12.a3± 0.53/20]
[12.g5 Nfd7 13.h4 f5 14.f3 Qb6 15.Qb1 Qa5 16.h5 f4 17.Bf2 Rf7 18.a3 cxd5 19.cxd5 b5 20.Bxb5 Ba6 21.Nc4 Qc7 22.Bxa6 Rxa6 23.Nd2 Rb6 24.Kf1 Qb7 25.Ra2 gxh5 26.Kg2 Bf8 Vaibhav,S (2590)-Jones,B (2691) Caleta 2019 CBM 188 Extra [Krasenkow,Michal] 1-0 (49) 27.Rxh5 Rg7 28.Kh1 Be7 29.Qc2 Bxg5 30.Bxc5 dxc5 31.Nc4 Rh6 32.Rxh6 Bxh6 33.Qxa4 Nf8 34.b3 Qe7 35.Rh2 Bg5 36.d6 Qf6 37.Qe8 Rb7 38.Nd5 Qg6 39.Qxe5 Rxb3 40.Ne7+ Bxe7 41.Rg2 Bh4 Vaibhav,S (2590)-Jones,G (2691) Caleta ENG 2019 [Vigorito,D] 1-0 (49) 42.Qxf4 Qxg2+ 43.Kxg2 Ng6 44.Qf5 Rd3 45.e5 Kg7 46.e6 Rd4 47.Qf7+ Kh6 48.e7 Nf4+ 49.Qxf4+ 1-0 (49) 4.00 ♗g7 5.c3 ♘f6 (2590)-Kauschmann,H (2691) Copenhagen 2019 Nimzowitsch [Zsolt Karacsony]]
12...cxd5 0.52/22
[12...Bd7= 0.19/24 might be stronger.]
13.cxd5± Bd7 14.Nc4! Qe7 1.61/21
[14...Qc7 15.Na3! Against b5 Rfc8 0.87/20 *(15...Rfb8± 0.43/21* feels stronger.*)* 16.f3± Qa5 17.Qd2! Ne8 18.h4 f5 19.gxf5 gxf5 1.04/20 *(*Black should try *19...b5 0.71/20)* 20.h5± f4]
[14...Qc7± 0.47/22]
15.Nb6+- Ra5



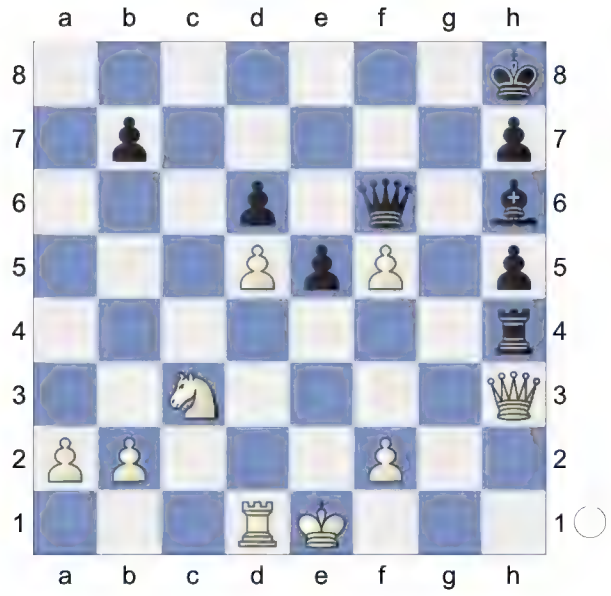
16.g5 1.06/22
[16.Rc1+- 1.68/21]
16...Nh5± 17.Bxc5 -0.01/20
[17.Nxd7± 1.10/23 Qxd7 18.Bg4]
17...Rxc5= 18.Nxd7 Qxd7 19.Qxa4 Qe7 1.20/25
[19...b5= 0.00/23 20.Bxb5 Qc7]
20.Bxh5± gxh5

(Diagram)

21.h4 0.41/24
[Better is 21.Rg1!± 1.02/24]
21...f6 0.82/24
[21...f5± 0.41/24]
22.Rg1 -0.24/25
[22.0-0-0± 0.82/24]
22...fxg5= 23.Rxg5 Kh8 24.Qd1 -1.17/26
[24.Rf5= -0.23/24 remains equal.]
24...Bh6!∓ 25.Rf5 -1.57/27
[⌓25.Rxh5 -1.19/29 Qg7 26.Kf1 *(26.Rf5 Rxf5 27.exf5 Qg1+ 28.Ke2 Qg4+ 29.Ke1 Qxf5∓)*]
25...Rxf5
[But not 25...Qxh4 26.Qxh5 Qxh5 27.Rxh5±]

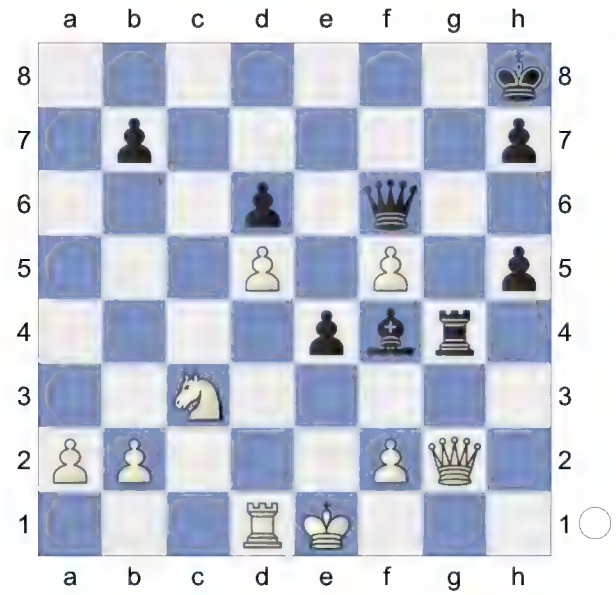
(Diagram)

26.exf5 Qxh4 27.Qf3 Rc4!→
Black is out for blood. &Nero is more active. **28.Rd1?** -2.89/24
[28.Ke2∓ -1.31/27 Rg4 29.Rd1]
28...Rf4-+ 29.Qg3 Qf6 30.Qh3 Rh4
[Not 30...Qxf5 31.Qxf5 Rxf5 32.Ne4∓]



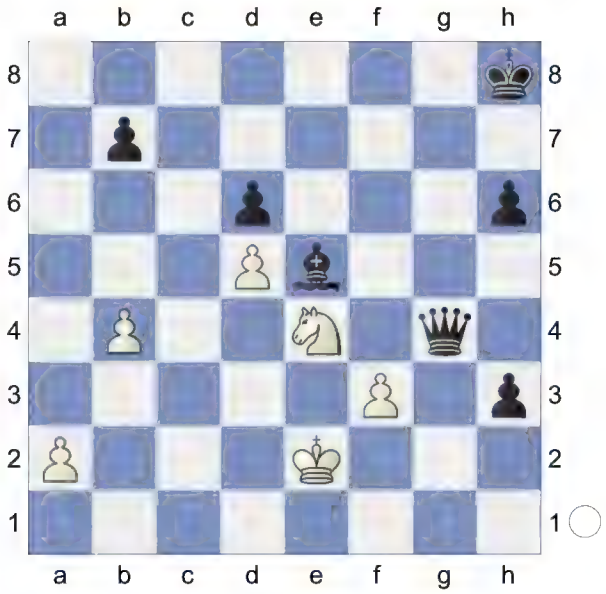
31.Qf3 -6.72/23
[31.Qd3 -2.05/23]
31...e4 32.Qg3 Rg4 33.Qh2 Rh4 0.01/23
[33...Qxf5-+ -9.34/23 34.Qh1 e3]

34.Qg3= Bf4 35.Qg2 Rg4



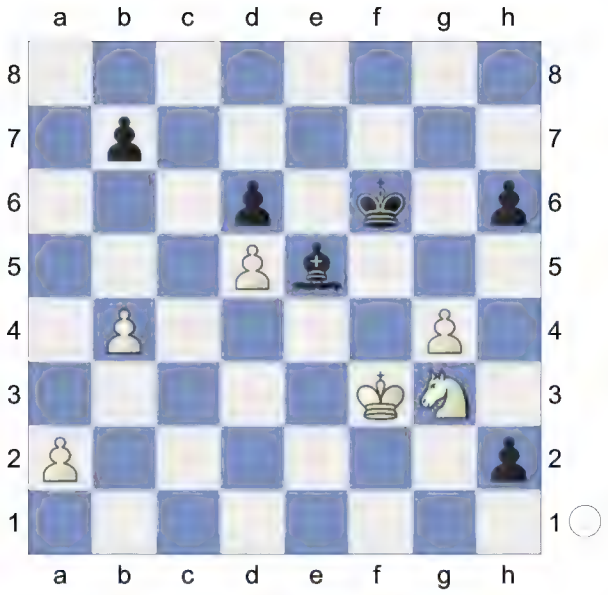
36.Qh1 Rh4 0.01/25
[36...Be5-+ -6.36/24 37.Nxe4 Qxf5]
37.Qg2 Rg4? 0.01/21
[37...Qxf5-+ -5.19/26 38.Nxe4 Be5]
38.Qh1 Be5 39.Nxe4 Qxf5 40.f3 Rg6 -2.46/24
[⌓40...Bg3+ -6.06/23 41.Ke2 Rh4 42.Nxg3 Qe5+ 43.Ne4 Qxb2+ 44.Nd2 Rxh1 45.Rxh1 Qe5+ 46.Kf2 Qxd5]

41.Ke2-+ h6? -0.10/21
[41...Bxb2-+ -2.41/22 White must now prevent ...Be5. 42.Qh4 Qd7]
42.b4? -1.76/22
[42.Rg1!= -0.10/21]
42...h4? -0.05/22
[42...Bf4-+ -1.76/22 Threatens to win with ...Qe5. 43.a4 Qe5]
43.Rg1? -5.89/22
[43.Qxh4= -0.05/22 and White stays safe. Rg2+ 44.Nf2]
43...Rxg1 44.Qxg1 h3 45.Qg4 Qxg4

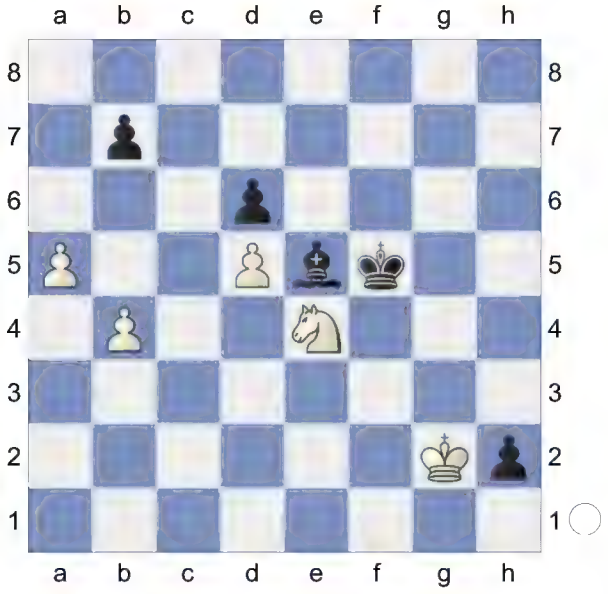


46.fxg4 Endgame KB-KN **46...h2 47.Nf2 Bd4 48.Nh1 Kg7 49.Kf3 Kf6 50.Ng3 Be5?** -0.89/28
[50...Bc3-+ -3.83/31 51.Kg2 Bxb4 52.Kxh2 Ke5]

(Diagram)

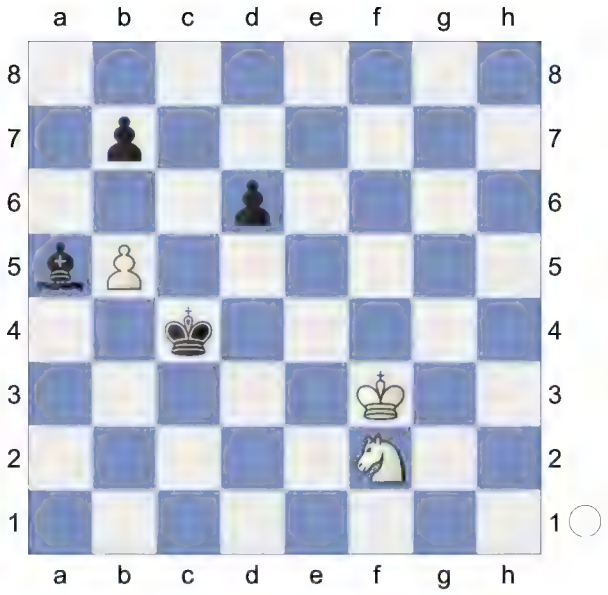


51.Ne4+∓ Kg6 52.Kg2 h5
[52...b5!?]
53.gxh5+ Kxh5 54.a4 Kg4 55.a5 Kf5

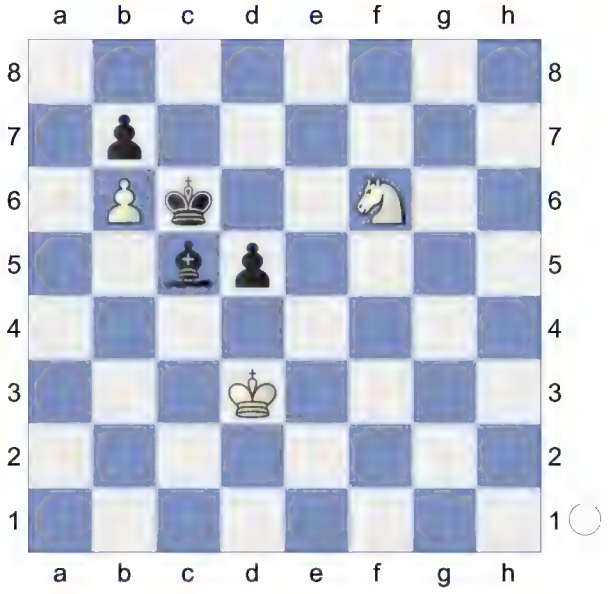


56.Nf2 -10.84/31
[56.Nc5∓ -1.28/25 dxc5 57.bxc5]
56...Bc3-+ 57.b5 Bxa5 58.Kxh2 Ke5 59.Kg2 Kxd5 60.Kf3 Kc4

(Diagram)

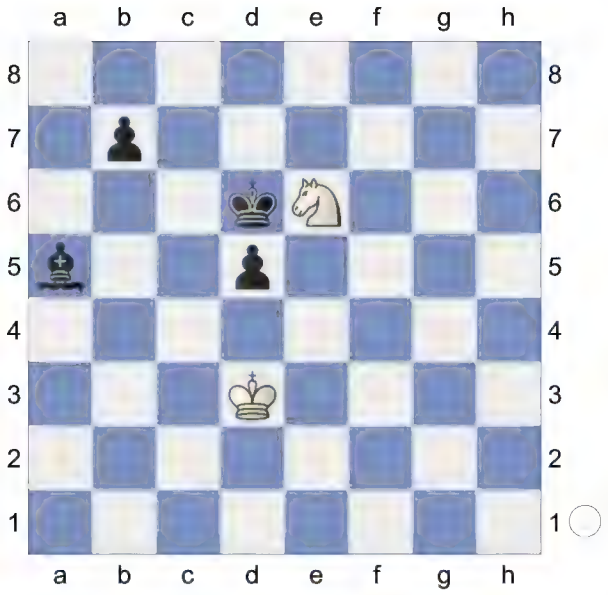


61.Ne4 Bb4 62.b6 d5 63.Nf6 Kc5 aiming for ...Bc3. **64.Ke3 Kc6 65.Kd3 Bc5**

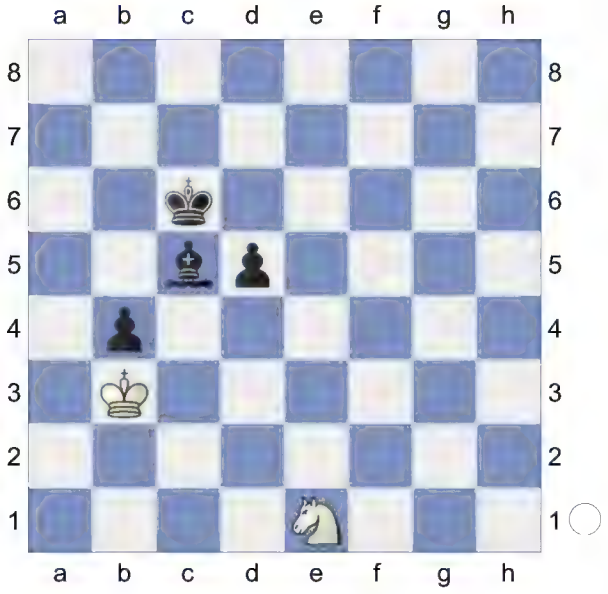


66.Ng4 Bxb6 67.Ne5+ Kd6 68.Nf7+ Kc5 69.Ng5 Ba5 70.Ne6+ Kd6

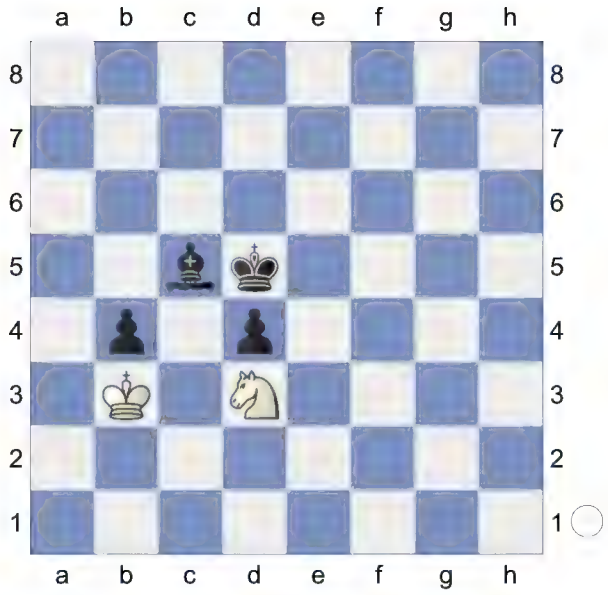
(Diagram)



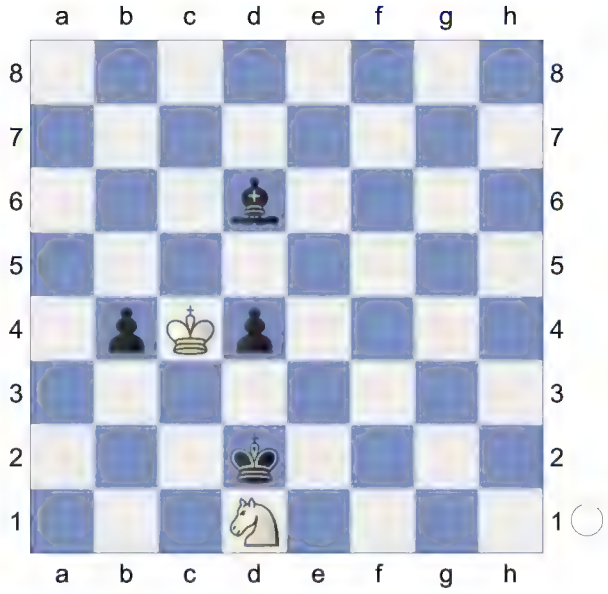
71.Nd4 Bb4 Hoping for ...Be1. **72.Nc2 Bc5 73.Ne1 b5 74.Kc3 b4+**
Vorgänger: **75.Kb3 Kc6**



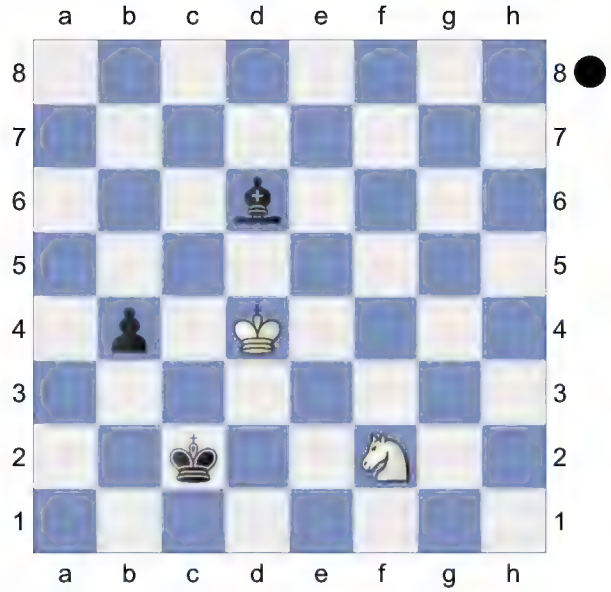
76.Nd3 Kb5 77.Nf4 Kc6? -0.01/24
[Black should play 77...d4!-+ -12.24/27 78.Ne2 Bb6]
78.Nd3= Kd6 0.01/28
[78...Be7∓ -1.01/42 Strongly threatening ...Kb5. 79.Nxb4+ Bxb4 80.Kxb4 Kd7]
79.Kc2? -8.33/31
[79.Ne1= 0.01/28]
79...d4-+ 80.Kb3 Kd5



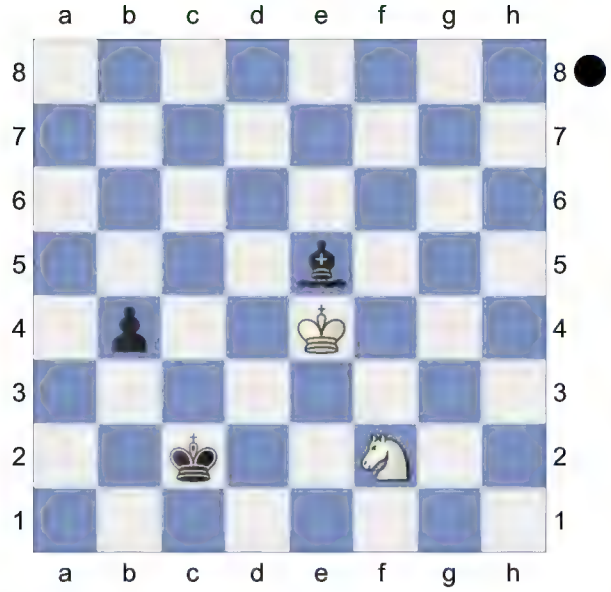
81.Kc2 0-1 Izod,C (1882)-Berry,N (2267) Newcastle on Tyne op 2018 (3) **81...Be7**
82.Kb3 Bd6 And now ...Ke4 would win.
83.Nb2 Ke4 84.Kc4 Ke3? -1.24/18
[84...Bf8-+ -9.00/27 85.Nd1 Be7 86.Nf2+ Kf3]
85.Nd1+∓ Kd2



86.Nf2? -10.00/31
[86.Nb2∓ -1.56/24]
86...Kc2? -1.30/32
[86...Ke2-+ -10.00/31 87.Nd3 Ke3]
87.Kxd4? -8.40/29
[87.Nd3∓ -1.30/32]

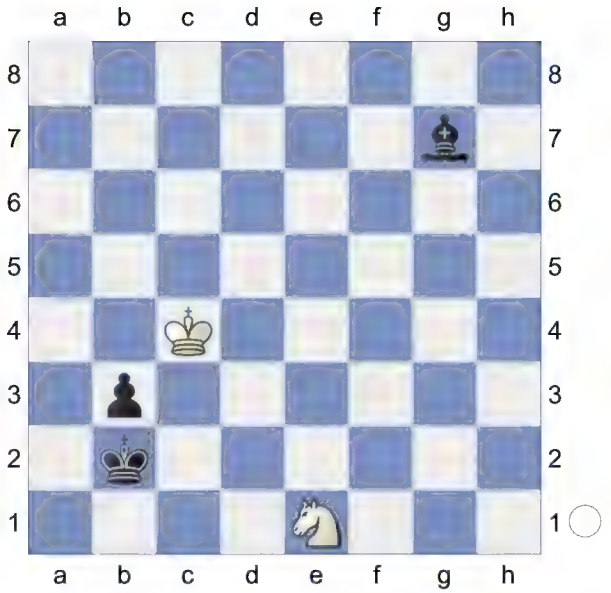


87...b3? -1.05/26
[87...Be5+!-+ -8.40/29 has better winning chances. 88.Ke4 *(88.Kxe5 b3)*

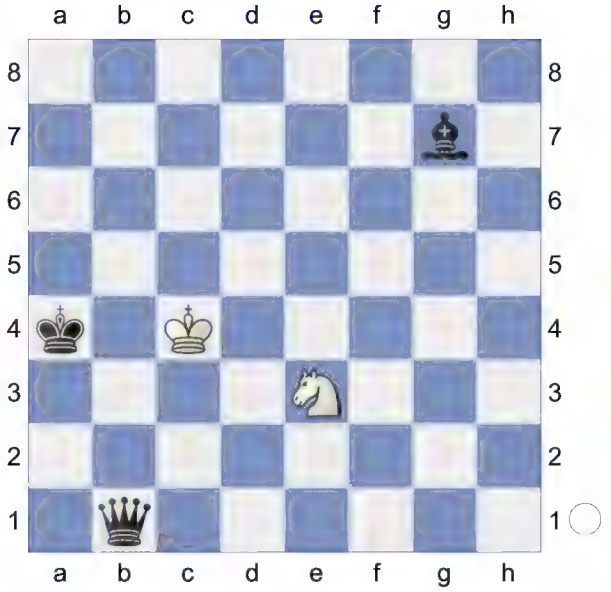


88...b3! 89.Kxe5 b2]
88.Nd3 Bf8 -0.51/44
[88...Bc7∓ -0.83/43 89.Ne1+ Kd2]
89.Kc4 Bg7 90.Ne1+ Kb2

(Diagram)



(-> ...Bc3) **91.Nd3+ Ka3 92.Ne1?** -#12/26
[92.Kc5∓ -0.32/43]
92...b2 Black mates. **93.Nc2+ Ka4 94.Ne3 b1Q**

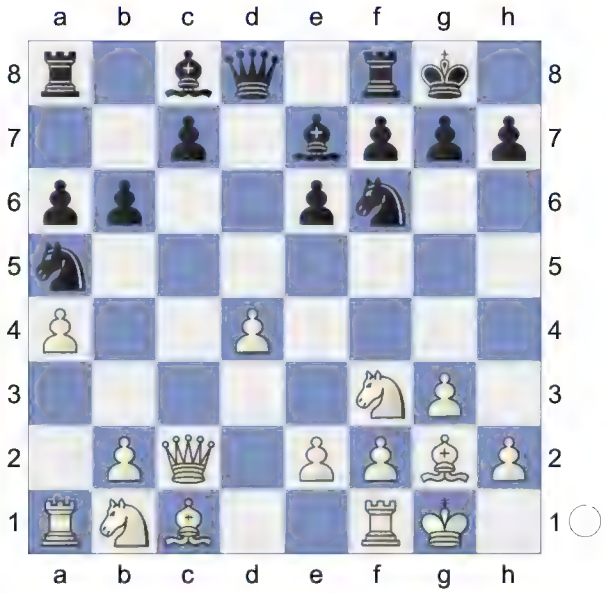


Weighted Error Value: White=0.70/ Black=0.92
0-1

116 **E06**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2726**
Armageddon Grand Final W (2.1) 17.09.23
[Kitty Kat]

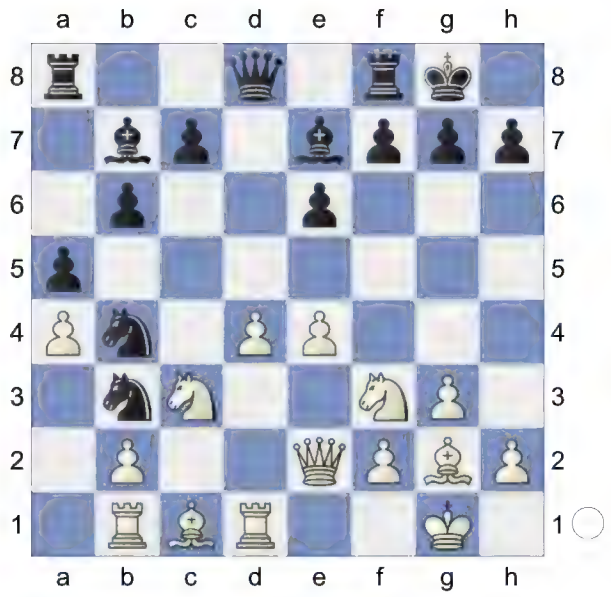
E05: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3 Be7
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0

6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6
[7...b6 8.Rd1 Bb7 9.Qxc4 c5 10.Nc3 Nbd7 11.Bg5 cxd4 12.Rxd4 h6 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.Rd2 Rc8 15.Qa4 Bc6 16.Qb4 Bxf3 17.exf3 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Qc7 19.f4 Nf6 20.Rd3 Qc4 21.Bf1 Qc5 22.Bg2 1-0 (34) Aronian,L (2781)-Karjakin,S (2757) chess24.com (Int.-rapid) 148/127 2021]
8.a4 Nc6N
[8...Bd7 9.Qxc4 Bc6 10.Nc3 Nbd7 11.Rd1 h6 *(11...a5 12.Qd3 Bb4 13.b3 Nc5 14.Qc2 Nce4 15.Na2 Ng4 16.Nxb4 axb4 17.Rf1 Ngxf2 18.Rxf2 Nxf2 19.Kxf2 Bxf3 20.Kxf3 Qf6+ 21.Ke3 e5 22.Bf3 exd4+ 23.Kf2 d3 24.Qb2 Qf5 25.exd3 Rfe8 26.Bd2* 0-1 (62) Speelman,J (2490)-Li,Z WchT U26 02 prel-1 1980 (2) *Rad8 27.Re1 Rxe1 28.Bxe1 Rxd3 29.Qe2 Qc5+ 30.Kg2 Re3 31.Qd2 Qe7 32.Bf2 Rxb3 33.Qd5 Rb2 34.Qxb7 g6 35.Qa8+ Kg7 36.Qa7 Rd2 37.a5 b3 38.a6 b2 39.Qd4+ Rxd4 40.Bxd4+ f6 41.Bxb2* 0-1 (62) Vangsgaard,C (2490)-Lund,H Cesme 92/105 2004 (2) *)* 12.Bf4 Nb6 13.Qd3 Nbd5 14.Bd2 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Be4 16.Qe3 Qd5 17.Ne1 Bxg2 18.Nxg2 b5 19.Qd3 Rfd8 20.axb5 axb5 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 22.Rb1 c6 23.f3 1-0 Yazici,U (2161)-Khumalo,K (2164) Titled Tuesday intern op 26th Nov Late blitz 2024 (1)]
9.Qxc4 Na5! is recently more successful than 9...Qd5.ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 9...Dd5. **10.Qc2 b6**



11.Nc3 Bb7! The position is equal. **12.Rd1 Nd5! 13.e4 Nb4 14.Qe2 Nb3 15.Rb1 a5**

(Diagram)



16.Qc4N

[Vorgänger: 16.Bf4 -0.64/20 16.Qc4 0.23 Ba6 17.Nb5 c6 18.Qe3 cxb5 19.axb5 Bb7 and ...a4 would now be decisive 20.Qxb3 Hoping for Ne5. Bxe4 21.Rbc1 Dodges Bc2 Rc8 22.Rxc8 Qxc8 0-1 Samadov,R (2442)-Safarli,E (2600) Titled Tuesday intern op 03rd May Early blitz 2022 (4)]

16...Nxc1 17.Rbxc1 Ba6 This pair of bishops is nice. **18.Qb3 Rc8 19.d5** -0.14/19

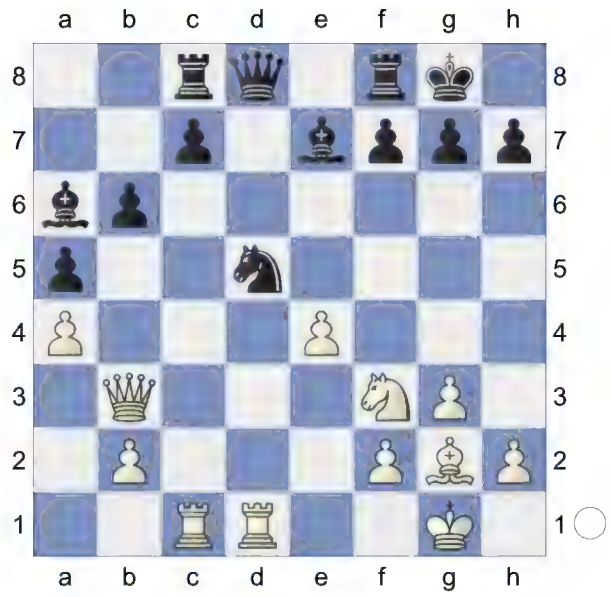
[19.Bf1!± 0.36/21]

19...exd5 0.81/18

[19...Bc5!= -0.14/19 keeps the balance.]

20.Nxd5± Nxd5

(Diagram)



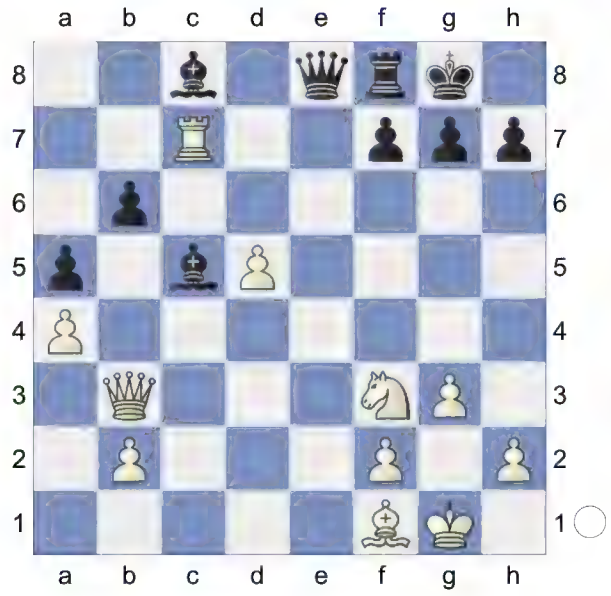
21.Rxd5 0.33/18

[21.Bh3!± 0.78/22 Bb7 22.Bxc8 *(22.exd5 Ra8=)* 22...Qxc8 23.exd5]

21...Qe8± 22.Bh3 Deflection **22...Rd8** Dodges Bd7 **23.Rxc7 Rxd5 24.exd5**

[24.Qxd5 Qxa4 25.Kg2 *(25.Rxe7? Qa1+-+)* 25...Rd8∓]

24...Bc5 25.Bf1 Dodges Qe2 **25...Bc8**



Black has compensation. **26.Ra7** -0.44/20

[26.Qb5= 0.00/22]

26...h6 0.01/21

[26...Bf5!∓ -0.44/20 deserves

consideration.]

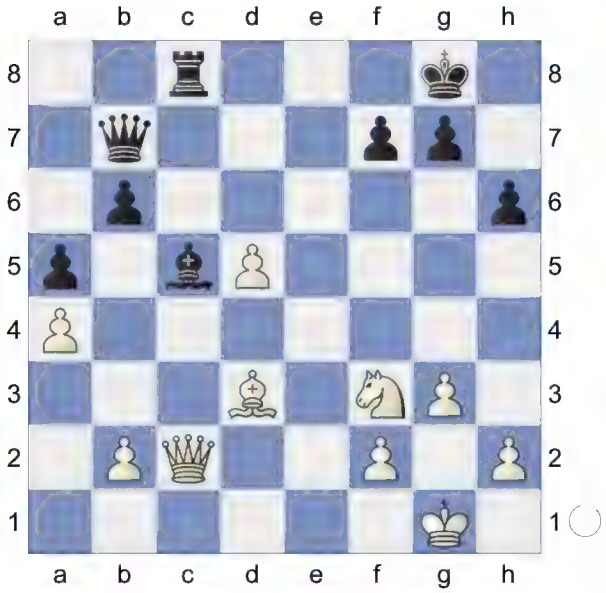
27.Ra8 Qe4 28.Bd3! Qe7

[28...Qxf3? perishes. 29.Bh7+ Kxh7 30.Qxf3+-]

29.Qc2 -1.57/22

[29.Bb5= -0.19/20]

29...Qb7∓ 30.Rxc8 Rxc8



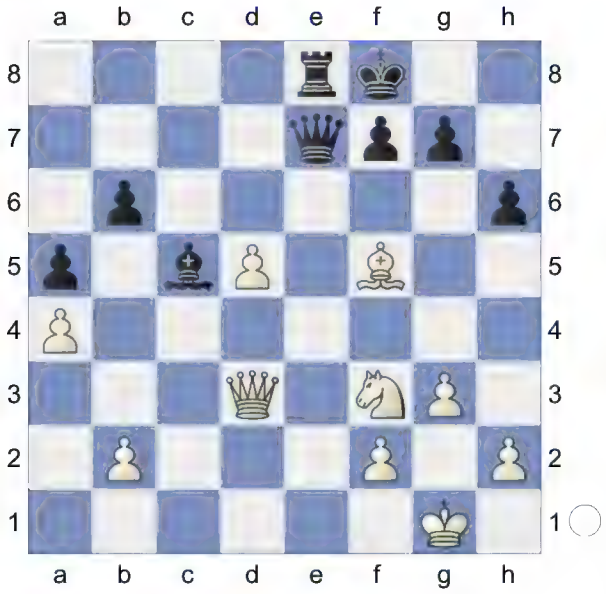
31.Bh7+ -2.05/20

[31.Bc4∓ -1.55/17]

31...Kf8-+ 32.Bf5 Re8 33.Qd3? -3.69/20

[33.Qc4 -2.11/21]

33...Qe7

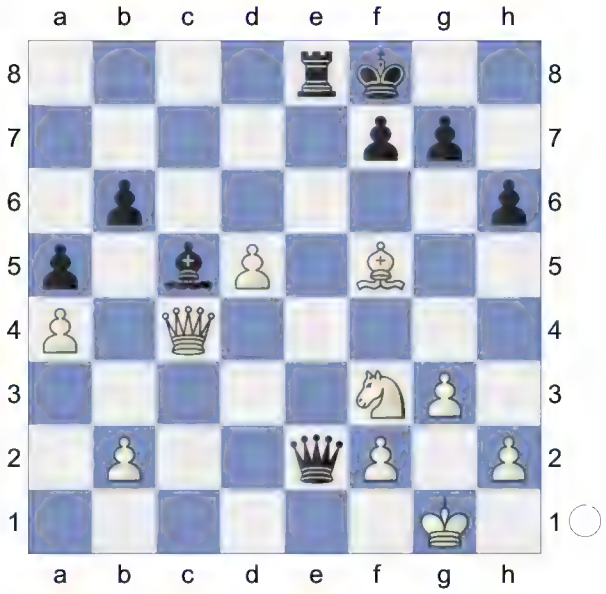


34.Qc4 -5.26/23

[34.Kf1 -3.21/21]

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/Black=0.09 (flawless)

34...Qe2



0-1

117 **D78**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

■ **So,Wesley** **2753**

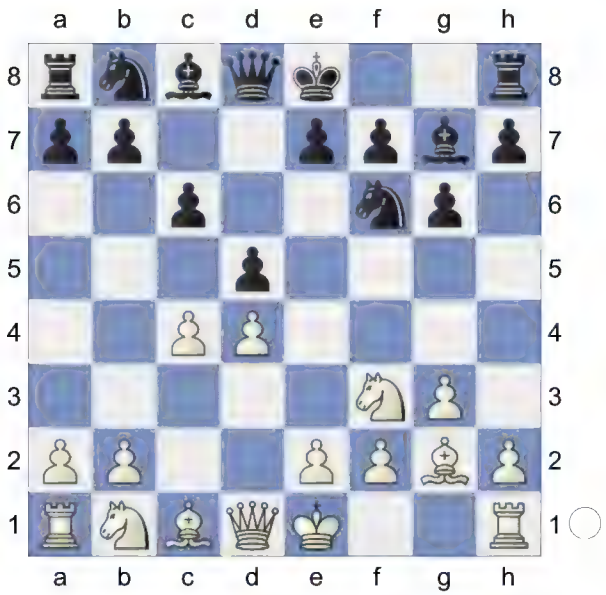
Armageddon Grand Final W (1.1)

[Kitty Kat]

A49: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 g3: Anti-King's Indian systems

Glek,I: 'Inf 67/535' Dautov,R: 'Inf 67/(535)' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 d5 5.Nf3 Bg7**

(Diagram)



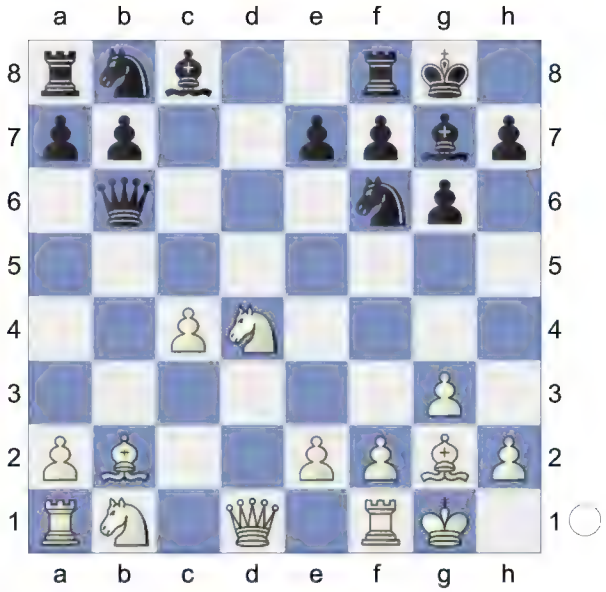
6.0-0 0-0 7.b3 dxc4N

[7...Ne4 8.Bb2 a5 9.Nc3

A) 9...Nxc3 10.Bxc3 b5 *(10...Nd7 11.Rc1 a4 12.Nd2 axb3 13.axb3 Nf6 14.Ra1 Bf5* g3 vs. the Grünfeld-B3,B 2008 *)* 11.Rc1 Nd7 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Bd2 Bb7 14.Bf4 Qb6 15.Rc7 Bc6 16.Qc2 Rfc8 17.Rc1 Rxc7 18.Bxc7 Qxc7 19.Qxc6 Qxc6 20.Rxc6 Ra7 21.e3 b4 22.Bf1 Bf6 23.Bb5 Kg7 24.Rc8 ½-½ (43) Tukmakov,V (2580)-Glek,I (2670) 67/535 Biel 1996;

B) 9...a4 10.Nxa4 dxc4 11.Ne5 cxb3 12.axb3 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Nd2 14.Re1 Be6 15.Nc5 Rxa1 16.Qxa1 Nxb3 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Qa3 Dautov,R (2535)-Polovodin,I (2430) 48/(622) Dresden 1989 Qb6 19.e3 Qa5 20.Rb1 Qxa3 21.Bxa3 Na5 22.Bb4 b6 23.Bxe7 Re8 24.Rxb6 Rxe7 25.Rxb8+ Kf7 26.f4 Rc7 27.Bf1 c5 28.Rb5 Nb7 29.Kf2 Ke7 30.h4 Kd7 31.Rb6 Nd8 32.Bc4 Ke7 33.Ra6 1-0 (41) Dautov,R (2620)-Belotti,B (2380) Reggio Emilia 9596 38th 1995 (6)]

8.bxc4 c5 9.Bb2 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Qb6



11.Qc1 Nc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nd2 Rd8 White is slightly better.13...Bg4 gains popularity.13...Lg4 wird beliebter. **14.Bc3!N** A top novelty.Eine Top Neuerung.

[Vorgänger: 14.Nb3 Qc7 0.54/3 *(14...Be6=* 0.16/15 *)* 15.Bd4 -0.07/16 *(*Better is *15.Bc3±* 0.54/3 *Re8 16.Ba5)* 15...Rb8 0.43/5 *(*Black should try *15...a5!=* -0.07/16 *16.Qe3 Ng4)* 16.Qc3± Threatens to win with Be5. Ne8 17.Bxg7 Nxg7 18.Qa5 Ne8 0.76/4 *(18...Rd7=* 0.28/15 *)* 19.Qxc7 Nxc7 20.Bxc6 ½-½ Vidit,S (2718)-So,W (2780) chess.com Speed 3m+1spm 2018 blitz (2.14)]

14...Bg4 0.87/9

[14...Bf5± 0.43/3 is superior.]

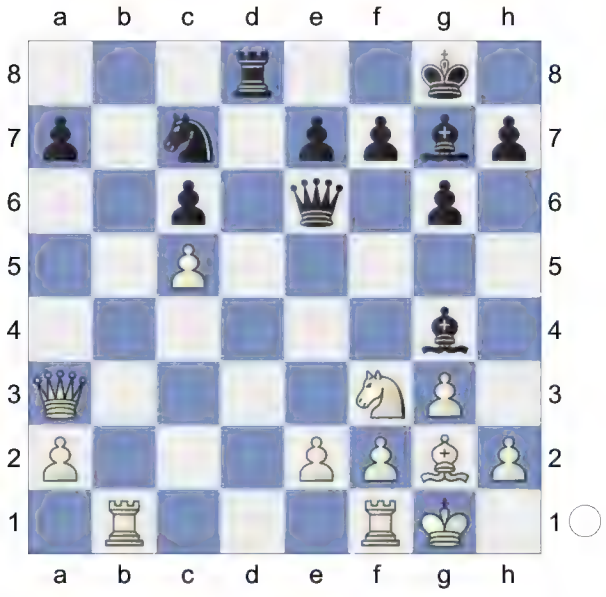
15.Qa3± Ne8? 2.26/2

[15...Bxe2± 0.46/5 16.Rfb1 Qc7]

(Diagram)

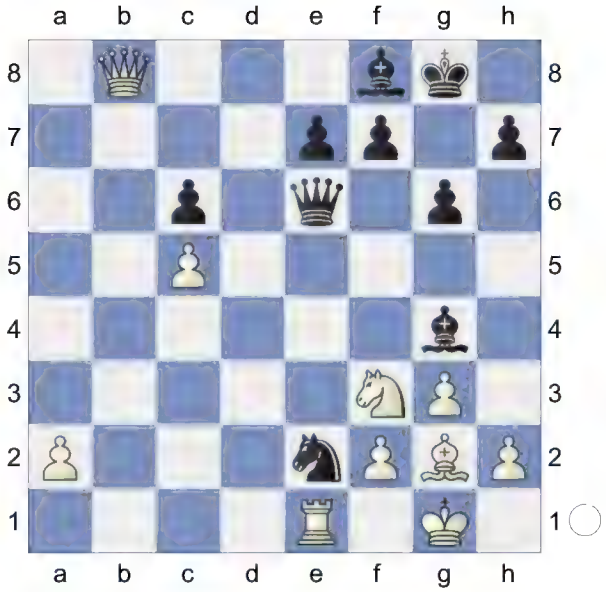
16.Rab1!+- Qc7 17.Ba5 Qd6 18.c5 Deflection **18...Qe6 19.Bxd8 Rxd8 20.Nf3 Nc7** 3.67/2

[20...Qxe2 2.47/16 21.Rbe1 Qc2 22.Qxa7 *(22.Rxe7 Bf8+-)* 22...Bf6]

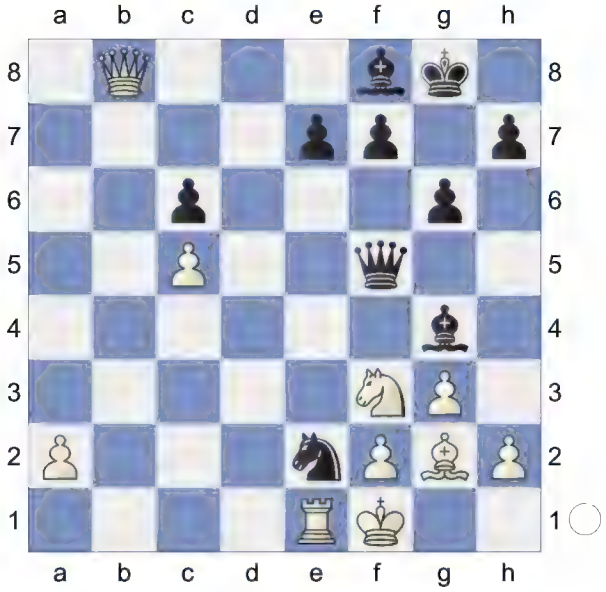


21.Qxa7 Nd5 22.Rb8 Rf8 23.Rxf8+ Bxf8 24.Qb8 Nc3 25.Re1 Nxe2+ 3.51/5

[25...Qxa2 2.31/18 was necessary. 26.Qb4 Nxe2+ 27.Kf1 *(27.Rxe2 Qxe2 28.Qxg4 Qd1+ 29.Bf1 e6+-)* 27...Bc8 28.Rxe2 Ba6 Pin]



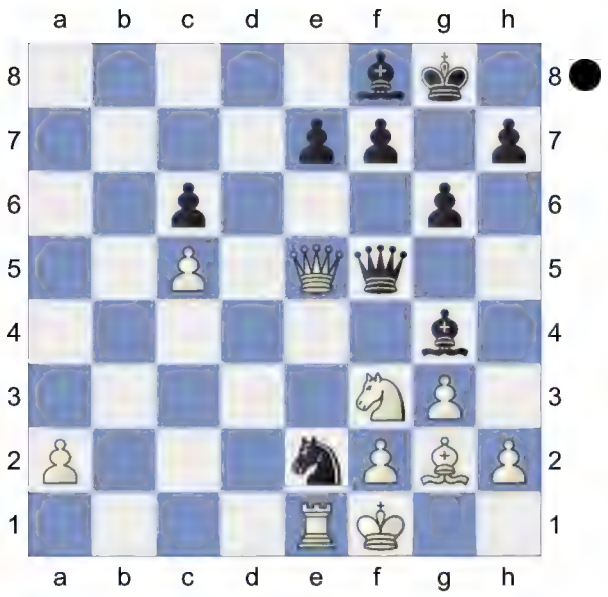
26.Kf1 Qf5



White took control after the opening. Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.52

27.Qe5!

(Diagram)



1-0

118 **B30**
□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2727**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
chess.com SpeedChess 2023 blitz (1.29)
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
Hort,V: 'Inf 23/330' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6**

[3...e6 4.d4 d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Be7 9.h3 0-0 10.Nc3 h6 11.Re1 Be6 12.Bf4 Rc8 13.Rc1 Qb6 14.Qd2 Nb4 15.Bb1 Rfe8 16.a3 Nc6 17.Na4 Qd8 18.Nc5 ½-½ (56) Alcala Leon,D (1957)-Gutierrez Pama,A (1931) COL-ch U18 Florencia Caqueta blitz 2024 (7)]

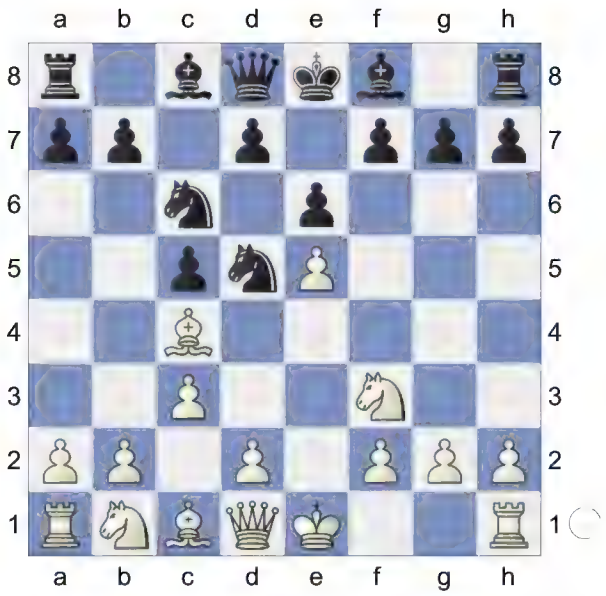
4.e5

[4.d3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.Re1 e5 9.Nbd2 Re8 10.a4 Rb8 11.Nc4 Qc7 12.Bd2 a6 13.a5 Be6 14.Qa4 h6 15.Nb6 Nd7 16.Nd5 Qc8 17.Nh4 Qd8 18.Kh1 Nf8 ½-½ (21) Jones,S (2545)-Dow,H (2495) cm3 Wijk 1994 (12)]

4...Nd5 5.Bc4N

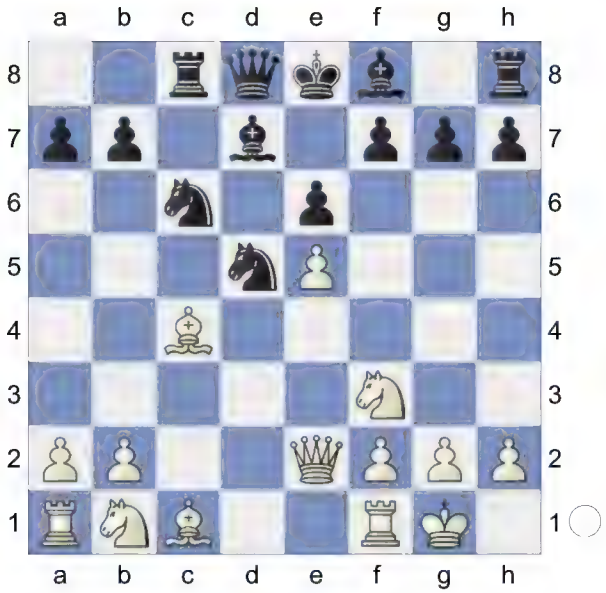
[5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.exd6 Bg4 8.Be2 e6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nc3 Qxd6 11.0-0 Be7 12.Qb3 Qb4 13.Nxd5 Qxb3 14.Nc7+ Kd7 15.axb3 Kxc7 16.Be3 Rad8 17.Rfc1 Kb8 18.g4 Bg6 19.Bb5 Nb4 1-0 (59) Hort,V-Barle,J Ljubljana/Portoroz 23/330 1977 20.Ne5 a6 21.Bf1 Nd5 22.Bg2 Bf6 23.Bd2 Bxe5 24.dxe5 h5 25.Ra4 hxg4 26.hxg4 Rd7 27.Rd4 Nb6 28.Rxd7 Nxd7 29.Bb4 Nb6 30.Bd6+ Ka8 31.f4 Rc8 32.Rxc8+ Nxc8 33.Bc5 Bc2 34.b4 Bd1 1-0 (59) Pedmanson,A-6. ♘1e2 ♘f6 7. ♘f4 e5 639 (ol) 97/(107) 2006]

5...e6



6.0-0 d6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bd7 9.Qe2 dxe5 10.dxe5 Rc8

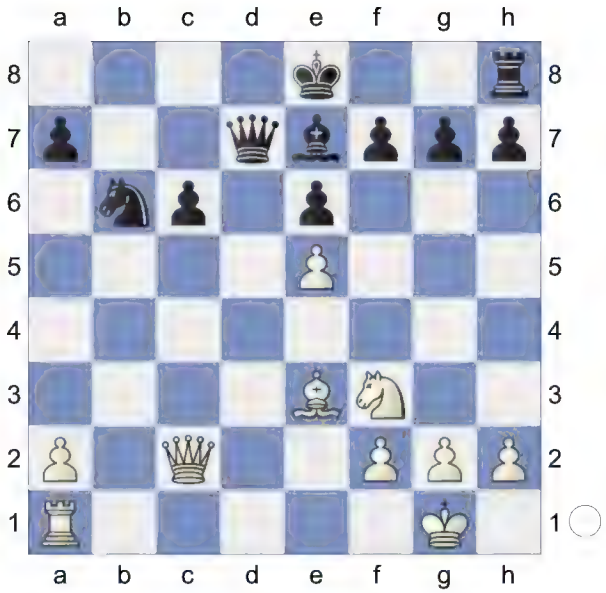
(Diagram)



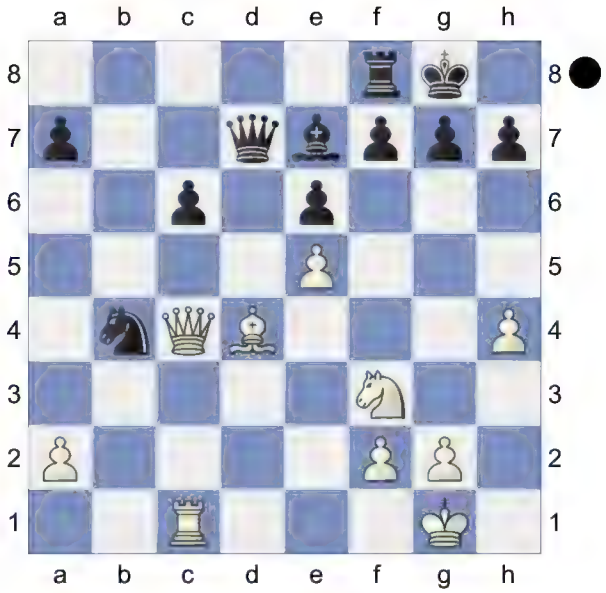
White is slightly better. **11.Rd1 Nb6** 1.12/20
[11...Be7± 0.51/16]
12.Bd3 White is more active. **12...Nb4 13.Be4 N4d5** Against Nc3 **14.Nc3** -0.12/17
[14.Bd2± 0.66/18]
14...Rxc3!= 15.bxc3 Nxc3

16.Qe1 Nxd1 17.Qxd1 Bc6 18.Bxc6+ bxc6 19.Qc2 Qd7 20.Be3 Be7

(Diagram)

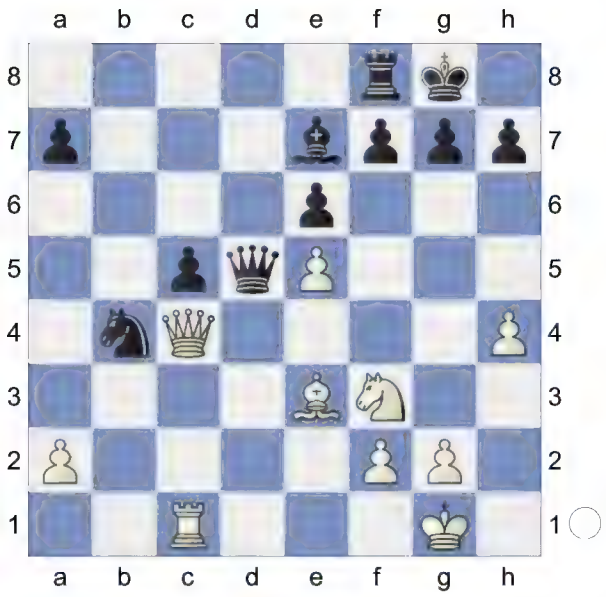


21.Rc1 Nd5 22.Bd4 Nb4 23.Qc4 0-0 24.h4 -0.84/19
[24.a3= -0.19/19 keeps the balance. c5 *(24...Nd5 25.Qxc6 Qe8 26.Qa6=)* 25.axb4 cxd4 26.Nxd4]

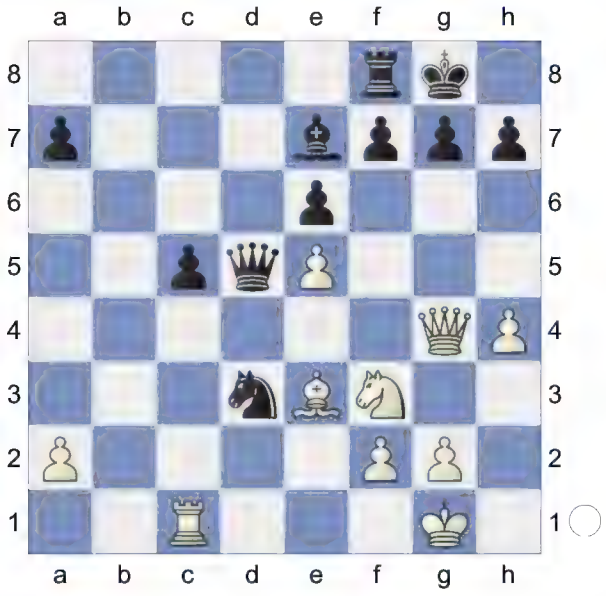


24...c5 -0.18/21 **25.Be3?** -1.78/17
[25.Bxc5= -0.18/21 and White has nothing to worry. Bxc5 26.Qxc5]
25...Qd5 -0.36/20
[25...Rc8-+ -1.78/17 26.g3 Qd5]

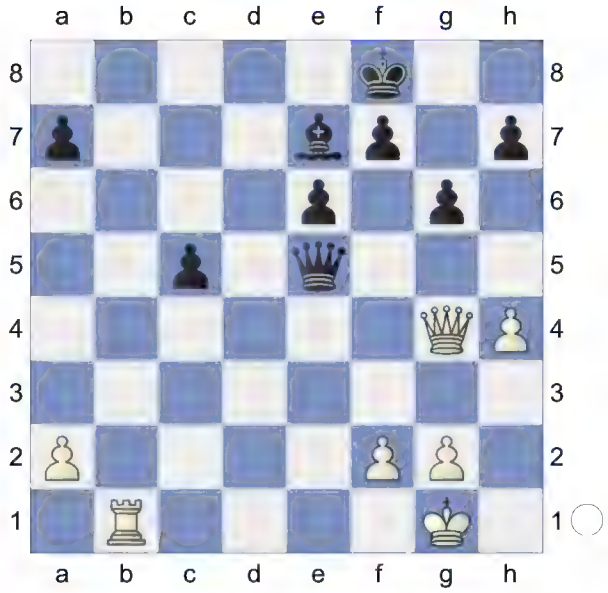
(Diagram)



26.Qg4? -2.02/20
[26.Bxc5∓ -0.36/20 Rc8 *(26...Nxa2 27.Bxe7 Nxc1 28.Qxc1=)* 27.Qxb4 Bxc5 *(27...Rxc5 28.Rxc5 Qxc5 29.Qb7=)* 28.Qb2]
26...Nd3? 0.52/16
[26...Nxa2 27.Bh6 g6 28.Bxf8 Kxf8 29.Ra1=]
[26...Rb8-+ -2.02/20 27.h5 Nxa2 *(27...Qxa2 28.Bh6∓)*]

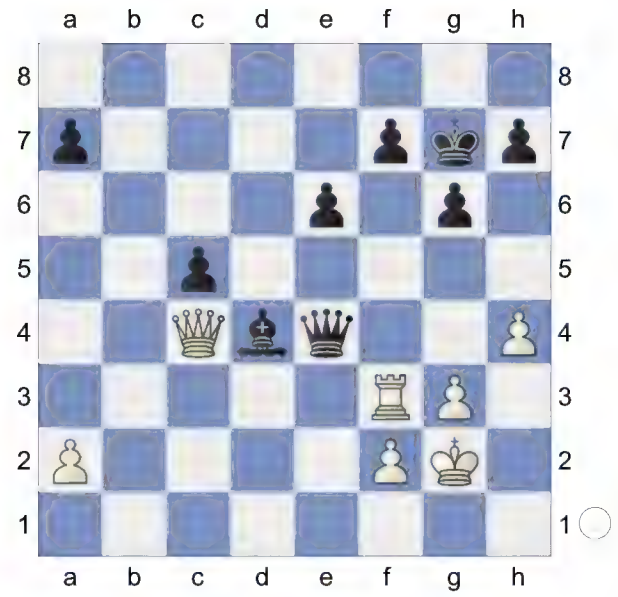


27.Bh6!± g6 28.Bxf8 Kxf8 29.Rb1 -0.06/17
[White should try 29.Rc2± 0.55/22]
29...Nxe5 1.23/23
[29...Qxa2= -0.06/17 30.Rb8+ Kg7]
30.Nxe5± Qxe5=

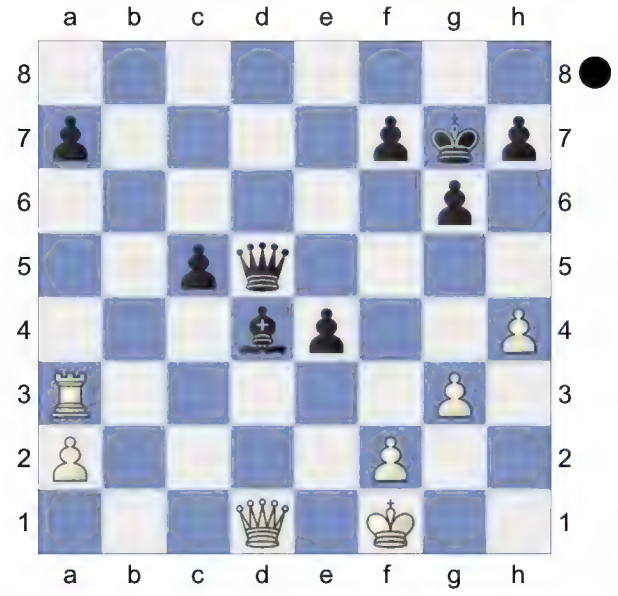


Endgame KQR-KQB **31.Qc4** 0.36/23
[31.Qa4± 1.22/24]
31...Kg7 32.g3 Hoping for Rb7. White has compensation. **32...Bf6** 1.12/23
[32...Bd8!± 0.48/22]
33.Kg2 Qf5 0.63/23
[33...Qd6± 1.14/24]
34.Rb3 0.18/20
[34.Rb7± 0.63/23]
34...Bd4 35.Rf3 Qe4

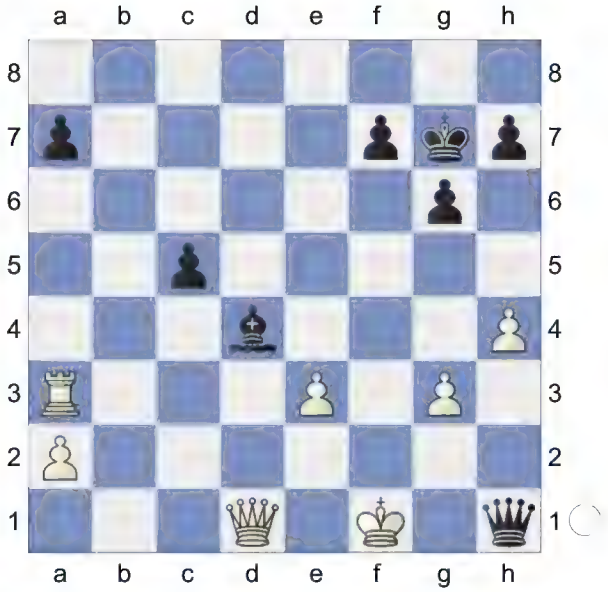
(Diagram)



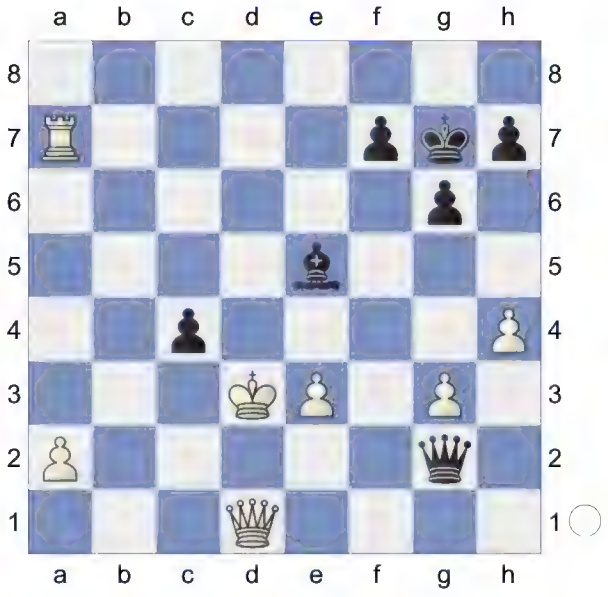
36.Qd3 -0.78/4
[36.Qa6= 0.03/7 Qa8 37.a4]
36...Qd5∓ 37.Kf1? -3.62/18
[37.Qe2∓ -0.92/5]
37...e5
[37...Qxa2? 38.h5∓]
38.Qd1 e4? -1.26/9
[38...Qxa2-+ -3.23/18 has better winning chances. 39.h5 Qd5 *(39...gxh5? 40.Qd3-+)*]
39.Ra3



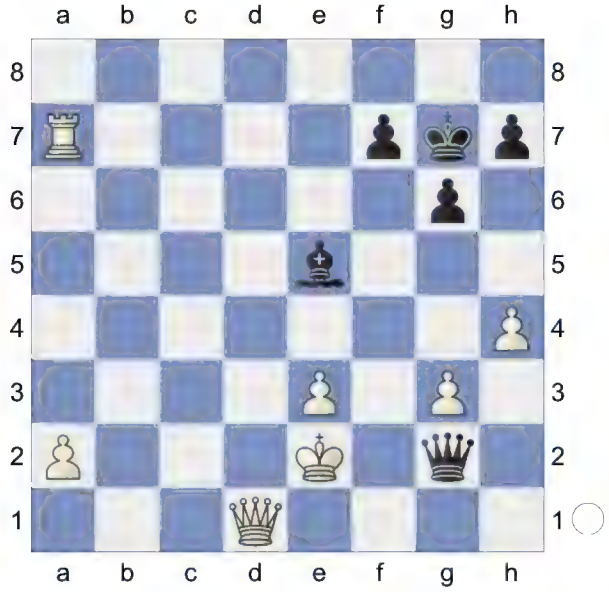
e3 -0.02/2 **40.fxe3** -0.66/17
[40.Rxe3!= -0.02/2 Qh1+ *(40...Qxa2 41.Rf3=)* 41.Ke2 Qxd1+ 42.Kxd1 Bxe3 43.fxe3]
40...Qh1+∓



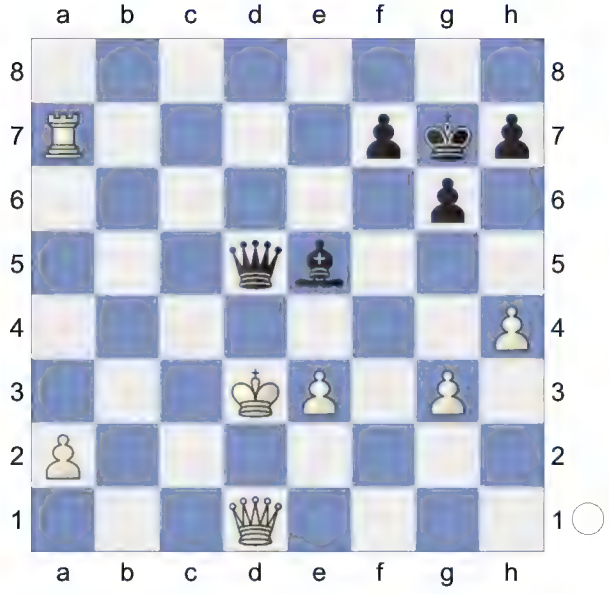
41.Ke2 Qg2+ 42.Kd3 Be5? -0.02/4
[42...Qxg3∓ -1.57/5 43.Qc1 Qh3]
43.Rxa7= Qd5+ 44.Ke2 Qg2+
[44...Qxd1+ 45.Kxd1 Bxg3 46.a4+-]
45.Kd3 c4+ 0.00/53
[But not 45...Qxg3 46.Qb3 Qf2 47.Qd5 Qf1+ 48.Kd2 Qf2+ 49.Kd1 Qf1+ 50.Kd2=]
[45...h5!∓ -0.62/8]



46.Kxc4 The position is equal. **46...Qc6+**
47.Kd3 Qd5+ 48.Ke2! Qg2+
[48...Qxd1+ 49.Kxd1 Bxg3 50.a4+-]
49.Kd3 Qd5+ 50.Ke2! Qg2+
[50...Qxd1+ 51.Kxd1 Bxg3 52.a4+-]



51.Kd3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/ Black=0.49
51...Qd5+



½-½

119 **C11**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2727**
chess.com SpeedChess 2023 blitz (1.24)
[Kitty Kat]

C13: French: Classical System: 4 Bg5 Be7, Alekhine-Chatard Attack
Including this game is basically just for a bit of fun. Black plays a very dodgy opening and his position is resignable after seven moves. However, White doesn't play the most precise refutation and before we know it Black has tremendous compensation for the piece.
Inf 2/50 **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5N**
[2...c5 3.d5 g6 *(3...Qa5 4.Bd2 b5 5.e4 b4 6.e5 bxc3 7.Bxc3 Qa4 8.exf6 Qe4+ 9.Qe2 Qxe2+ 10.Bxe2 gxf6 11.d6 e5 12.Bf3 Nc6 13.Bxc6 dxc6 14.f4 Bxd6* 0-1 Reynolds,R (2565)-Zanetti,A (2389) corr CNEC 15 jub 1993*; 3...e6 4.e4 exd5 5.e5 Qe7 6.Qe2 Ne4 7.Nxd5 Qxe5 8.Nc3 d5 9.f3 f5 10.fxe4 fxe4 11.Nf3 Qf5 12.Nh4 Qf7 13.Qf2 Qxf2+ 14.Kxf2 Be7 15.Bb5+ Nc6 16.g3 0-0+ 17.Ke1 Nd4 18.Ba4* 0-1 (27) Wohlfahrt,R (2127)-Grooten,H (2390) 20th Open B ? blingen GER 2003 (5)*)*
4.e4 d6 5.f4 *(5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Be2 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 Rb8 9.a4 a6 10.Nd2 Ne8 11.a5 Nc7 12.Nc4 Nb5 13.Na4 Nf6 14.Bd3 e6 15.Nab6 Re8 16.c3 Nc7 17.Bc2 exd5 18.exd5 Ncxd5 19.Nxd5 Nxd5* 1-0 (23) Kholmov,R-Stein,L Kislovodsk 2/50 1966*)* 5...Bg7 6.Bb5+ *(6.Nf3 0-0 7.Bd3 b5 8.Bxb5 Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Qa5+ 10.Ned2 Qxb5 11.c4 Qb6 12.0-0 Bf5 13.Qb3 Na6 14.Re1 Nb4 15.Nh4 Nc2 16.Nxf5 Qxb3*

17.Nxe7+ Kh8 18.Nxb3 Nxe1 19.Bd2 Nd3 20.f5 Rfe8 0-1 (47) Ersoz,T (2109)-Shemyakinskiy,N (2307) Titled Tuesday intern op 04th Mar Early blitz 2025 (9)) 6...Nfd7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nf3 e6 9.dxe6 fxe6 10.0-0 a6 11.a4 Nc6 12.Kh1 Nb4 13.Be2 Nf6 14.Be3 b6 15.Ng5 h6 16.Nh3 Bb7 17.Bf3 1-0 (61) Borges-Bjazevic CADAP event? 1983]

3.Bg5 e6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7

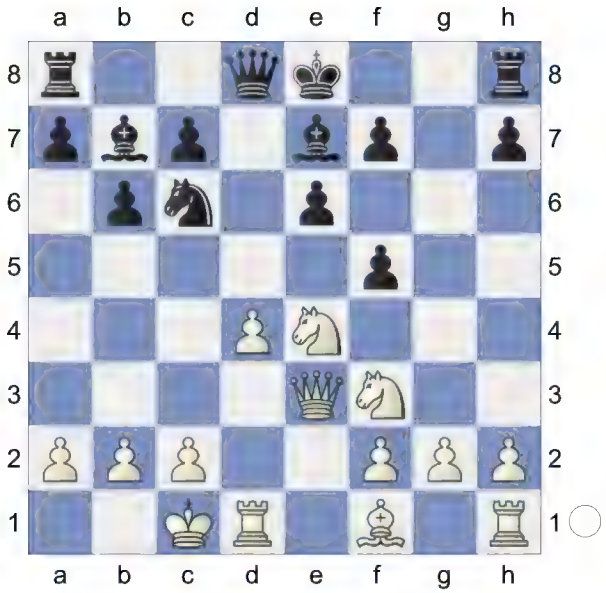
6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Nf3 b6 8.Qd2 White is more active. **8...Bb7 9.Qe3** A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante. **9...Nc6N**

[Vorgänger: 9...Nd7 10.0-0-0 c6 11.Bc4 h6 12.Kb1 Qc7 Prevents Qf4 13.a3 f5 14.Nc3 0-0-0! 15.Rhg1 Bd6 16.g4 ½-½ Horeczky,T (2061)-Narkun,M (2276) LSS RM-2008-0-00027]

10.0-0-0 f5? 3.75/20

[Better is 10...Nb4± 0.34/19]

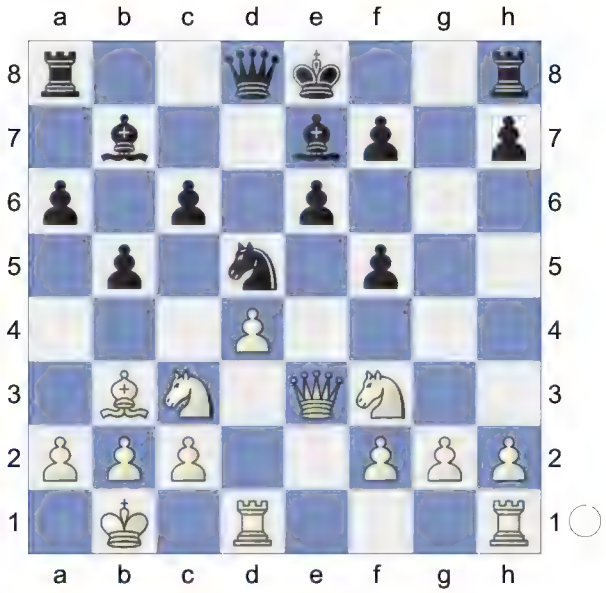
(Diagram)



11.Nc3? 1.34/17

[11.d5!+- 3.75/20 Nb4 12.Bb5+ Kf8 13.Qh6+ Kg8 14.dxe6 Discovered Attack]

11...Nb4± 12.Bb5+ c6 13.Bc4 b5 14.Bb3 a6 15.Kb1 Nd5



16.Bxd5 cxd5 17.Ne2 0.91/19

[⌓17.Qh6 1.28/20]

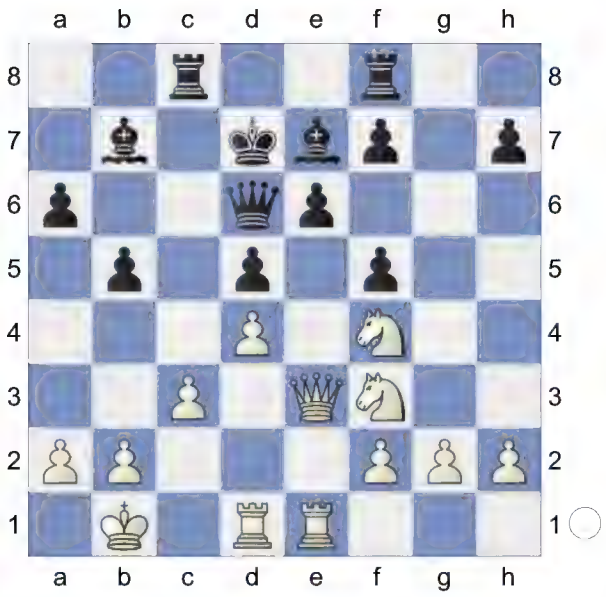
17...Rc8 18.c3 Qd6 1.57/19

[⌓18...Bd6 1.21/19]

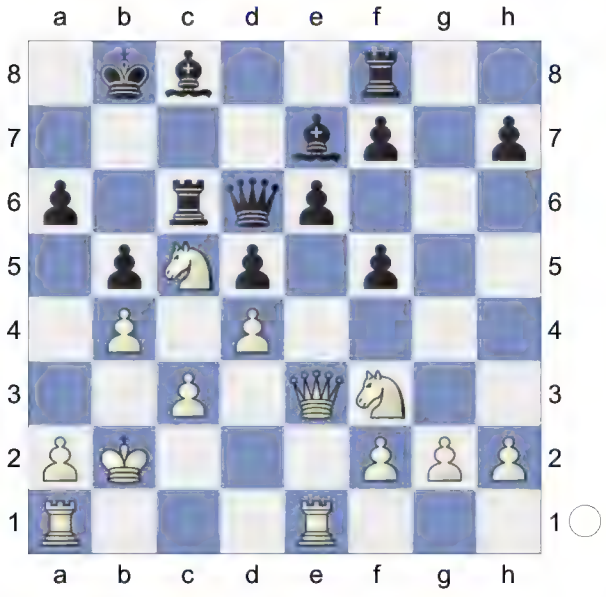
19.Nf4 Rf8 1.90/19

[19...a5± 1.51/16 was necessary.]

20.Rhe1 Kd7

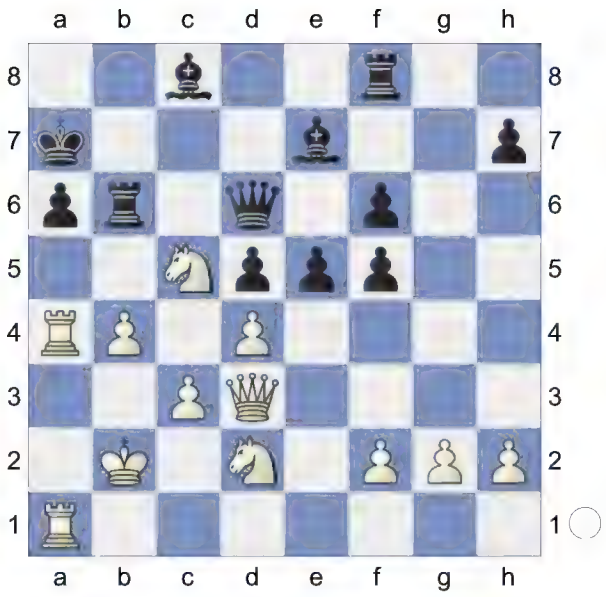


21.Nd3 Kc7 22.b4 Kb8 23.Nc5 Rc7 24.Kb2 Bc8 25.Ra1 1.53/16
[25.Ne5+- 1.98/18]
25...Rc6 2.97/18
[25...f4± 1.53/16 26.Qe2 Qb6]

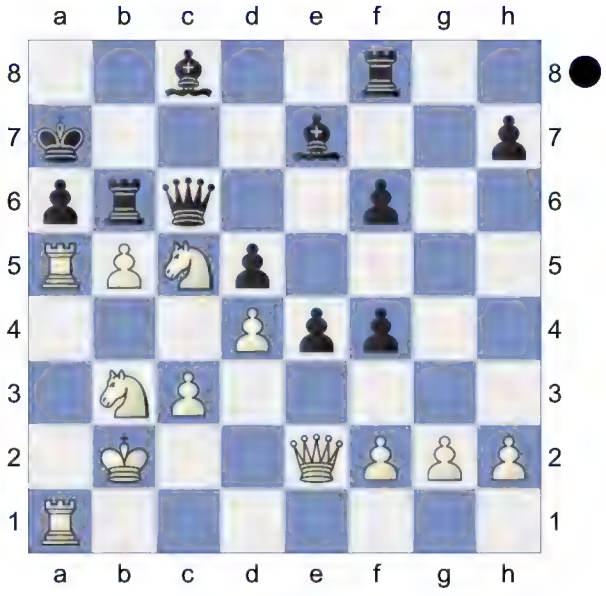


26.a4+- bxa4 27.Rxa4 Rb6 28.Rea1 f6 29.Qd3 Ka7 30.Nd2 e5

(Diagram)



31.Ndb3 Nxa6! would now be deadly. Excellent horsemanship. **31...e4 32.Qe2** White is clearly winning. **32...Qc6 33.Ra5 f4**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.41
34.b5



1-0

120 **B13**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2727**
chess.com SpeedChess 2023 blitz (1.20)
[Kitty Kat]

B13: Caro-Kann: Exchange Variation and Panov-Botvinnik Attack

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6

6.h3 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bf4 Bf5 10.Be2 is currently scoring better than 10.Bxf5. wohl besser als 10.Lxf5.

[10.Re1 Qb6 11.Re2 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Ne4 13.Na3 Rad8 14.Rae1 e6 15.Ng5 Nf6 16.h4 Rd7 17.Qe3 h6 18.Nf3 Ng4 19.Qd2 Kh7 20.Qd3 Kg8 21.Nb1 Qa6 22.Qxa6 bxa6 23.Nbd2 Rc8 24.Nb3 Bf8 1-0 (52) Artemiev,V (2701)-Weetik,V (2423) Titled Tuesday intern op 17th Jan Late blitz 2023 (4)]

10...Rc8N

[10...a6 11.Nbd2 b5 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Qb6 14.Bf3 Rfd8 15.Re1 Rac8 16.Qb3 Bh6 17.Nf1 Ne4 18.a4 Rd7 19.axb5 axb5 20.Ra3 Bg7 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Rea1 Rb8 23.Ra6 Qc7 24.Bxe4 Bxe4 25.Ne3 ½-½ (58) Zhao,E (2275)-Barbosa,O (2492) New York Spring IM-B 2023 (6.1)]

[10...Ne4 11.Nbd2 a6 12.Re1 b5 13.a3 Qb6 14.Be3 Nd6 15.Bf4 Ne4 16.Bf1 Rad8 17.Be3 Qb8 18.a4 b4 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Nd2 bxc3 21.bxc3 e5 22.d5 Rxd5 23.Bxa6 Be6 24.Qb1 Qc7 25.Qb7 1-0 (71) Idani,P (2610)-Batsuren,D (2409) Wch Blitz Almaty 2022 (2)]

11.Nbd2 h6N

[Vorgänger: 11...Ne4 12.Re1 Qb6 13.Qb3 Rfd8 14.Bf1 Nxd2 15.Nxd2 h6 16.a4 0.28/23 *(16.g4± 0.69/18 Bd7 17.Qxd5 Qxb2 18.Qb3 Qxb3 19.axb3)* 16...g5 17.Bh2 e6 0.87/18 1-0 Chigaev,M (2637)-Bocharov,I (2568) RUS-chT 26th 2019 (6.1) *(17...Qxb3± 0.31/21 18.Nxb3 Bf6)*]

12.Re1 White is slightly better. **12...g5**

13.Bg3

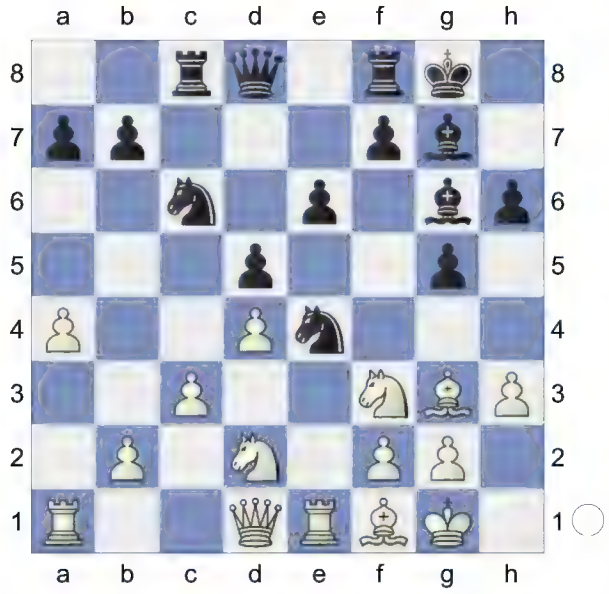
[13.Bh2!?]

13...e6 0.36/20

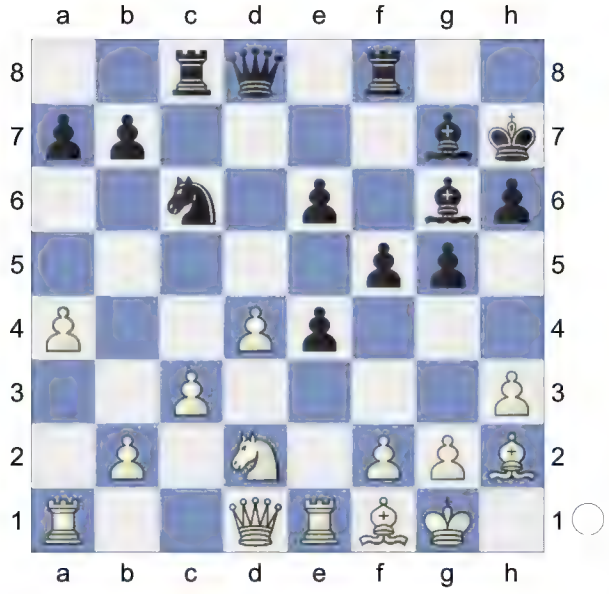
[13...Nb4!= 0.00/23 deserves

consideration.]

14.Bf1± Bg6 15.a4 Ne4!



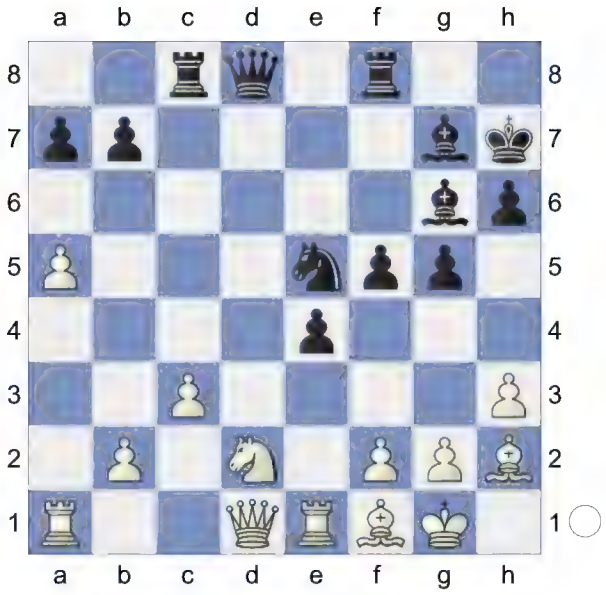
16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Nd2 f5 18.Bh2 Kh7



19.a5 -0.31/21 **e5∓ 20.dxe5 Nxe5**

[20...Nxa5?! 21.Nxe4 fxe4 22.Qxd8 Rfxd8 23.Rxa5±]

(Diagram)



21.Nb3 -1.49/18

[21.a6∓ -0.37/20 Rc7 22.Bxe5 Bxe5 23.Nc4]

21...Qe7 -0.88/18 Black is more active.

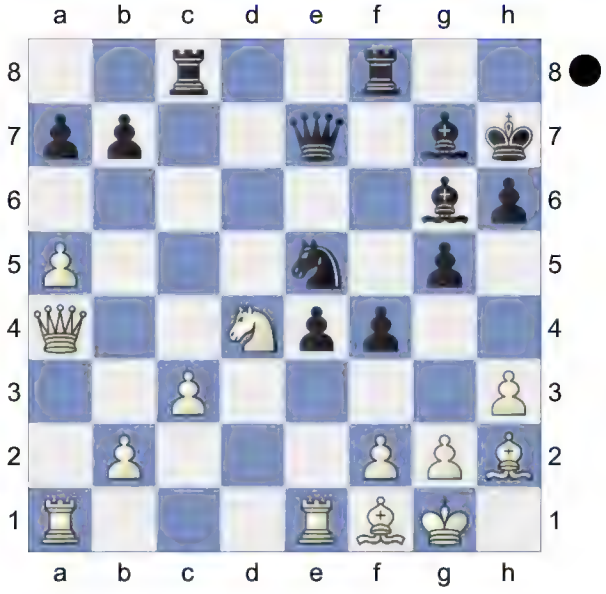
[⌓21...f4 -1.49/18 22.a6 bxa6]

22.Nd4 -1.47/17

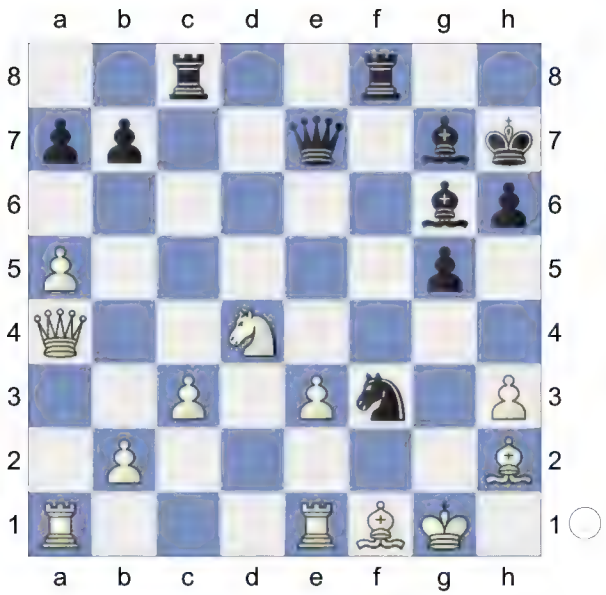
[White should try 22.f4 -0.88/18 Rfd8 23.Qc2]

22...f4∓ 23.Qa4 -1.85/17

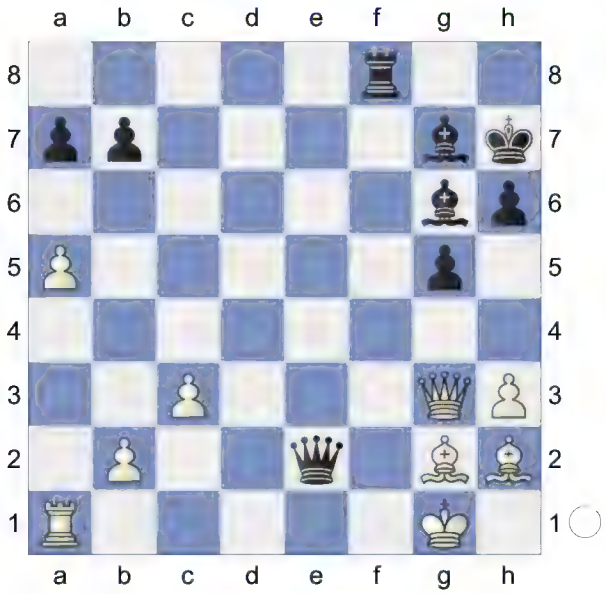
[23.a6∓ -1.38/15]



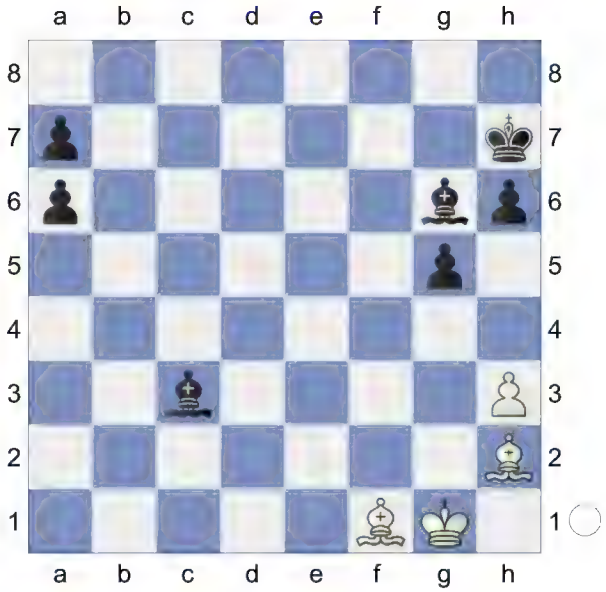
23...e3? 0.15/22 **24.fxe3= f3! 25.gxf3 Nxf3+**



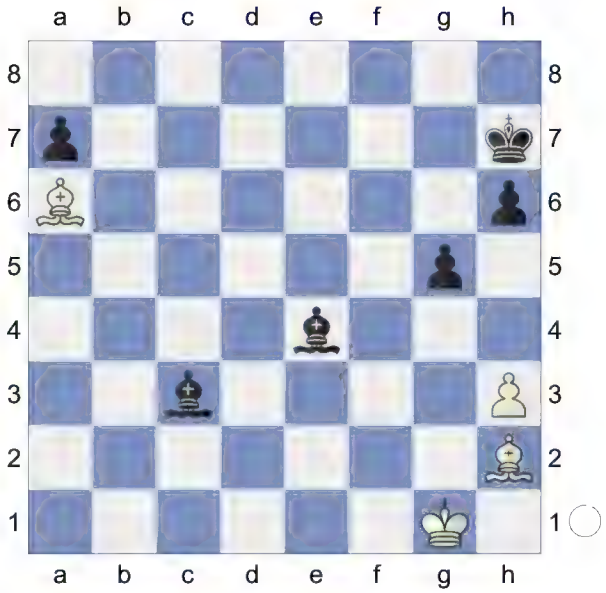
26.Nxf3 Rxf3 27.Qg4
[27.Bg2!? Rxe3 28.Bg3=]
27...Rcf8 28.Bg2 Rxe3 29.Qg3 Re2
[29...Rxe1+ simplifies 30.Qxe1 Qc5+ 31.Kh1 Qb5]
30.Rxe2 -1.03/16
[30.Kh1!= -0.08/19 remains equal.]
30...Qxe2→



Black wants a kill. This costs White the game. **31.Qc7?** -4.15/19
[31.b4∓ -1.03/17 is more resistant.]
31...Qxb2 32.Rf1 Rxf1+ 33.Bxf1 Qxc3 34.Qxc3 Bxc3 35.a6? -5.14/23
[35.Bc7 -3.00/20]
35...bxa6



36.Bxa6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/ Black=0.38
36...Be4



0-1

121 **A45**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2727**
chess.com SpeedChess 2023 blitz (1.14)
[Kitty Kat]

B13: Caro-Kann: Exchange Variation and Panov-Botvinnik Attack

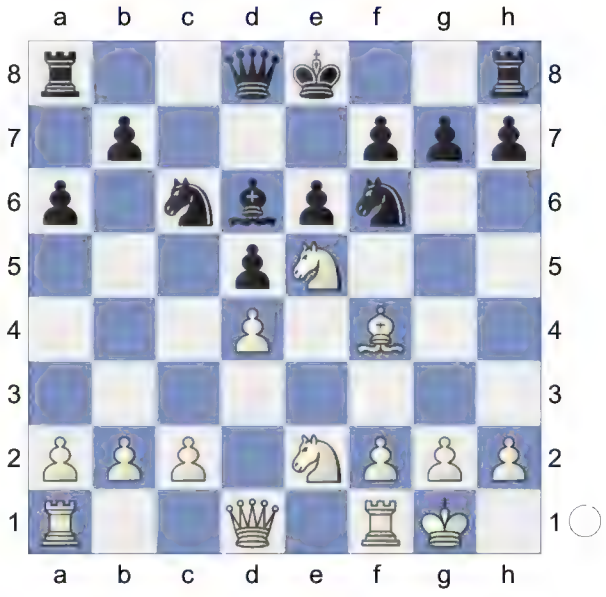
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5N

[2...c5 3.d5 d6 4.e4 g6 5.Nf3 *(5.f4 Bg7 6.Bb5+ Nfd7 7.a4 Na6 8.Nf3 Nc7 9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 e6 11.dxe6 fxe6 12.f5 Ne5 13.fxg6 hxg6 14.Be3 Bd7 15.Nxe5 Rxf1+ 16.Bxf1 Bxe5 17.Qg4 Qf6 18.Bc4 Rf8 19.Rd1 Rf7* ½-½ Leisebein,P (1200)-Grott,P (1200) SE014 www.desc-online.de 2000*)* 5...Bg7 6.Be2 *(6.Bc4 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Bf4 Ne8 9.Re1 Nb6 10.Bf1 e5 11.dxe6 Bxe6 12.a4 Nd7 13.Nb5 Bg4 14.Nxd6 Be5 15.Bxe5 Bxf3 16.Qd5 Nc7 17.Nf5 gxf5 18.Bxc7 Qxc7 19.Qxf5 Bxg2 20.Bxg2 Rae8* ½-½ Atalik,S (2561)-Epishin,V (2605) CCA-ICC op Lake George 2005 (9) *21.Ra3 Ne5 22.Rg3+ Ng6 23.e5 Qd8 24.Qh5 Qd2 25.Rh3 h6 26.Ree3 Re6 27.Qxh6 Rd8 28.Bf1 Qc1 29.Qh7+ Kf8 30.Rhf3 Rd7 31.Rd3 Nxe5 32.Rxf7+ Nxf7 33.Rxd7 Qg5+ 34.Kh1 Rf6 35.Bc4 Qc1+* 1-0 Zhang,P (2562)-Ni,H (2390) Perenyi Memorial 2000 (7)*)* 6...Na6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bf4 Nc7 9.a4 Bg4 10.Qd2 a6 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Nd7 13.Be2 Rb8 14.Bh6 b5 15.axb5 axb5 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.b4 Chapter 5 - Egoism-Speelman vs. Hartston]

3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 a6

(Diagram)

6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 Nc6 8.0-0 The position is equal. **8...e6 9.Ne5** 9.h3 gains popularity. 9.h3 wird beliebter .9.h3 gains popularity. 9.h3 wird beliebter. **9...Bxe2 10.Nxe2 Bd6**



11.Ng3!? A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante. A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante. **11...0-0 12.c3 Qc7 13.Re1 Nd7** 0.35/21

[13...Bxe5= -0.09/19 14.Bxe5 Nxe5

15.Rxe5 Kh8]

14.Qe2N -0.24/19

[Vorgänger: 14.Nxd7± 0.35/21 Qxd7 15.Bxd6 *(15.Nh5 Bxf4 16.Nxf4)* 15...Qxd6 16.Qg4 Kh8 0.54/21 *(Better is 16...Ne7=* 0.00/22 *)* 17.Nh5± Rg8 18.Re3 Ne7 19.Rh3 e5? 1.97/23 *(19...Ng6=* 0.23/20 and Black stays safe.*)* 20.dxe5+- Qxe5 Bettalli,F (2304)-Gatterer,F (2167) Titled Tuesday intern op 10th May Early blitz 2022 (3) 1-0 1-0 Bettalli,F (2304)-Gatterer,F (2167) Titled Tuesday intern op 10th May Early blitz 2022 (3)]

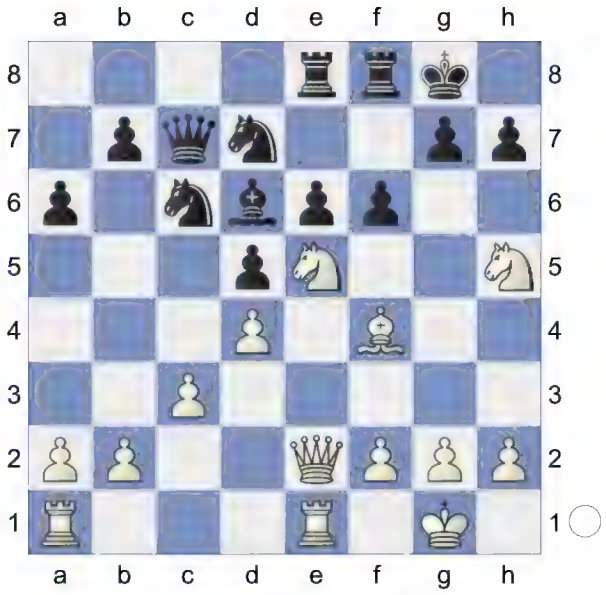
14...Rae8 0.17/20

[⌓14...Bxe5 -0.24/19 15.Bxe5 Ncxe5 16.dxe5 Rad8]

15.Nh5=

aiming for Qe2-g4. **15...f6**

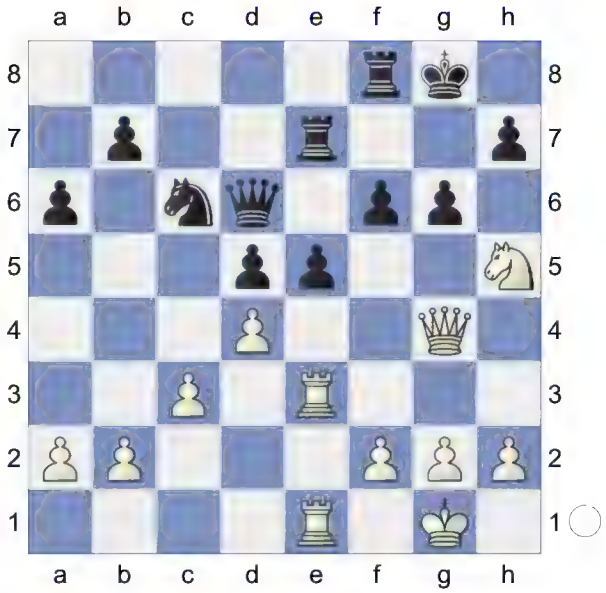
(Diagram)



16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Qg4 Bf4xd6 would now be deadly. **17...Re7 18.Bxd6→** White has some attack. **18...Qxd6 19.Re3 g6 20.Rae1** -0.01/22

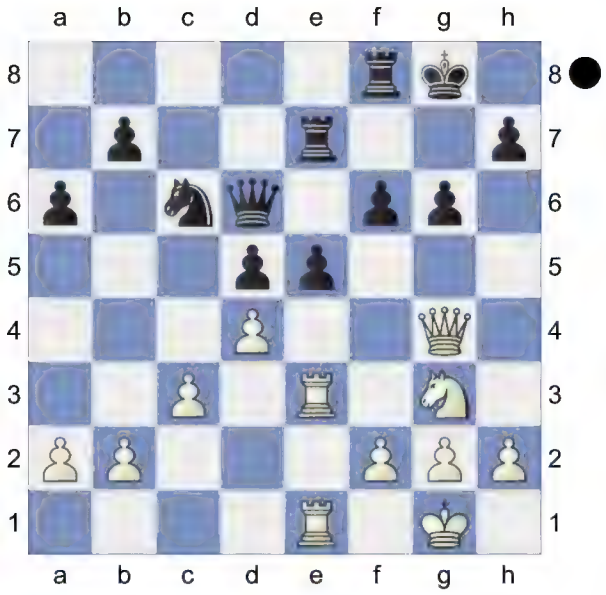
[20.Rd1± 0.52/21]

20...e5



21.Ng3

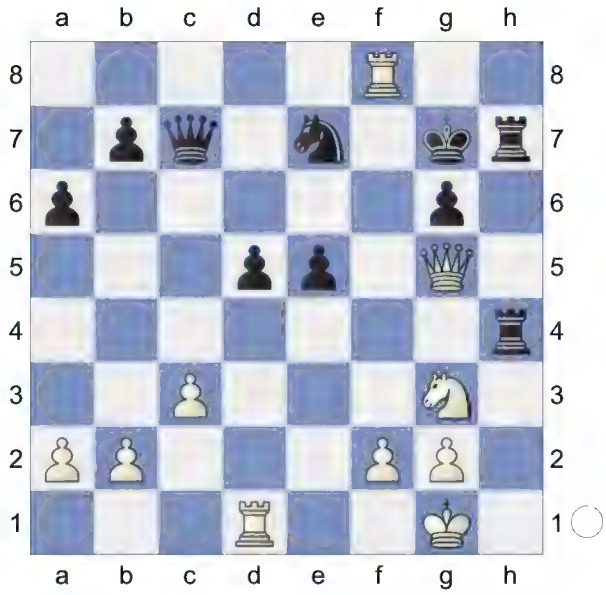
(Diagram)



Threatens to win with Ng3-f5. **21...Kh8** 0.50/22
[Black should play 21...f5= -0.25/22 22.dxe5 Rxe5]
22.dxe5± fxe5 23.Rd1 Rf4? 2.29/21
[23...Qd7± 0.58/19 24.h3 d4]
24.Qg5? 0.12/22
[24.Qc8++- 2.29/21 Kg7 25.Ne4 Pin]
24...Ref7= 25.h4 -0.32/22
[25.Rd2= 0.17/21]
25...h6? 1.30/25
[25...Rxf2? is the wrong capture. 26.Ne4+-]
[25...Qf8∓ -0.32/22 stays ahead.]

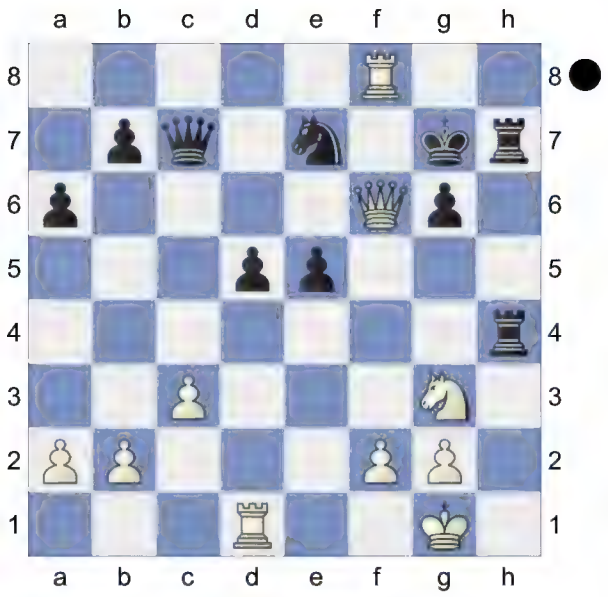
(Diagram)

26.Qxh6+± Rh7 27.Qg5 And now h4-h5 would win. **27...Rfxh4** 2.18/23
[27...Rhxh4± 1.18/23 28.Rf3 Rfg4 *(28...Rhg4? 29.Qh6+ Kg8 30.Nh5+-* Pin *)* 29.Qf6+ Qxf6 30.Rxf6 d4]
28.Rf3+- Ne7 29.Rf6 Qc7 5.73/24
[29...Rg4 2.72/22 is more resistant. 30.Rxd6 *(30.Qxg4 Qxf6 31.Rd2 b5±)* 30...Rxg5 31.Rd8+ Kg7]
30.Rf8+ Kg7



31.Qf6+

(Diagram)

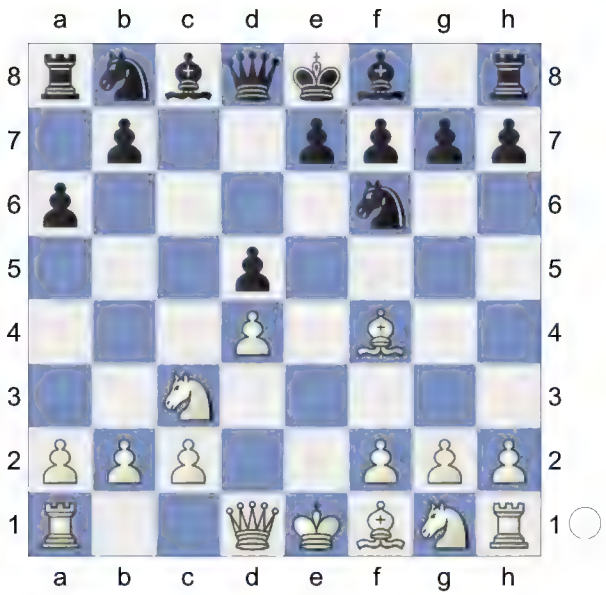


Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.73
1-0

122 **A45**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2727**
chess.com SpeedChess 2023 blitz (1.12)
[Kitty Kat]

B13: Caro-Kann: Exchange Variation and Panov-Botvinnik Attack
Including this game is basically just for a bit of fun. Black plays a very dodgy opening and his position is resignable after seven moves. However, White doesn't play the most precise refutation and before we know it Black has tremendous compensation for the piece.
Inf 2/50 **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5N**
[2...c5 3.d5 g6 *(3...Qa5 4.Bd2 b5 5.e4 b4 6.e5 bxc3 7.Bxc3 Qa4 8.exf6 Qe4+ 9.Qe2 Qxe2+ 10.Bxe2 gxf6 11.d6 e5 12.Bf3 Nc6 13.Bxc6 dxc6 14.f4 Bxd6* 0-1 Reynolds,R (2565)-Zanetti,A (2389) corr CNEC 15 jub 1993*; 3...e6 4.e4 exd5 5.e5 Qe7 6.Qe2 Ne4 7.Nxd5 Qxe5 8.Nc3 d5 9.f3 f5 10.fxe4 fxe4 11.Nf3 Qf5 12.Nh4 Qf7 13.Qf2 Qxf2+ 14.Kxf2 Be7 15.Bb5+ Nc6 16.g3 0-0+ 17.Ke1 Nd4 18.Ba4* 0-1 (27) Wohlfahrt,R (2127)-Grooten,H (2390) 20th Open B ? blingen GER 2003 (5)*)* 4.e4 d6 5.f4 *(5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Be2 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 Rb8 9.a4 a6 10.Nd2 Ne8 11.a5 Nc7 12.Nc4 Nb5 13.Na4 Nf6 14.Bd3 e6 15.Nab6 Re8 16.c3 Nc7 17.Bc2 exd5 18.exd5 Ncxd5 19.Nxd5 Nxd5* 1-0 (23) Kholmov,R-Stein,L Kislovodsk 2/50 1966*)* 5...Bg7 6.Bb5+ *(6.Nf3 0-0 7.Bd3 b5 8.Bxb5 Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Qa5+ 10.Ned2 Qxb5 11.c4 Qb6 12.0-0 Bf5 13.Qb3 Na6 14.Re1 Nb4 15.Nh4 Nc2 16.Nxf5 Qxb3 17.Nxe7+ Kh8 18.Nxb3 Nxe1 19.Bd2 Nd3 20.f5 Rfe8* 0-1 (47) Ersoz,T (2109)-Shemyakinskiy,N (2307) Titled Tuesday intern op 04th Mar Early blitz 2025 (9)*)* 6...Nfd7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nf3 e6 9.dxe6 fxe6 10.0-0 a6 11.a4 Nc6 12.Kh1 Nb4 13.Be2 Nf6 14.Be3 b6 15.Ng5 h6 16.Nh3 Bb7 17.Bf3 1-0 (61) Borges-Bjazevic CADAP event? 1983]
3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.exd4 a6

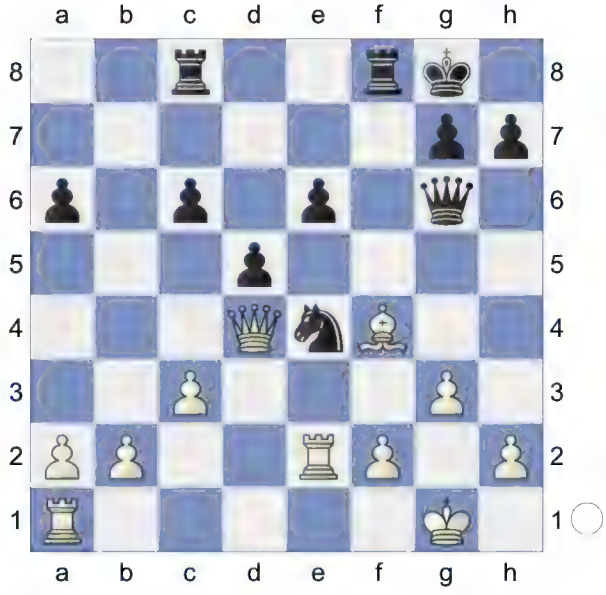
(Diagram)



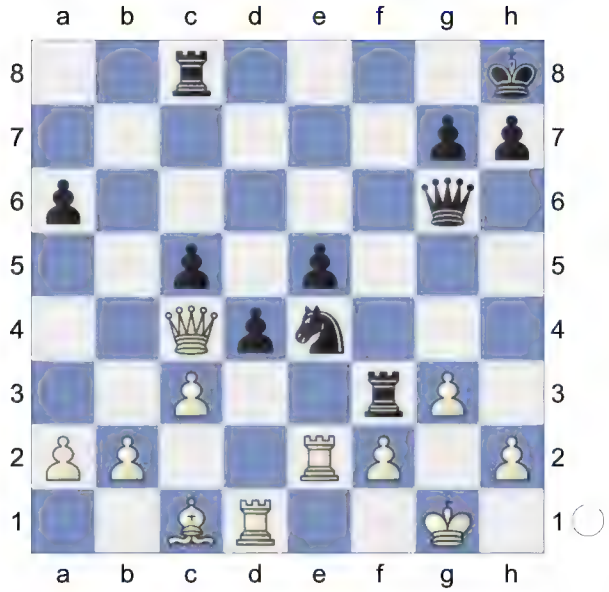
6.Be2 Nc6 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Ne5 Bxe2 9.Nxe2 e6 10.0-0 10.c3 is the fancy move. 10.c3 ist der angesagte Zug.
10...Bd6

11.Re1 0-0 12.c3N
[Vorgänger: 12.Ng3 -0.60/21 12.c3 0.00 Rc8 -0.06/21 *(12...Qb6∓* -0.60/21 *13.c3 Qxb2)* 13.c3= b5 14.Bg5 Bxf6 would now be deadly. Be7! 15.Qf3 h6 -0.12/24 *(15...Nxe5∓* -0.51/21 *16.dxe5 Nd7 17.Bxe7 Qxe7)* 16.Bxf6= Bxf6 17.Nh5 -1.29/19 *(17.Nxc6=* -0.21/21 *Rxc6 18.Nh5)* 17...Bxe5∓ 18.dxe5 0-1 Wetzler,S (1297)-Schneider,S (1237) GER-ch U14 Girls 2012 (9)]
12...Bxe5 13.dxe5 Ne4 14.Nd4 Rc8 15.Re3 -0.36/21
[15.Qe2= 0.15/19]
15...Qh4∓

16.g3 Qe7 Black wants to play ...Nxd4.
17.Re2 f6 18.exf6 Qxf6 19.Nxc6
[19.f3 simplifies Nxd4 20.Qxd4 Qxd4+ 21.cxd4 g5 22.fxe4 gxf4 23.exd5 exd5 24.Rae1]
19...bxc6 20.Qd4 Qg6

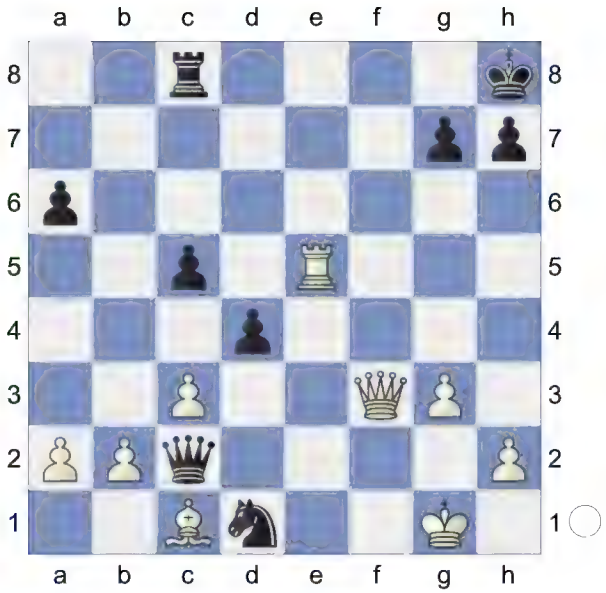


21.Be3 -1.87/19
[21.Qe3= -0.30/22 and White stays safe.]
21...c5 -1.06/18
[21...h5-+ -1.87/19 And now ...h4 would win. 22.Qd3 Rce8]
22.Qa4∓ e5 23.Rd1 d4 0.01/18
[23...Qe6∓ -0.82/19]
24.Bc1!= Rf3? 2.61/20
[24...Nf6= 0.00/19]
25.Qc4+ 1.39/24
[25.Rde1+- 2.61/20]
25...Kh8? 2.98/20
[25...Rf7± 1.39/24]

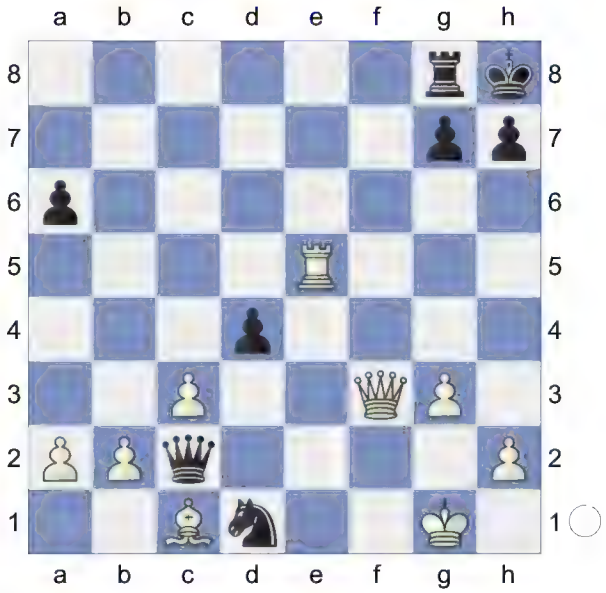


26.Qd5!+- Nxf2 27.Qxf3
[27.Rxf2 Rxf2 28.Kxf2 Qc2+ 29.Ke1 Qxh2=]
27...Nxd1 28.Rxe5 Qc2

(Diagram)



29.Rxc5!! Deflection, Back Rank
29...Re8 30.Re5 Deflection, Back Rank
[30.cxd4? Re1+]
30...Rg8 2.50/19
[30...Rb8 1.74/21]



31.Bh6! Threatening mate with Bxg7+!. Deflection, Back Rank **31...Qg6**
[31...gxh6 32.Qf6+ Rg7 33.Re8#]
[31...dxc3 32.Bxg7+ *(32.Re2? Qg6-+)* 32...Kxg7 33.Re7+ *(33.Rg5+ Qg6+-)* 33...Kh6 34.Qf4+ Rg5 35.Qh4+ *(35.h4 Qf2+ 36.Qxf2*

Nxf2+-) 35...Rh5 36.Qf6+ Qg6 37.Qf8+ Kg5 38.Qf4#]

32.Bf4? 0.24/22

[32.cxd4?! Nxb2 33.Bxg7+ Rxg7± *(33...Qxg7? 34.Qb3+-)*]

[White has to play 32.Qxd1+- 2.25/22 Qxh6 33.cxd4]

32...dxc3? 1.77/21

[32...Nxb2= 0.24/22 and Black has nothing to worry. 33.cxd4 Qb1+ 34.Qf1 Qxa2]

33.bxc3

[33.Qxd1 cxb2 34.Re1 Qb6+ 35.Be3 Qb4]

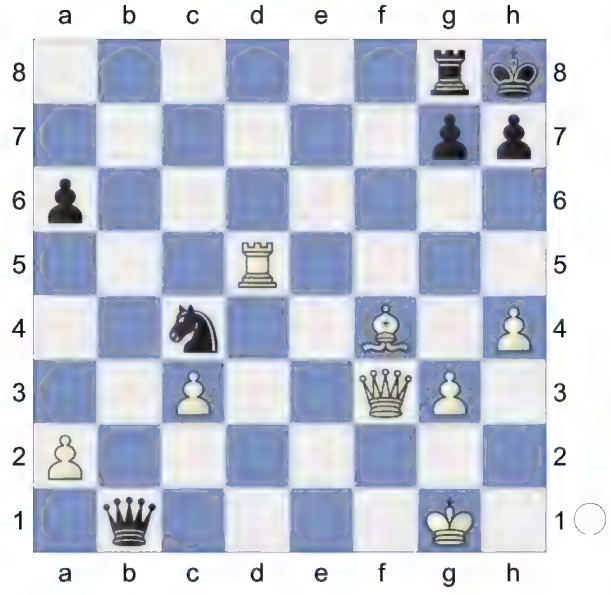
33...Nb2 34.Rd5 0.76/19 Inhibits Nd3.

[34.Re7+- 1.85/19 and White stays clearly on top.]

34...Nc4 1.50/20

[Black should try 34...Re8 0.76/19]

35.h4 Qb1+



36.Rd1 0.81/18

[⌓36.Qf1 1.19/21 Qb6+ 37.Qf2]

36...Qxa2± 37.h5 h6! 38.Bxh6 Deflection **38...Qc2** 1.75/22

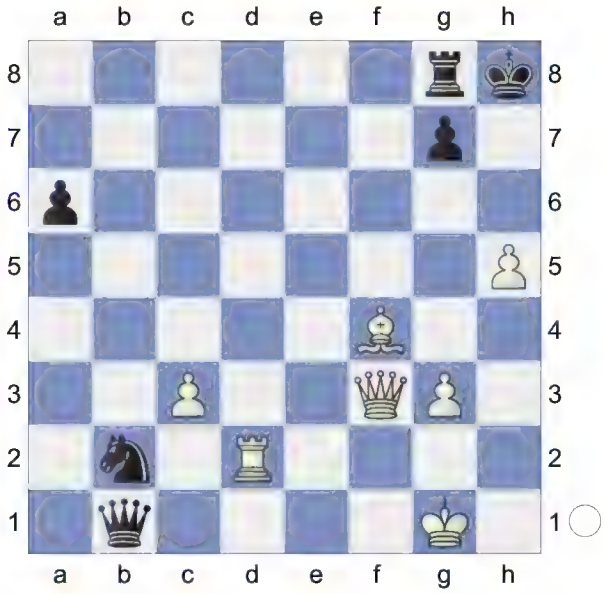
[38...gxh6 39.Qf6+ Rg7 40.Rd8+ *(40.Qxh6+ Kg8 41.Rd8+ Kf7 42.Rd7+* Skewer *Ke8 43.Qe6+ Kf8 44.Rd8#)* 40...Kh7 41.Qf5+]

[38...Ne5± 1.03/18 39.Qe4 Qa5]

39.Bf4+- Nb2? 3.91/21

[39...Re8 2.16/18 was worth a try. 40.h6 Qf5 41.hxg7+ Kg8]

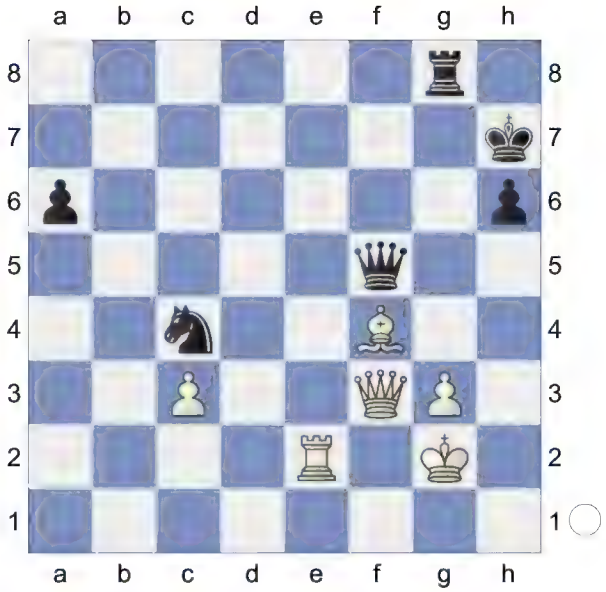
40.Rd2 Qb1+



41.Kh2 Nc4 42.Re2 Qf5 43.h6 Kh7

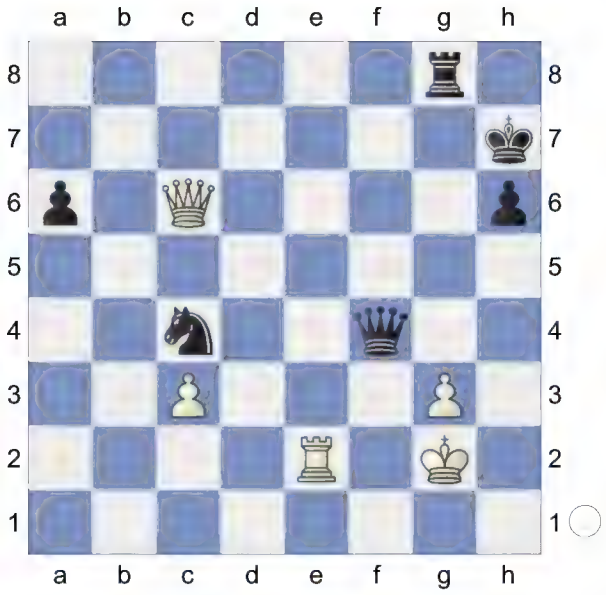
[43...gxh6? 44.Be5+ Qxe5 45.Rxe5 Nxe5 46.Qf6+ Rg7 47.Qxe5+-]

44.Kg2 gxh6

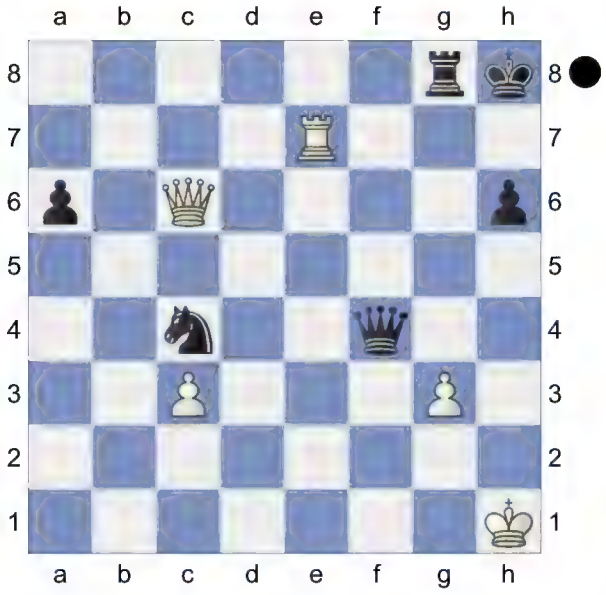


45.Qc6?? -3.53/17 **Qxf4-+**

(Diagram)



46.Re7+ Kh8 47.Kh1



Qf1+ 0.00/37

[Weaker is 47...Qxg3 48.Qxh6#]

[47...Rxg3 48.Qc8+ Rg8 49.Rh7+ Kxh7 50.Qc7+ Qxc7=]

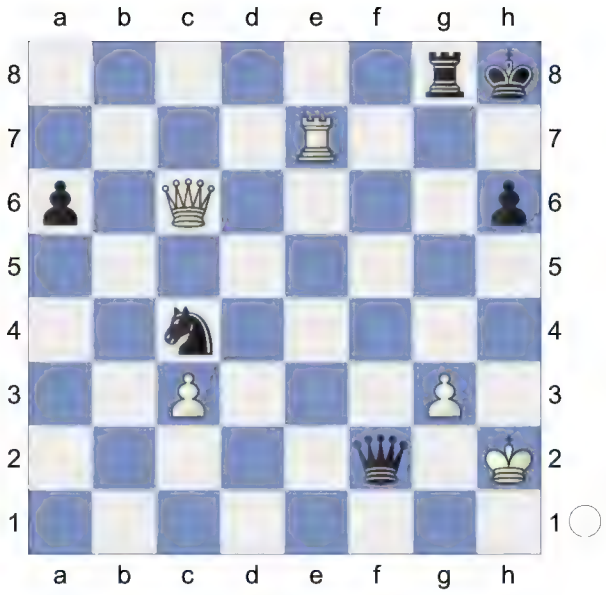
[47...Qc1+!-+ -3.90/22 48.Kh2 Qg5 *(48...Qxc3 49.Qxh6#)*]

48.Kh2= The position is equal. **48...Qf2+**

49.Kh1 Chess con chili. **49...Qf1+**

50.Kh2 Qf2+

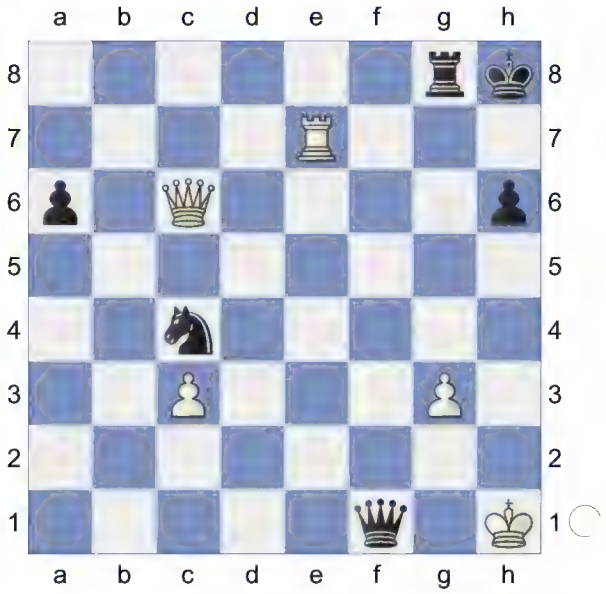
(Diagram)



51.Kh1

Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.48

51...Qf1+

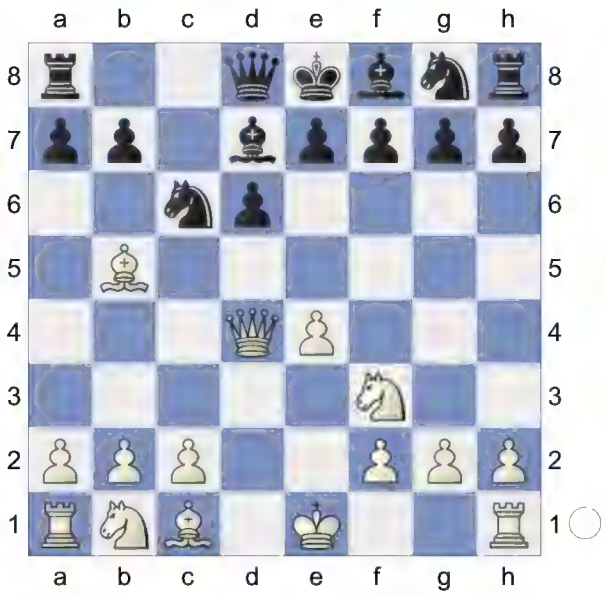


½-½

123 **B53**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2727**
chess.com SpeedChess 2023 blitz (1.10)
[Kitty Kat]

B53: Sicilian: 2...d6: Lines with Qxd4
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Bb5N
[5.Qd3 Nf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nd5 Bg4 *(9...b6 10.c3 Bb7 11.Bg5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Ne5 13.Qd2 Rc8 14.Rad1 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Rfe1 f6 17.Be3 Qa8 18.b3 Rc7 19.c4 Bc8 20.Nd4 Bd7 21.Bh6 Rf7 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.h4 a6 24.a4* 1-0 (38) Daulet,A (2004)-Leve,N (2128) Titled Tuesday intern op 24th Sep Early blitz 2024 (11)*)* 10.c3 *(10.h3 Be6 11.c3 Rc8 12.Bg5 Qa5 13.b4 Qa3 14.b5 Bxd5 15.exd5 Ne5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Rac1 e4 18.Qd2 Rfd8 19.c4 e6 20.Qf4 Qe7 21.Qxe4 Nxe4 22.Bxe7 Rd7 23.Bb4 Bh6 24.Rcd1 exd5* 1-0 (41) Narva,M (2414)-Nguyen,H (2077) Swiss Queens Wed #43 blitz 2024 (5)*)* 10...Rc8 *(10...Nd7 11.Bg5 Nc5 12.Qc2 h6 13.Bh4 f5 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Qd1 g5 16.Bg3 Ne4 17.Bd3 e6 18.Ne3 Nxg3 19.hxg3 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 d5 21.Rfe1 Qf6 22.Re2 h5 23.Rae1 g4 24.Nh4 Rf7 25.Kh2* ½-½ (93) Esipenko,A (2682)-Sarana,A (2679) Titled Tuesday intern op 26th Nov Late blitz 2024 (7)*)* 11.Bg5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Ne5 13.Nxe5 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 dxe5 15.c4 Qd6 16.a3 e6 17.Rfd1 exd5 18.Rxd5 Qa6 19.Rc1 Rfe8 1-0 (48) Krukouski,S (1997)-Chervyakova,T (1898) Orsha op-A 23rd 2025 (4)]

5...Bd7



6.Qd3 g6 7.c4 Bg7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Nc3 White is slightly better. **9...Ng4!?** An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante.
10.Bxc6 Bxc6

11.Nd4 0.07/21
[11.h3± 0.53/18 Nf6 12.Be3]
11...0-0
[11...Qa5 keeps more tension. 12.Bd2 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qe5]
12.h3 Ne5 13.Qe2 Rc8 14.Be3 Bd7 15.b3 a6

16.Rac1 e6!? Exploring less charted territory .Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain. **17.Rfd1 Qe7** 1.29/19

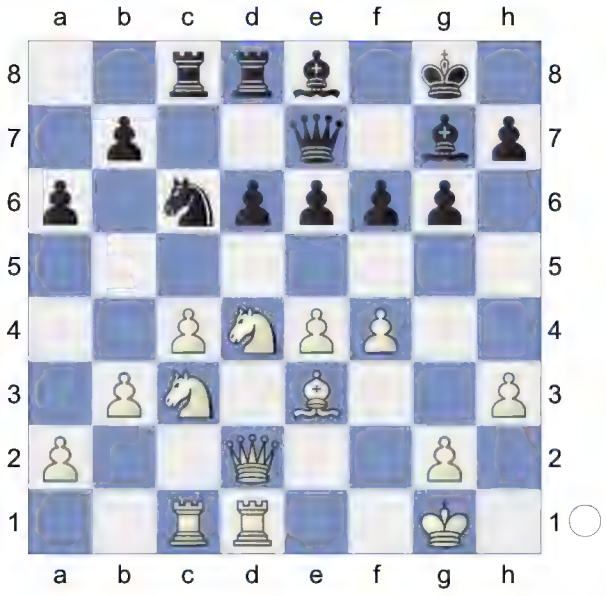
[Black should try 17...f5 0.88/19]

18.Qd2 0.78/19

[White should try 18.f4 1.29/19 Nc6 19.Qf2]

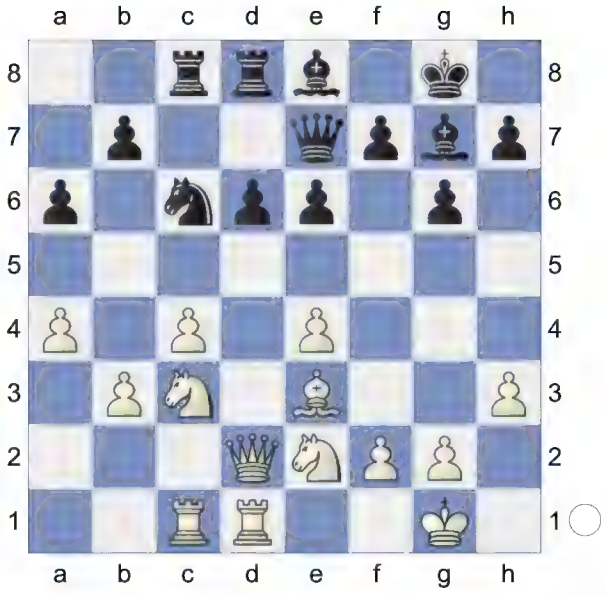
18...Rfd8 19.a4N

[Vorgänger: 19.Bg5 0.72/22 19.f4 1.22 f6 20.Be3 Be8 1.26/17 *(20...Nf7± 0.55/18)* 21.f4± Nc6



22.Nf3! Bf7 23.Bb6 Rd7 24.Qe1 0.88/18 *(⌓24.Na4* 1.44/18 *)* 24...Re8± 25.Rc2 ½-½ Timoshin,A (2132)-Mikheev,A (2239) EU-ch Online 2300+ Final 2020 (8)]

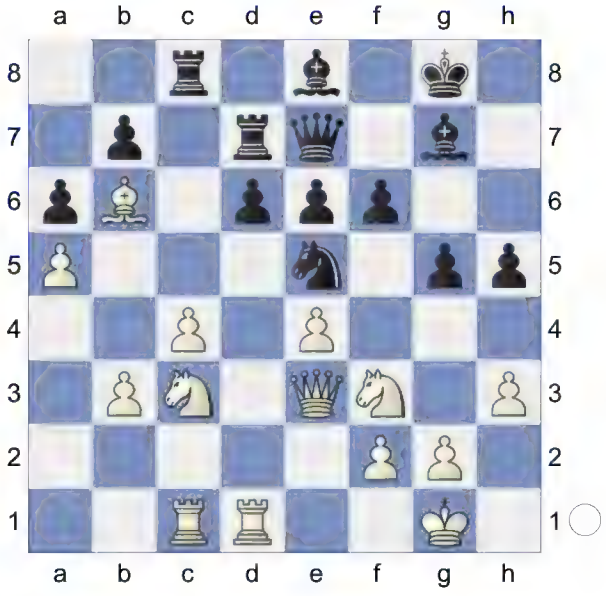
19...Be8 20.Nde2 Nc6



21.Bb6 Rd7 22.Qe3 h5 23.a5 g5 24.Nd4 Ne5 25.Nf3 0.52/21

[25.Rc2± 0.89/20]

25...f6±



26.Ne2 0.26/18

[26.Rc2± 0.80/18]

26...Bg6 0.78/16

[26...Bh6= 0.26/18 remains equal.]

27.Nfd4 0.16/18

[27.Nxe5± 0.78/16 dxe5 28.Nc3]

27...Bh6= 28.f3 -0.27/18

[⌓28.f4 0.24/20 Nc6 29.Nxc6 Rxc6 30.Qf3]

28...Kh7 29.Qf2 -0.70/20

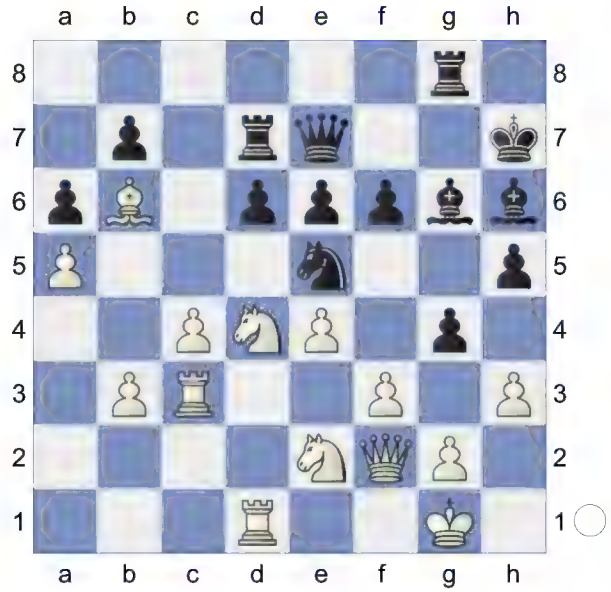
[29.Rf1= 0.07/19]

29...Rg8 0.00/18

[29...d5!∓ -0.70/20 30.exd5 exd5 *(30...Nd3? 31.Rxd3 Bxd3 32.dxe6+-)*]

30.Rc3! g4 0.90/22

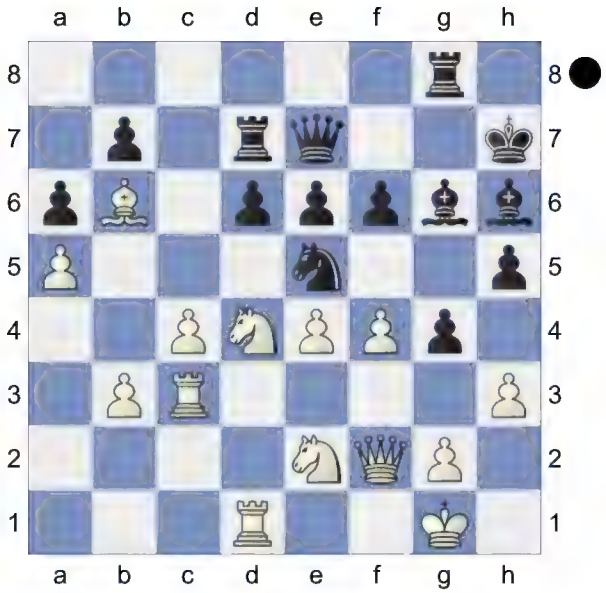
[30...Qf7= 0.00/18]



31.f4? -1.56/19

[31.hxg4± 0.90/22 hxg4 32.f4]

(Diagram)



31...Bxe4!∓ ...gxh3! would now be deadly. **32.fxe5** -2.10/20

[32.Qh4∓ -1.56/17 keeps fighting.]

32...dxe5-+

[32...fxe5 33.Nc2=]

33.Ng3? -4.37/20

[33.h4 -2.24/17]

33...gxh3

[Stronger than 33...exd4 34.Nxe4 f5 35.Bc5±]

34.Kh2 exd4 35.Bxd4 -5.89/21

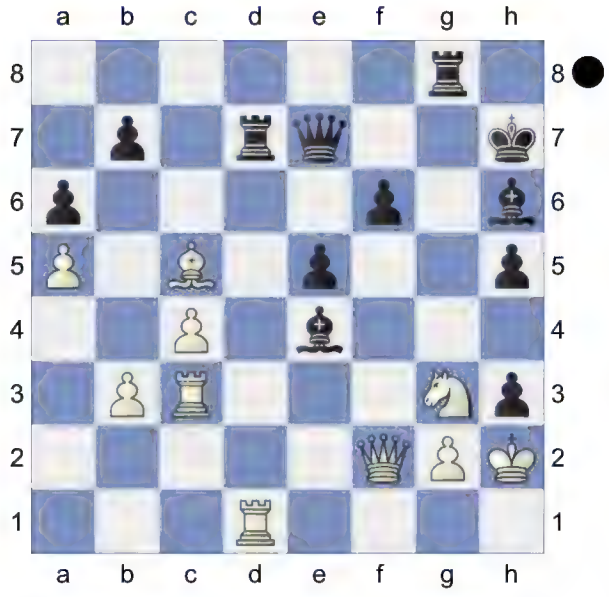
[35.Rxd4 -3.64/17 Bg6 *(35...Bxg2? 36.Nxh5 Rxd4 37.Qxd4-+)* 36.gxh3]

35...e5

[35...Bxg2? 36.Bxf6 Qf7 37.Rxd7 Qxd7 38.Qc2+ Rg6 39.Nxh5-+]

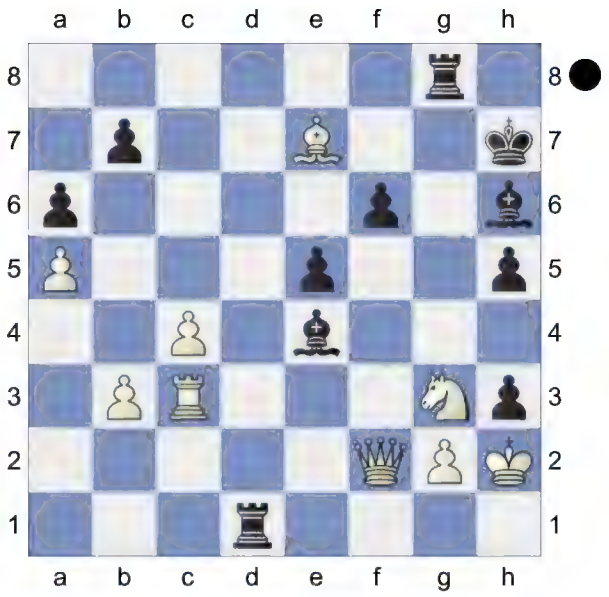
(Diagram)

Black is clearly winning. **36.Bc5**



Rxd1! 37.Bxe7

(Diagram)



Black must now prevent Qe2.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.16 (very precise)

37...hxg2!

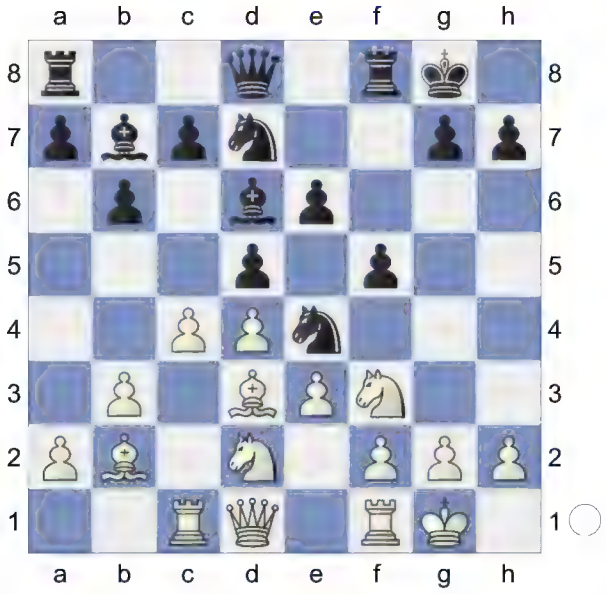
0-1

124 **D05**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2717**
Tata Steel IND Blitz Open (18.3) 09.09.23
[TA]

E14: Queen's Indian: Classical Variation (4 e3)
R.Scherbakov: 'Levon Aronian continues to challenge various solid Queen's Gambit approaches with early kingside assaults! However, this time it was less effective. Magnus Carlsen reacted very energetically and after a few more ambitious moves White found himself in a worse ending, which he easily held due to one inaccurate black pawn advance.' Edouard,R: 'Edouard,Romain: 'R. Scherbakov: 'Levon Aronian continues to challenge various solid Queen's Gambit approaches with early kingside assaults! However, this time it was less effective. Magnus Carlsen reacted very energetically and after a few more ambitious moves White found himself in a worse ending, which he easily held due to one inaccurate black pawn advance. '" tourn book #258 has notes by Minchin, but these notes are mostly by Tim Harding for his book 'Eminent Victorian Chess Players.' (Some notes have been added since.) **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3**
[3.c4 c5 4.g3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bc5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Bg2 Nc6 9.Nc3 b6 10.Bf4 Bb7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bd6 Na5 13.Nxa5 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 bxa5 15.e4 Rc8 16.b3 Bxd6 17.Qxd6 a4 ½-½ (51) Aronian,L (2807)-Carlsen,M (2823) Grand Slam Final 4th 2011 (7)]
3...d5 4.b3N
[4.Be2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 c5 7.b3 b6 8.Bb2 Bb7 9.Nbd2 *(9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Ne5 cxd4 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Qxd4 dxc4 13.Qxc4 Rc8 14.Rfd1 Qc7 15.Nb5 Qb7 16.Qf4 Rfd8 17.Qg3 Rd5 18.Nd4 Rdd8 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.Bd3 Rxd3 21.Rxd3 Qc2 22.Rc3 Rxc3 23.Bxc3 Qxc3* 0-1 (31) Sukandar,I (2330)-Katz,A (2377) Titled Tuesday intern op 11th Mar Late blitz 2025 (10)*)* 9...Nbd7 10.Rc1 Rc8 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.cxd5 exd5 14.f4 Re8 15.Bd3 Nf8 16.Qg4 Rc7 17.Rf3 Bc8 18.f5 Bg5 1-0 (33) Bukojemski,A-Blesic,V Chapter 5 (5) 19.Rg3 Bh6 20.Qh5 Kh8 21.e6 fxe6 22.Qxh6 d4 23.Qh5 e5 24.exd4 exd4 25.Ne4 Re5 26.Ng5 Qe7 27.Nxh7 Nxh7 28.Qxh7+ Kxh7 29.f6+ Kh8 30.fxe7 Rcxe7 31.Bxd4 Rd5 32.Rf1 Kg8 33.Bc4 1-0 Gunsberg,I-Piper,T London International MinorVizayanagaram 1883]
4...Bd6 5.Bb2 0-0

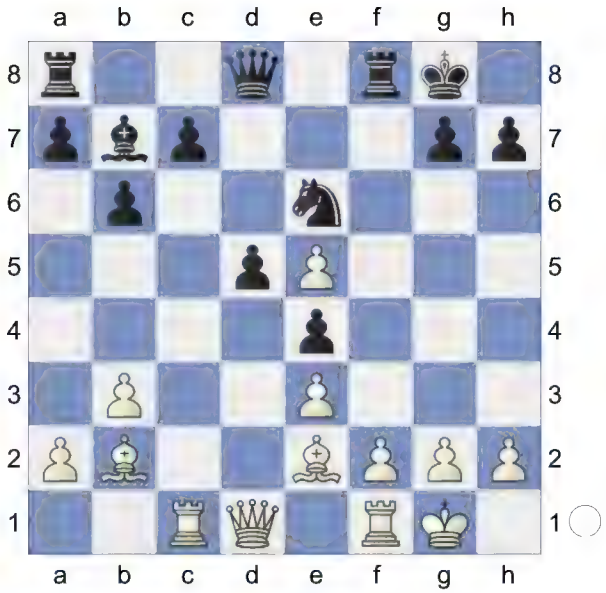
6.Nbd2 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.c4 Ne4 9...Qe7 is the modern continuation .9...De7 ist die moderne Fortsetzung. **10.Rc1 f5** 0.37/18

[10...Qe7= 0.01/18]

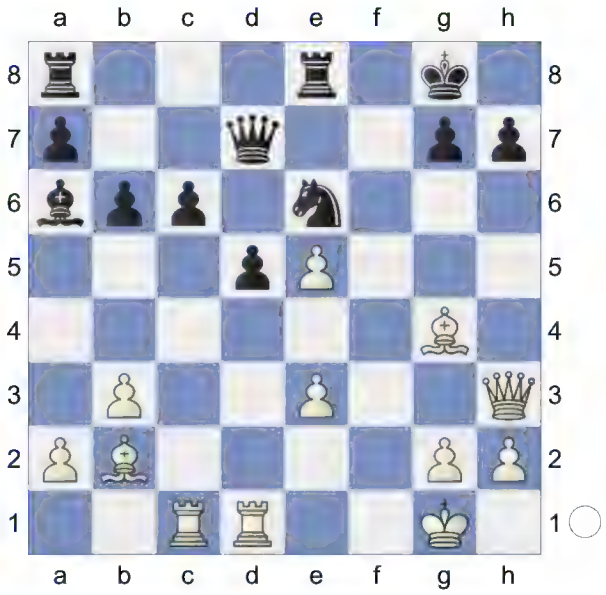


11.cxd5± exd5 12.Ne5 Bxe5
White is slightly better. **13.dxe5 Ndc5**
14.Be2N
[Vorgänger: 14.Bb1 0.32/21 14.Nxe4 0.70 f4 0.95/18 *(14...Ne6± 0.32/21)* 15.exf4!± Rxf4 16.b4 0.38/19 *(16.g3± 0.99/19 Rf7 17.f4)* 16...Ne6 0.91/17 *(16...Nxd2± 0.38/19 17.Qxd2 Ne6)* 17.Nxe4± dxe4 18.a3 Qe8 1.46/20 *(18...Bd5 0.79/19)* 19.Ba2± Qb3! would now be deadly. Rc8? 3.47/18 *(19...Qf7± 1.32/19 20.Qb3 Re8)* 20.Qb3 1-0 Dragnev,V (2483)-Bosiocic,M (2599) EU-ch blitz Skopje 2018 (10)]
14...Ne6 1.27/19
[Black should try 14...Nxd2± 0.54/19 15.Qxd2 Ne6]
15.Nxe4!± fxe4

(Diagram)

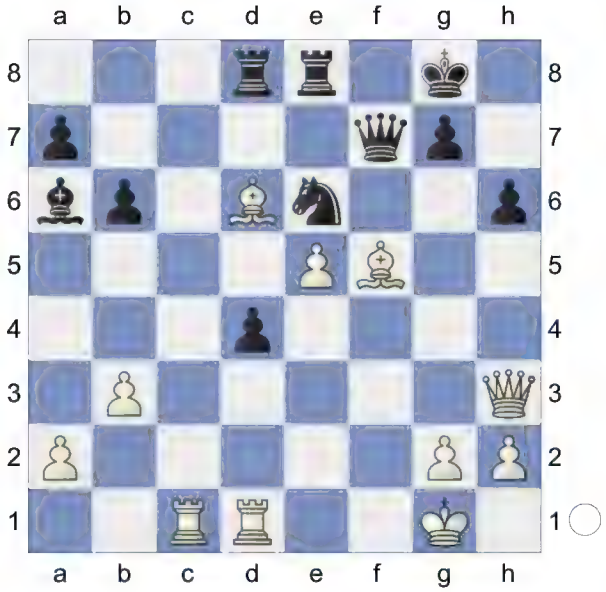


16.Bg4 Re8 17.f4 exf3 18.Qxf3 Qd7 2.26/20
[18...Qe7± 1.30/18]
19.Qh3+- Ba6 3.34/20
[⌓19...c5 2.12/19 20.Bf5 h6]
20.Rfd1? 1.02/19
[20.Rf6+- 3.34/20 gxf6 21.exf6]
20...c6 1.62/19
[20...c5± 1.02/19 was necessary.]



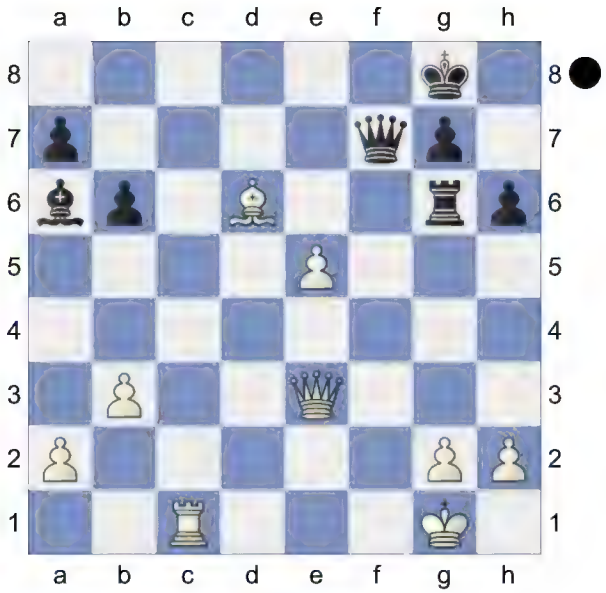
21.e4 Rad8 22.exd5 cxd5 23.Ba3 Qf7 24.Bd6 0.49/20
[24.Qh4!± 1.33/18]

24...d4 1.42/18
[24...Nf4!± 0.49/20 25.Qg3 *(25.Qe3? Rxd6-+ Pin)* 25...Ne2+ 26.Bxe2 Bxe2]
25.Bf5± This pair of bishops is nice.
25...h6 2.00/21
[25...Ng5± 1.30/20 26.Qg4 g6 27.Qxg5 Qxf5 28.Qxf5 gxf5 29.Rxd4 Rd7]

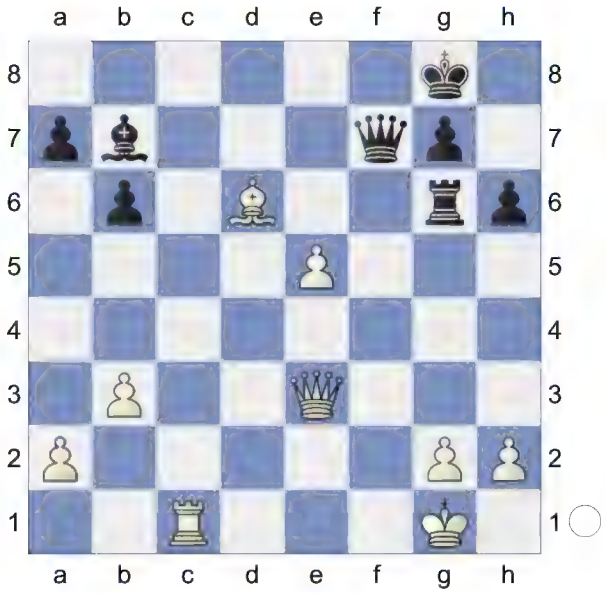


26.Bxe6 0.54/22
[26.Rf1!+- 2.00/21 Bxf1 27.Rxf1]
26...Rxe6± 27.Rxd4 Rc8 28.Rdd1 -0.07/21
[Better is 28.Rxc8+± 0.57/20 Bxc8 29.Qf3]
28...Rxc1= 29.Rxc1 Rg6!→
...Qd5 is the strong threat. White needs to defend precisely. **30.Qe3?** -2.26/23
[30.Re1= -0.09/20]

(Diagram)



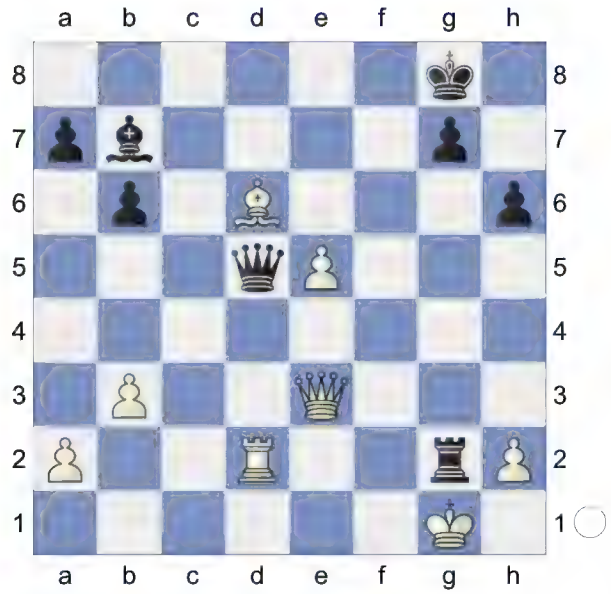
30...Bb7 -1.12/18
[30...Qd5!-+ -2.26/23 31.g3 Rg4 *(31...Bb7? 32.Kf2-+)*]



31.Rc2∓ Qd5 -0.42/19 Wards off Qd3
[31...Qf5∓ -1.12/25 32.Qc3 Rxg2+ 33.Rxg2 Qb1+ 34.Kf2 Qxa2+ 35.Ke1 Qxg2 36.Qc4+ Bd5 Skewer 37.Qc8+ Kh7 38.Qf5+ Qg6 39.Qxg6+ Kxg6]
32.Rd2 -#7/20
[32.Qd2∓ -0.42/19]
Black used his chance.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.67/ Black=0.46

32...Rxg2+



0-1

125 **D00**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

■ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2711**

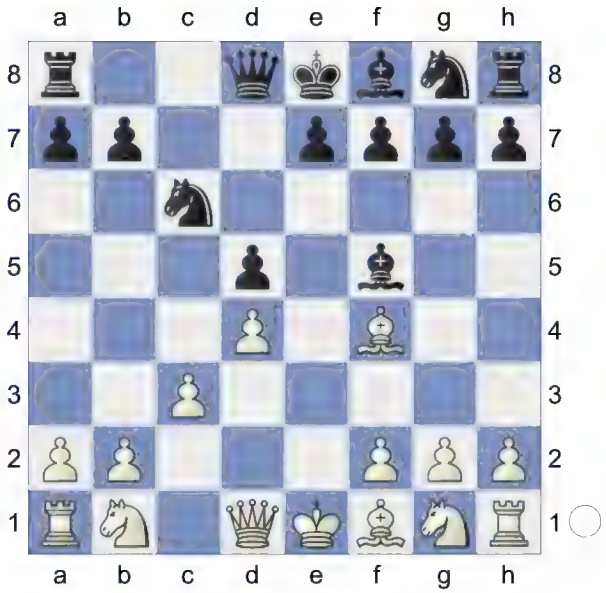
Tata Steel IND Blitz Open (11.4) 09.09.23

[TA]

B13: Caro-Kann: Exchange Variation and Panov-Botvinnik Attack

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c5 3.e3 cxd4 4.exd4 Nc6 5.c3 Bf5

(Diagram)



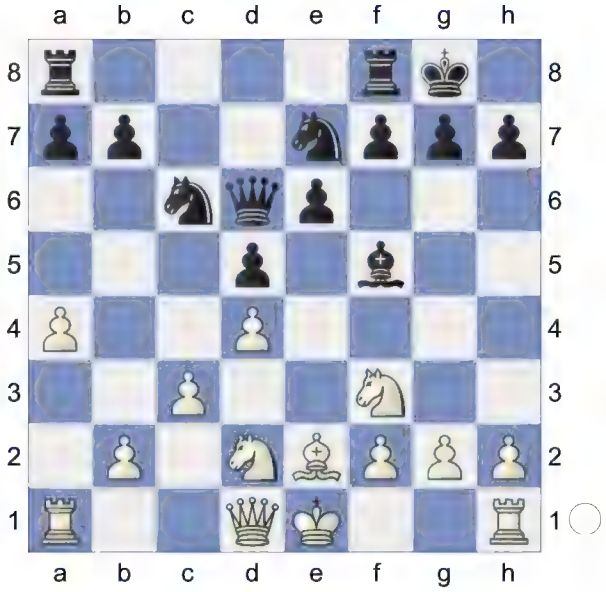
6.Nd2 e6 7.Ngf3 Bd6 8.Bxd6

The position is equal. **8...Qxd6 9.a4!?**

A promising side line.

Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

9...Nge7 10.Be2 0-0



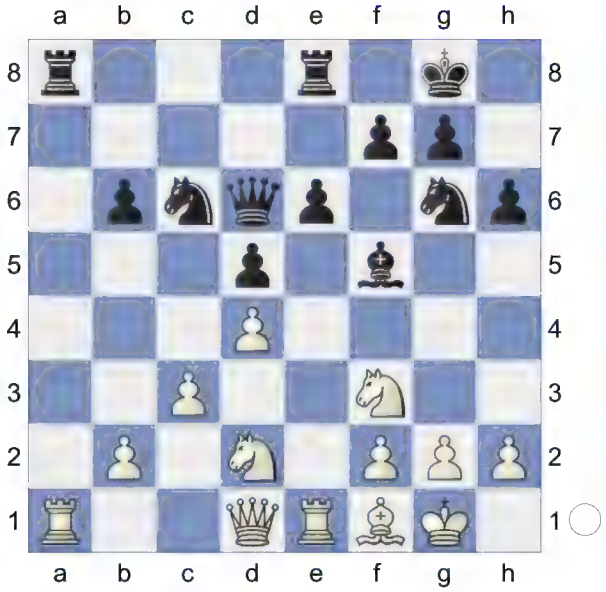
11.0-0 h6 12.Re1 Ng6N

[Vorgänger: 12...b6 13.Ba6 f6 14.Qe2 Rae8 15.Bb5 -0.01/18 *(15.Nh4± 0.38/18)* 15...Rd8 1.13/18 *(15...Ng6!= -0.01/18* keeps the balance. *)* 16.Nh4± Kf7 1.53/21 *(⌓16...e5 0.99/21)* 17.Qh5+ 0.91/21 *(⌓17.Nxf5 1.53/21 Nxf5 18.f3)*

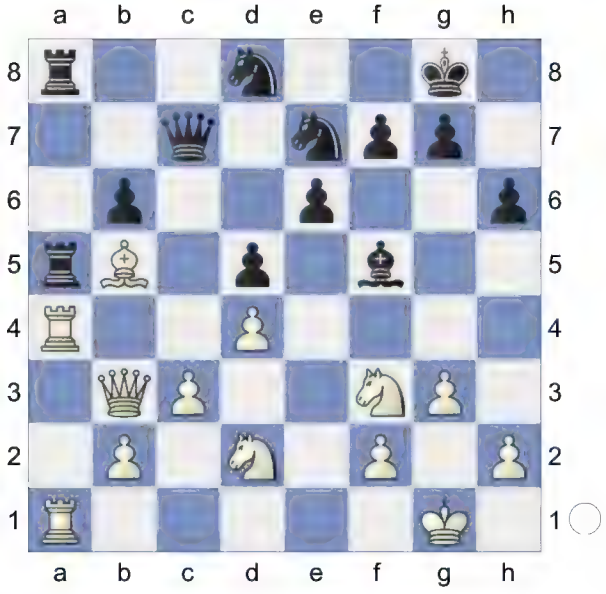
17...Kg8 1.63/18 *(17...g6± 0.91/21* was called for. *18.Qf3 h5)* 18.Nxf5+- Nxf5 0-1 Tristan,L (2535)-Nesterov,A (2476) Titled Tuesday intern op 09th Feb blitz 2021 (9)]

13.Bf1 Rfe8 14.a5 b6 15.axb6 0.12/20
[15.a6± 0.55/20 deserves consideration.]

15...axb6=

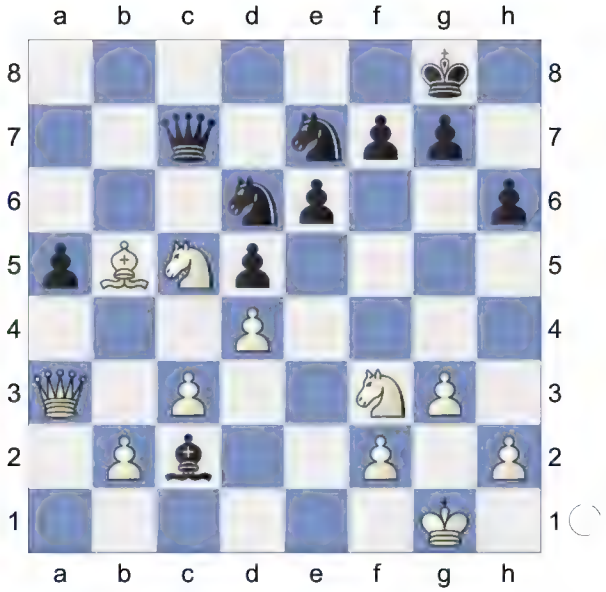


16.Qb3 Qc7 17.g3 Ra5 18.Ra4 Rea8 19.Rea1 Nge7 20.Bb5 Nd8



21.Rxa5
[21.Ne5 feels hotter. Ndc6 22.Ndf3 Be4 23.Rxa5 Nxa5 24.Qd1]

21...Rxa5 22.Rxa5 bxa5 23.Qa3 Nb7 24.Nb3 Bc2 25.Nc5 Nd6



26.Bf1 Nc6 27.b4 0.00/19
[27.Na6± 0.58/20 Qd8 28.Qc5]

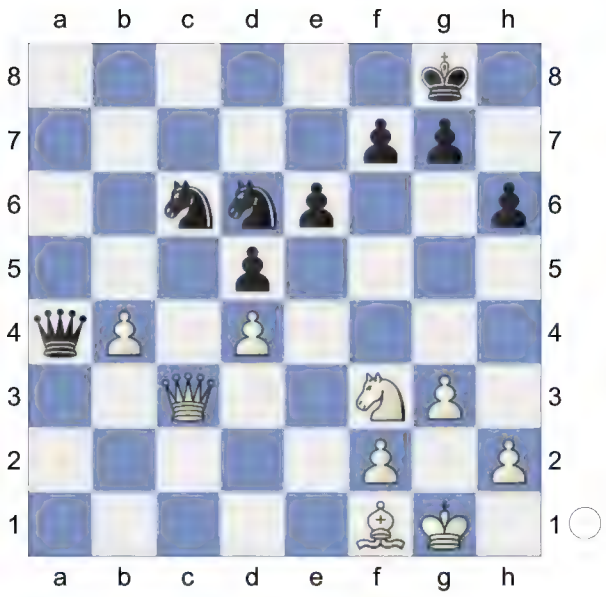
27...axb4 28.cxb4 Qa7 0.55/22
Against b5
[28...Be4= 0.00/19]

29.Qc3!± Ba4 1.19/24
[⌓29...Bf5 0.77/20]

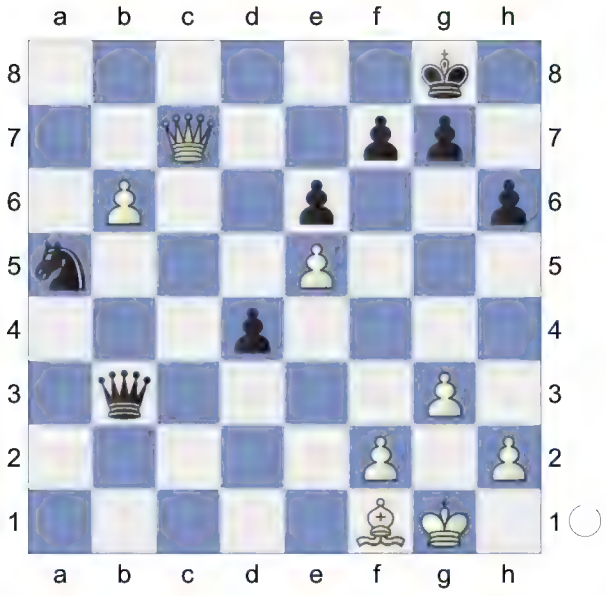
30.Nxa4 0.27/18
[30.Ne5± 1.19/24 And now Nxa4 would win. Nxe5 31.dxe5]

30...Qxa4=

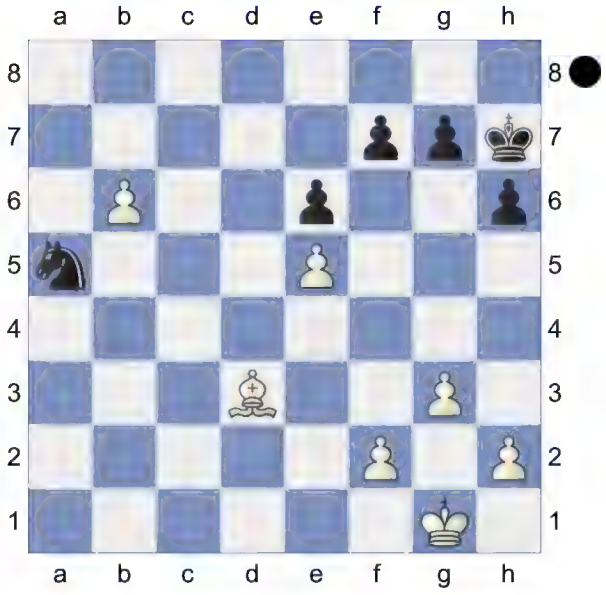
(Diagram)



31.b5! **Na5** Excellent horsemanship.
32.Qc7 A mistake that costs the game.
32...Ndc4 5.03/22
[32...Nac4± 0.93/19]
33.b6? 1.80/23
[33.Qc8+ 5.03/22 Kh7 34.Bd3+ f5 35.Qxe6 Qd1+ 36.Ne1]
33...Qb3+- **34.Ne5↑** Keeping Black busy. **34...Nxe5 35.dxe5 d4?** 5.92/23
[35...g6 1.80/23 is tougher. 36.Qc5 Qa4 37.Qc8+ Kg7]



36.Qd8+ White is clearly winning.
36...Kh7 37.Qxd4 Qb1 38.Qd3+ Qxd3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.57
39.Bxd3+



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126	**E11**
☐ **Gukesh,Dommaraju**	**2758**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,R**	**2727**
Tata Steel IND Blitz Open (8.4)	08.09.23

[Kitty Kat]

E11: Bogo-Indian
After leading the tournament mid way with 4 out of 4 and 4.5 out of 5, I was before the last round in a must win situation for fighting for the medals. My opponent, the youngest female Grandmaster in the world, had played very well as was covered here: https://en.chessbase.com/post/miaoyi-li-on-the-way-to-gm-title. She was undefeated with a ELO performance over 150 ELO points higher than her rating after beating and drawing several Grandmasters. A win in this game would

have resulted in a GM norm for her. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 0-0 5.a3 Be7**

6.e4 d6 7.Be2! The main line 7.Be2 scores better than 7.Bd3. Die Hauptvariante 7.Le2 punktet besser als 7.Ld3. **7...Nfd7 8.0-0 e5** White is slightly better. **9.Re1!?** -0.11/21 A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

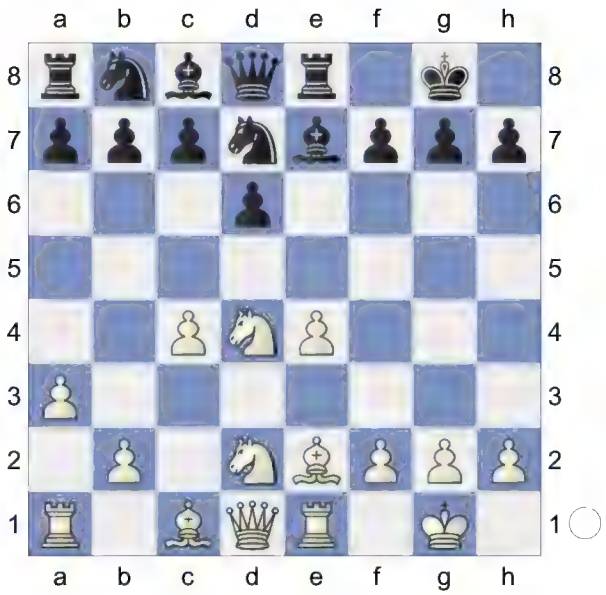
[9.Qc2± 0.40/22 exd4 10.Nxd4 Bf6 11.N2f3 Re8 12.Re1 Nc6 13.Be3 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Nc5 15.Rad1 Bd7 16.Nb5 a6 17.Bxc5 axb5 18.Bb4 bxc4 19.Bxc4 Bc6 20.f4 Qc8 21.h3 Ba4 22.b3 Bd7 23.a4 Be6 24.Bf1 0-1 (44) Barrientos Chavarriaga,S (2516)-Tiviakov,S (2621) Bogota McGregor op 1st 2010 (5)]

9...exd4=

[Vorgänger: 9...a5 0.52/23 9...exd4 -0.03 10.Nf1 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nc5 12.Ng3 Bf6 13.Be3 a4 14.Qc2 Bxd4! 15.Bxd4 Nb3 1-0 Stalmach,R (2417)-Srbis,J (2451) Mitropa Cup Mali Losinj 2023 (9.14)]

10.Nxd4 Re8 0.27/23

[10...Bf6 -0.14/21 11.N2f3 Re8]



11.Nf1N -0.11/21

[11.Qc2 0.27/23]

[11.Rb1 Bf6 12.Nc2 Nc5 13.Bf1 Nc6 14.b4 Na4 15.Rb3 Be6 16.h3 b5 17.Rbe3 Bg5 18.cxb5 Ne5 19.g3 Bxe3 20.Nxe3 Nc3 21.Qc2 d5 22.f4 d4 23.fxe5 Qg5 24.Ng2 Qxg3 25.Qd3 Qxd3 1-0 (57) Steingrimsson,H (2477)-Lu,M (2392) Reykjavik op 2024 (9)]

11...a5 0.56/19

[11...Nc6= -0.11/21]

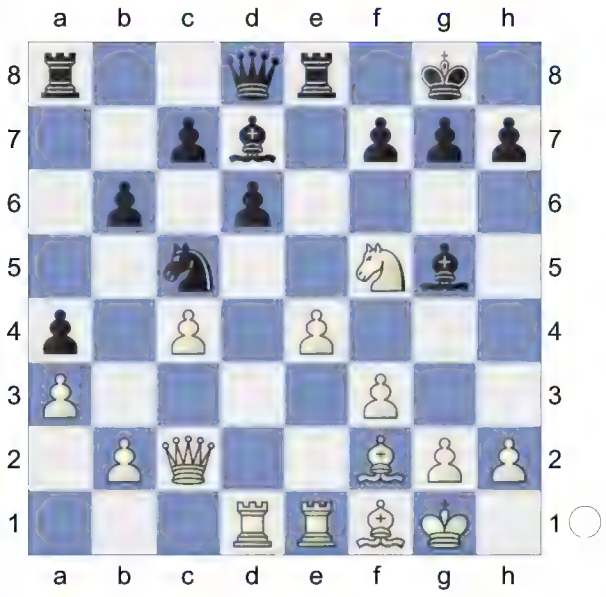
12.Ng3 Nc5 13.Be3 a4 14.f3 0.00/20

[14.Qc2± 0.38/21]

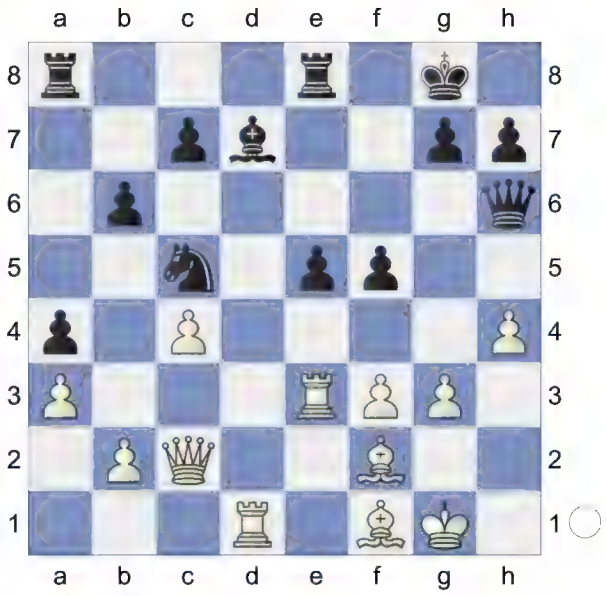
14...Bd7 15.Qc2 Nc6

(Diagram)

16.Rad1 -0.12/20
[16.Nb5!± 0.37/20]
16...Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Ne6 18.Bf2 Bg5 19.Bf1 b6 0.52/20
[19...Bf6= 0.10/20]
20.Nf5 0.07/20
[20.e5± 0.52/20 should be considered.]
20...Nc5

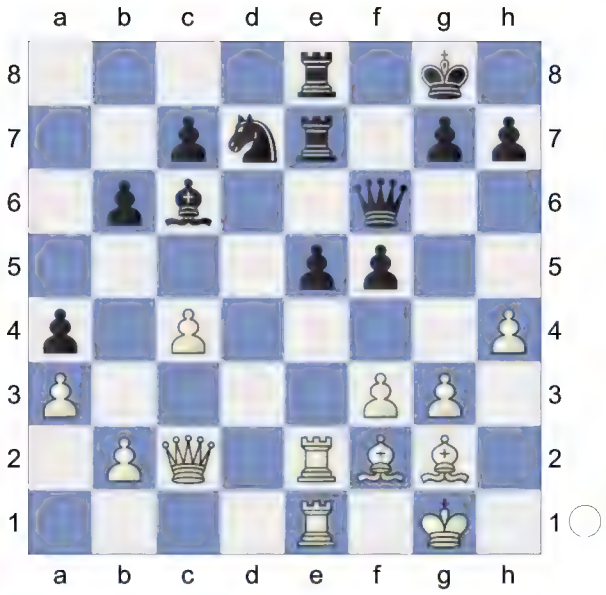


21.Ne3 Bxe3 22.Rxe3 Qg5 23.g3 -0.51/19
[23.Qd2= -0.06/19]
23...f5 24.h4 -0.97/19
[24.f4= -0.27/19 Qh5 25.e5]
24...Qh6∓ 25.e5 dxe5



26.Re2 -1.60/22
[⌓26.Ree1 -0.89/20 Re7 27.Bh3]
26...Re7 -0.68/19
[26...Bc6!∓ -1.60/22 27.Qxf5 Rf8 28.Qxe5 Bxf3]
27.Rd5∓ Rae8 28.Bg2 -1.74/20
[28.Bxc5∓ -0.69/22 bxc5 29.Qd2 Qxd2 30.Rexd2]
28...Bc6-+ 29.Rd1 -2.49/20
[29.Bxc5 -1.63/17 is a better defense. bxc5 30.Qxf5 *(30.Rxc5? Bxf3 31.Bxf3 Qb6-+)* 30...Qc1+ 31.Kh2 Bxd5 *(31...Qxc4 32.Rdxe5 Qxe2 33.Rxe2=)* 32.cxd5]
29...Qf6 30.Rde1 Nd7

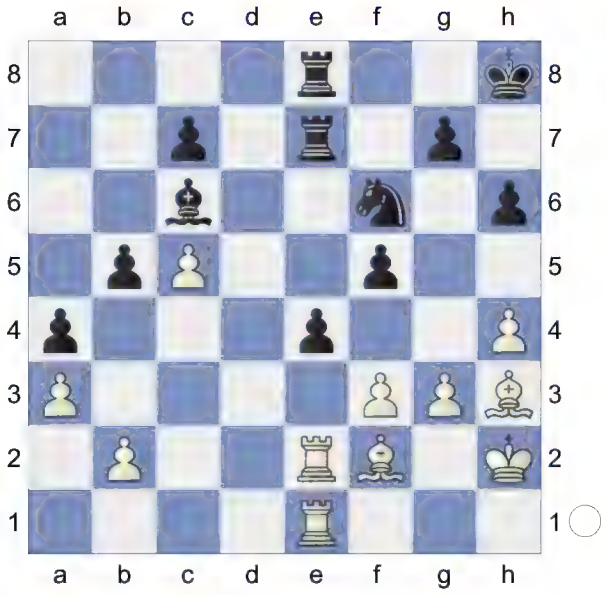
(Diagram)



31.Qc3 h6 32.Kh2 Kh8 33.c5 b5 34.Bh3 e4? 0.32/20

[34...Qf7-+ -2.43/19 Strongly threatening ...Kg8. 35.f4 exf4 36.Rxe7 Rxe7]

35.Qxf6± Remove Defender **35...Nxf6**



36.Bxf5 Re5 37.g4 Threatens to win with fxe4.Loses the game. **37...g6?** 2.11/25 **38.Bxg6+-** A strong pair of Bishops. **38...exf3?** 5.05/22

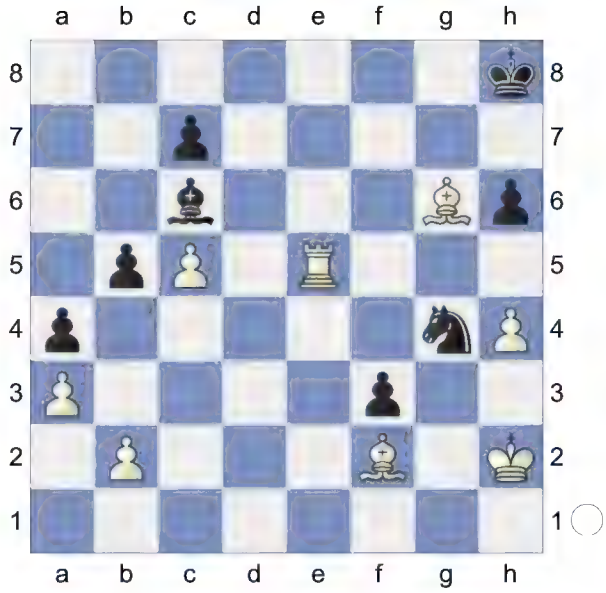
[38...Rd8 1.87/17 39.h5 *(39.fxe4 Nxg4+ 40.Kg3 Nxf2±)* 39...Rd3]

39.Rxe5 White is clearly winning.

39...Rxe5 40.Rxe5

[40.Kg3 Re2± *(40...Nxg4? 41.Bd4+-* Pin *)*]

40...Nxg4+



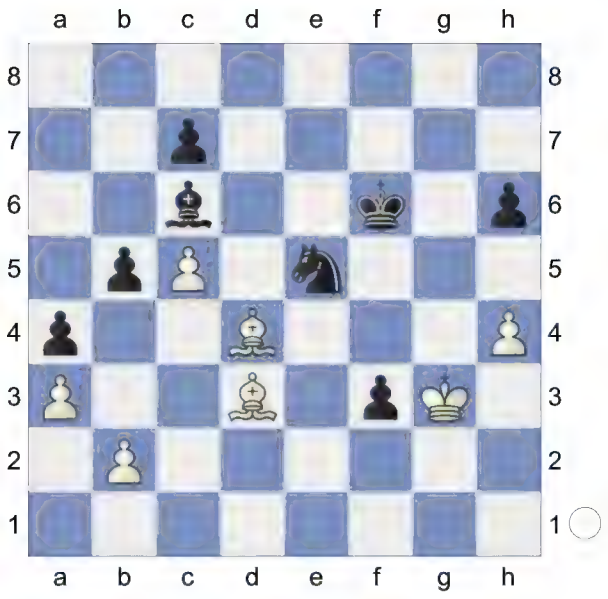
41.Kg3 Nxe5 Endgame

KBB-KBN. Black is a pawn up. **42.Bd4! Kg7 43.Bd3**

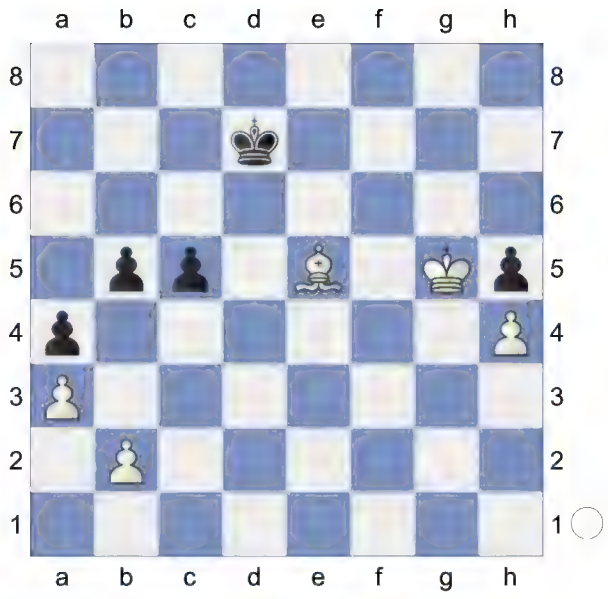
[43.Bxe5+? Kxg6 44.Bxc7 h5-+]

43...Kf6

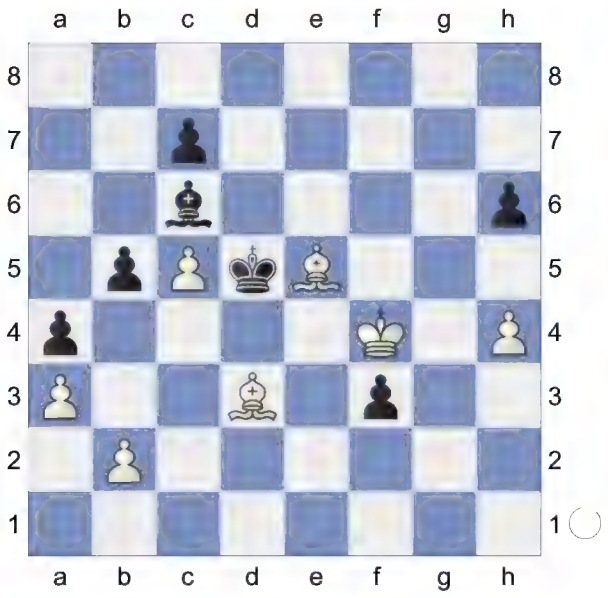
(Diagram)



44.Kf4! Ke6 45.Bxe5 Kd5 8.25/18
[⌓45...b4 4.57/15 46.axb4 *(46.Bxc7 bxa3 47.bxa3 Kd5+-)* 46...f2]

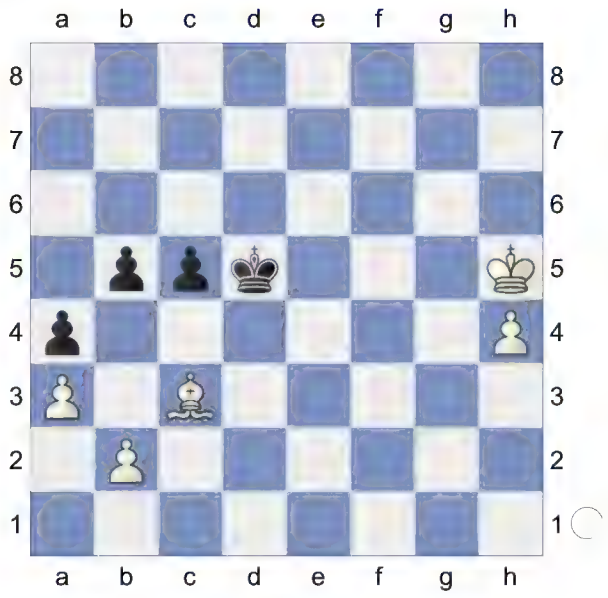


51.Kxh5 Ke6 52.Bc3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.68
52...Kd5



46.Be4+ Kxc5 47.Bxc6
[Inferior is 47.Bxc7 Bxe4 48.Ke3 *(48.Kxe4?* loses. *f2-+)* 48...h5∓]
47...Kxc6 48.Kxf3 KB-KP **48...h5**
49.Kf4 Kd7 50.Kg5 c5

(Diagram)



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127 **D37**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Erigaisi,Arjun** **2712**
Tata Steel IND Blitz Open (6.4) 08.09.23
[Kitty Kat]

D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4)

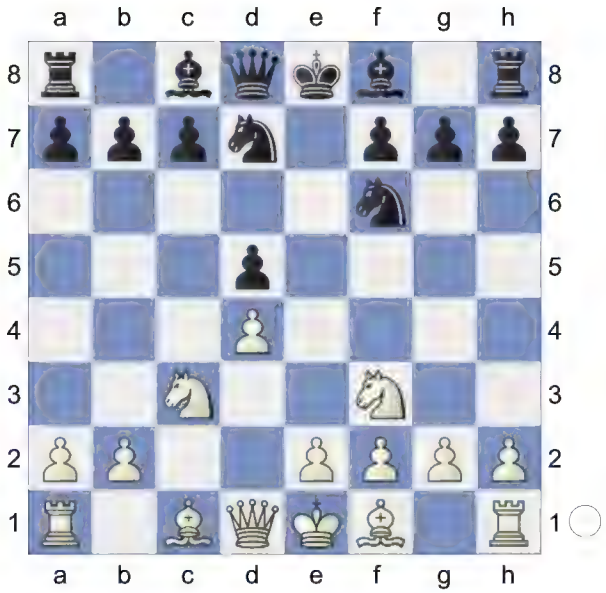
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.cxd5N

[5.e3 dxc4 6.Bxc4 c5 7.0-0 a6 8.Qe2 b5 9.Bb3 Bb7 10.Rd1 Qb6 *(10...Be7 11.e4 b4 12.e5 bxc3 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Ba4+ Kf8 15.bxc3 Qa5 16.Bb3 cxd4 17.Nxd4 Qh5 18.f3 e5 19.g4 Qh3 20.Qxe5 Bxf3 21.Nxf3 Qxf3 22.Qxe7+* 1-0 Gossler,S (2613)-13. ♖ad1 ♕b6 14.b3 (2683) Argentina ch-15 1997 (6)*; 10...c4 11.Bc2 Be7 12.e4 b4 13.Nb1 Rc8 14.Bf4 h6 15.Nbd2 0-0 16.Rac1 c3 17.bxc3 bxc3 18.Nf1 Re8 19.Rb1 Bc6 20.Ng3 Bb5 21.Qe1 Nf8 22.a4 Bc4 23.Ne5 a5 24.Rb7 Ba6 25.Rbb1* ½-½ (86) Gormally,D (2423)-Kozak,A (2595) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Jan Early blitz 2025 (11)) 11.e4 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Ne5 13.a4 Rd8 14.a5 Qc7 15.Bf4 Qc5 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Rxd5 18.Nxe6 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 fxe6 1-0 (22) Lundin,E-Ostling,N Stockholm-ch 1932]

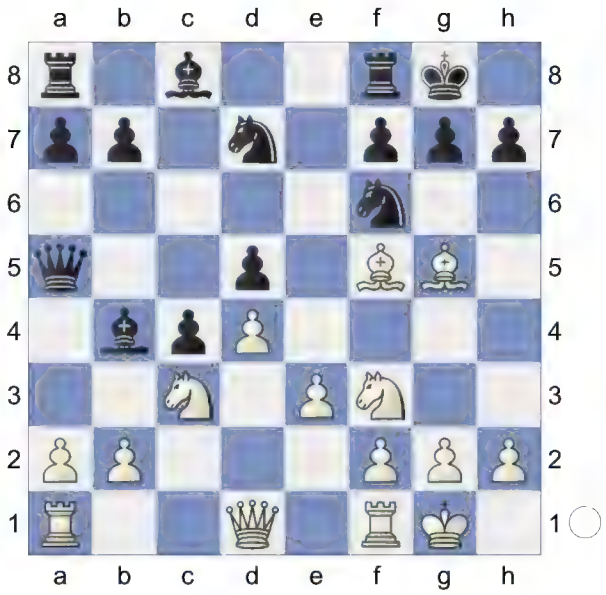
[5.Bg5 c6 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.e3 a6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.0-0 b5 10.Rc1 Bb7 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.f4 g6 15.Ne2 Nc5 16.Bb1 0-0 17.Qd4 Rfc8 18.Rfd1 Rc7 19.b4 Na4 0-1 (27) Becker,A-Boros,S DSV in der CSR-ch13 Meisterklasse 1934 (5)]

5...exd5

(Diagram)



6.Bg5 Bb4 7.e3 c5 8.Bd3 Qa5 9.0-0 c4 10.Bf5 0-0



11.Qc2 Re8 12.Nd2 h6 13.Bh4 Qa6!? Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. **14.Rfe1N**

[Vorgänger: 14.a3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Nh5 16.Rfe1 Ndf6 17.Bxc8 Raxc8 18.f3 Qe6 19.Bf2 Nh7 20.Rab1 ½-½ Halliwell,T (2397)-Richter,W (2312) VW-Cup9 sf07 email 2018]

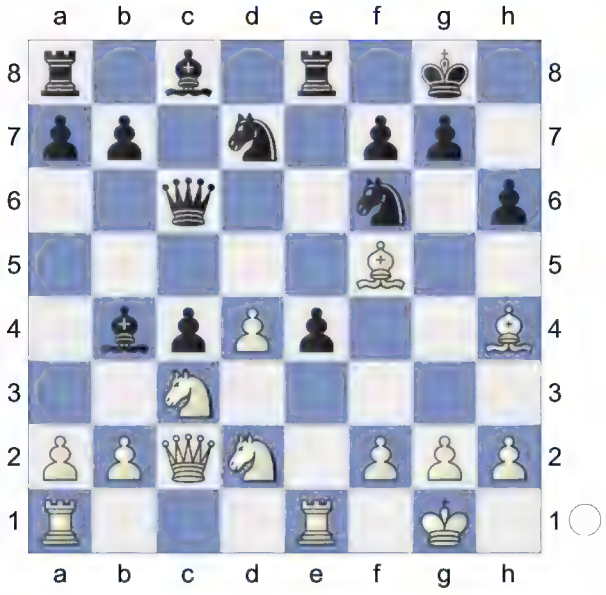
14...Qc6 The position is equal.

[14...Nf8 simplifies 15.Bxc8 Raxc8 16.Bxf6 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qxf6 18.Qb2

Rb8]

15.e4 dxe4 1.07/18

[15...Nf8± 0.35/20]

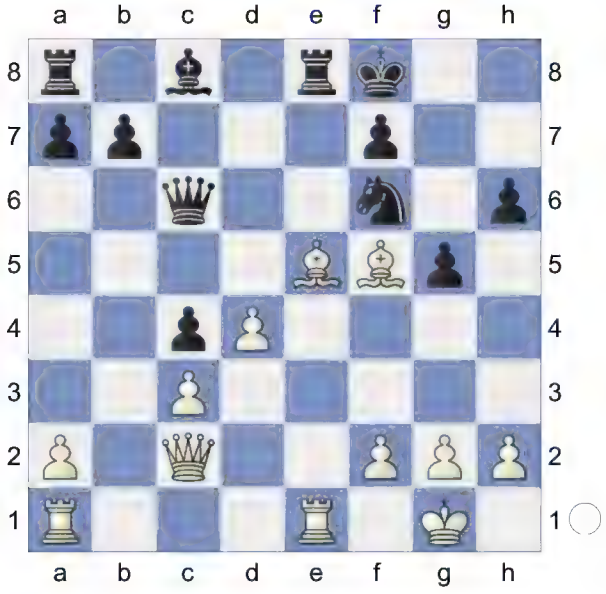


16.Ndxe4± g5 2.31/19

[16...Bxc3± 1.07/18 17.Nxc3 *(17.bxc3 Nd5±)* 17...Nb6]

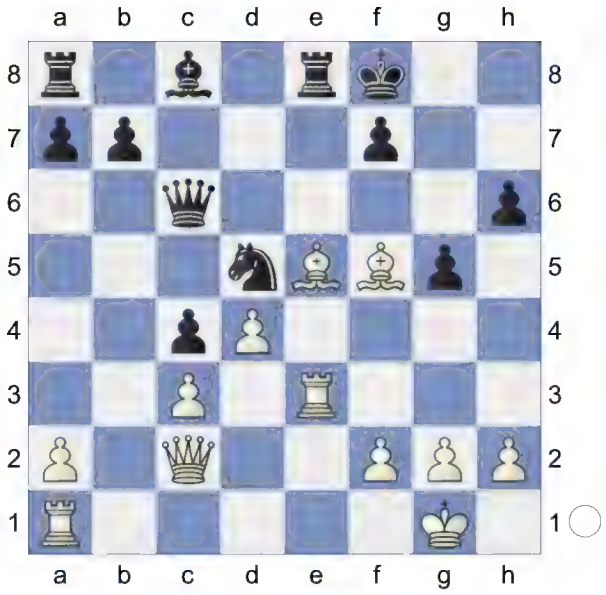
17.Bg3+- Kg7 18.Nxf6 Nxf6 19.Be5! Bxc3 20.bxc3 Kf8 2.16/19

[20...Bxf5± 1.07/18 21.Qxf5 Rad8]



21.Re3 Nd5

(Diagram)

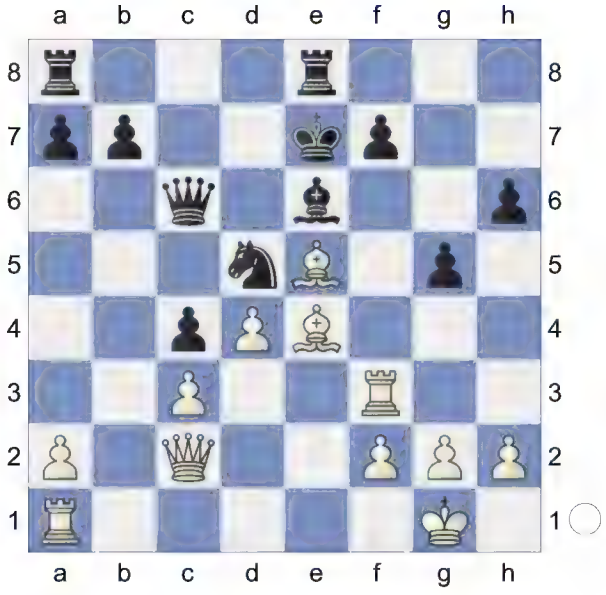


22.Rf3 Be6 3.79/19

[22...g4± 1.05/17 23.Rg3 h5 *(23...f6 24.Bxg4 Re7 25.Bxc8+-)*]

23.Be4 A strong pair of Bishops.

23...Ke7



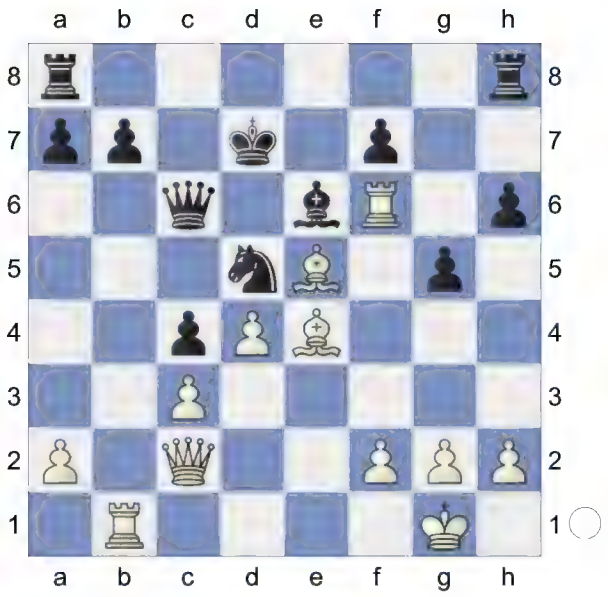
24.Rf6!! Rh8

[24...h5 25.Re1]

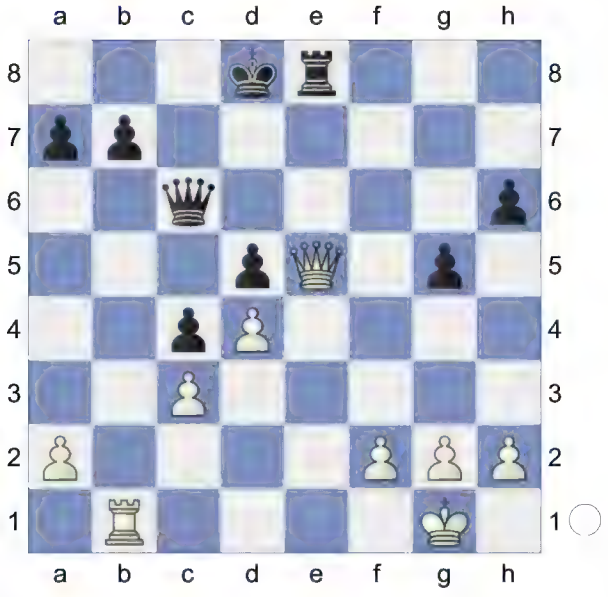
25.Rb1 Kd7 5.62/17

[25...b5 3.76/15 was necessary. 26.Qd2 a5]

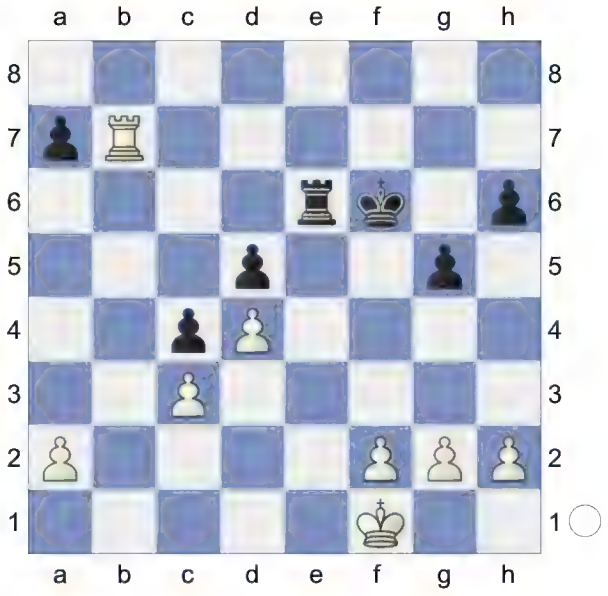
(Diagram)



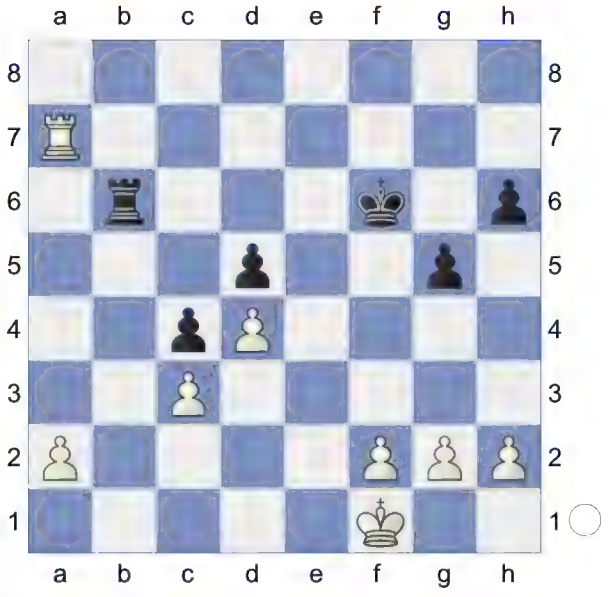
26.Rxe6 Discovered Attack **26...fxe6** 5.12/22
[⌓26...Kxe6 3.60/17 27.Bxh8 Rxh8]
27.Bxh8 2.50/16
[⌓27.Bxd5 5.12/22 Qxd5 28.Qa4+ *(28.Bxh8 Rxh8 29.Qa4+ Kc8+-)* 28...Ke7 29.Bxh8 Rxh8 30.Qxa7]
27...Rxh8 28.Bxd5 exd5 Endgame KQR-KQR **29.Qf5+ Kd8 30.Qe5 Re8**



31.Qb8+ Ke7 32.Qxb7+ 1.52/20
[32.Rxb7+? Kf6 33.g3 Rxb8-+]
[32.Qxa7+- 2.67/22 Kf8 33.h3 *(33.Rxb7? Re1#)*]
32...Qxb7± **33.Rxb7++-** KR-KR. White is a pawn up. **33...Kf6** **34.Kf1** Inhibits Re1+.
[34.Rxa7? Re1#]
34...Re6

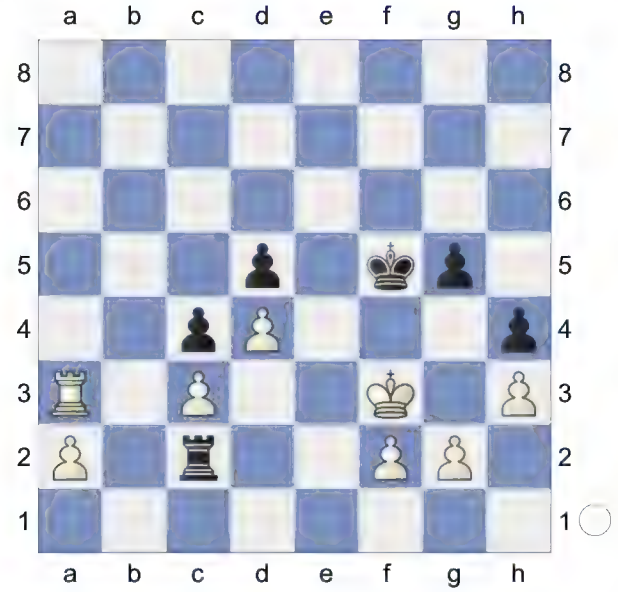


35.Rxa7 1.17/20
[35.Rh7!+- 1.73/24 h5 36.Rxh5 *(36.Rxa7 Rb6±)*]
35...Rb6±

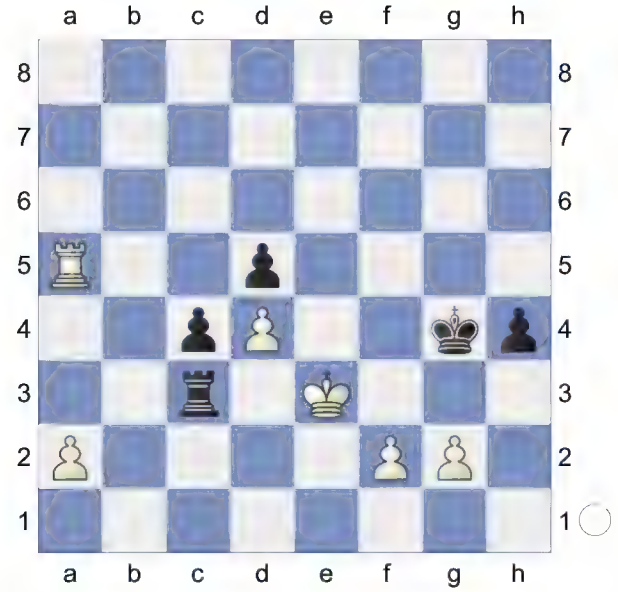


36.Ke2 0.61/23
[36.Rh7± 1.17/24 Rb1+ 37.Ke2]
36...Rb2+± **37.Ke3** 0.00/27
[White should try 37.Kf3± 0.57/26]

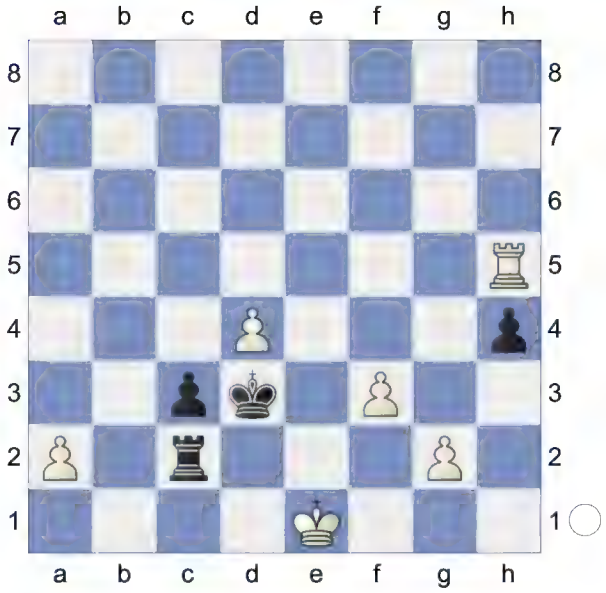
37...Rc2= 38.Ra3 Kf5 39.h3 h5 40.Kf3 and g4+ would now be decisive **40...h4**



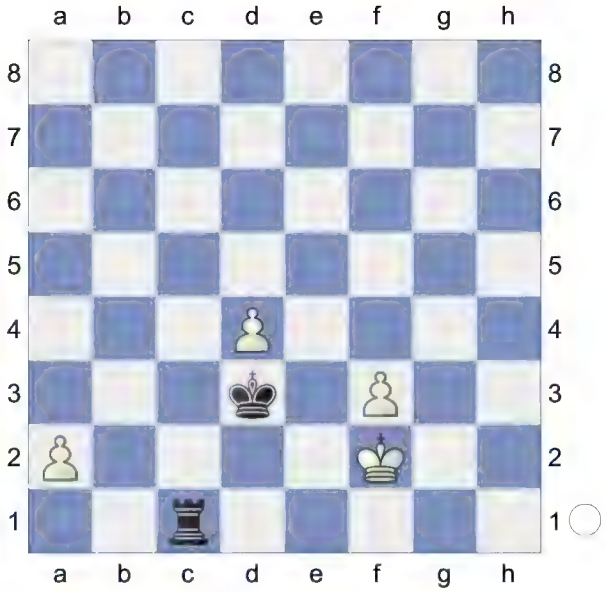
41.Ke3 g4 42.hxg4+! Kxg4 43.Ra5
[43.f3+? Kg3 44.Ra8 Kxg2 *(44...Rxc3+? 45.Kd2-+)* 45.Rg8+ Kf1-+]
43...Rxc3+ 44.Ke2 Rc2+ 45.Ke3 Rc3+



46.Ke2 Rc2+ 47.Ke1 Kf4 48.Rxd5 Ke4 49.Rh5 -8.17/27
[49.Re5+= -0.04/20 Kxd4 50.Rh5]
49...Kd3-+
[Not 49...Rxa2 50.Rxh4+ Kd3 51.Rh3+ Kc2 52.d5∓]
50.f3 c3
[50...Rxa2? 51.d5-+]



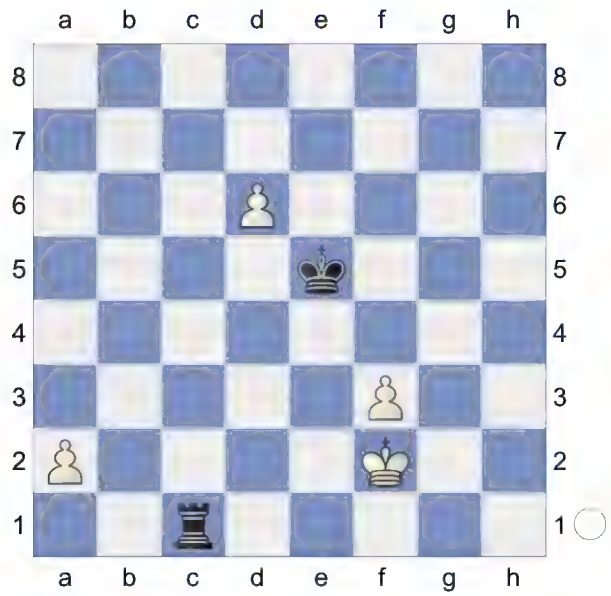
51.Rxh4 Rxg2 (-> ...c2!) **52.Rh8 c2**
[Stronger than 52...Kxd4 53.Rd8+ Kc5 54.Kd1=]
53.Rc8 Rg1+ 54.Kf2 c1Q 55.Rxc1 Rxc1



Black is clearly winning. **56.d5 Kd4** -23.51/27
[⌓56...Rc5 -50.71/29 57.d6 Rd5]
57.d6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.70/ Black=0.45

57...Ke5



0-1

128 **E54**

□ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2716**

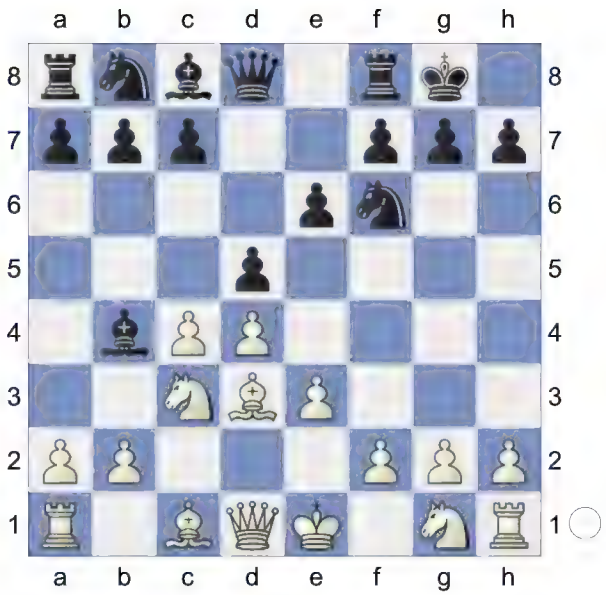
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**

Tata Steel IND Blitz Open (4.5) 08.09.23

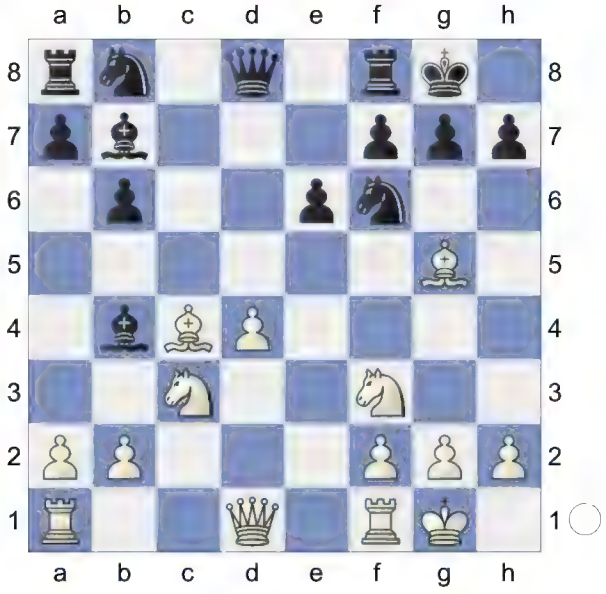
[Kitty Kat]

E54: Nimzo-Indian: Rubinstein: Main Line: 7...dxc4 8 Bxc4 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5**

(Diagram)



6.Nf3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 cxd4 9.exd4 b6 10.Bg5 Bb7



11.Qe2 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Nbd7 13.Rac1 Qc7 14.Nd2 Rfe8 has lost popularity (14...Nd5). verliert an Beliebtheit (14...Sd5). has lost popularity (14...Nd5). verliert an Beliebtheit (14...Sd5).

[14...Nd5 15.f3 *(15.Bxd5 exd5 16.Rfe1 f6 17.Bh4 Qc6 18.Nf1 Rf7 19.Bg3 Nf8 20.h4 Qd7 21.h5 Bc6 22.Ne3 Re8 23.Qf3 f5 24.Nf1 Re4 25.Be5 Ne6 26.Qd1 Rxe1 27.Qxe1 f4 28.f3 h6 29.Qh4 Rf5* 4.Nf3 g6 5.

Nbd2 (2724)-Laurent,F (2667) WchT 3rd Luzern 1993 (4.2) 0-1 *30.g4 Rxe5 31.dxe5 d4 32.Nh2 d3 33.Rd1 Ng5 34.Kg2 d2 35.e6 Qxe6 36.Rxd2 Kh7 37.Rd4 Bxf3+ 38.Nxf3 Nxf3 39.Kxf3 Qe3+ 40.Kg2 f3+ 41.Kh3 Qe2 42.Qg3 f2 43.Rf4 f1Q+ 44.Rxf1 Qxf1+* Vidit,S (2724)-Yakubboev,N (2667) WchT Pool-B 13th rapid 2022 (4.2) 0-1*)* 15...e5 16.Rfe1 Rae8 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.c4 Bb7 19.d5 f5 20.Be3 Rc8 21.a4 a5 22.Qd3 Rf6 23.Qa3 Ba6 24.Bf2 Rh6 25.h3 Rg6 26.Qe7 h5 27.h4 Qd8 28.Qxd8+ Rxd8 29.Kh2 Tomashevsky,E (2728)-Hou,Y (2673) 127/190 Wijk aan Zee 2016 1/2-1/2]

15.Rfe1 Rac8

16.f3 White is slightly better. **16...h6N**

[16...Nd5 17.Bh4 Nf4 18.Qe3 Nd5 19.Qd3 Nf4 20.Qc2 Bd5 21.Ba6 Bb7 22.Bf1 e5 23.Qb2 h6 24.Bg3 Nh5 25.Bf2 Nhf6 26.Nc4 Bd5 27.Ne3 exd4 28.cxd4 Qf4 29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Qb5 Bc6 31.Qa6 Tomashevsky,E (2714)-Lenderman,A (2598) Qatar Masters op 2014 (2) 1-0]

17.Bh4 Nh5 Repels Bh4-g3 **18.Qe3N**

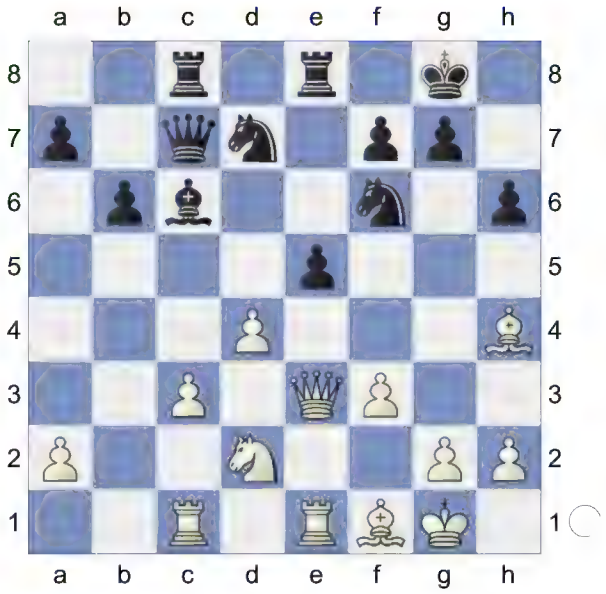
[Vorgänger: 18.Qd3 -0.13/20 18.Bc4-b3 0.26 Bd5 19.Ba6 Bb7! 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Ne4 Qd5 Repels Ne4-d6 22.Qa6 b5 0.26/21 *(22...f5∓ -0.43/21 23.Nd2 Qc6)* 23.a4 -0.12/23 *(23.Rb1* 0.26/21 feels stronger. *Rb8 24.a4)* 23...bxa4 24.c4 Ernst,S (2554) -Baskin,R (2385) Hamburg New Chess Brains 4th 2020 (9) 1/2-1/2½-½ Ernst,S (2554)-Baskin,R (2385) Hamburg New Chess Brains 4th 2020 (9)]

18...e5 19.Bb5 -0.01/21

[19.Rcd1± 0.35/20 might be stronger.]

19...Bc6 20.Bf1 Nhf6 1.12/22

[20...Nf8= 0.09/19]



21.Bxf6 Nxf6 22.dxe5 Nd5 23.Qd4 Ne7 24.Nc4 0.27/22

[24.Qf2± 1.05/20]

24...Red8 1.45/21

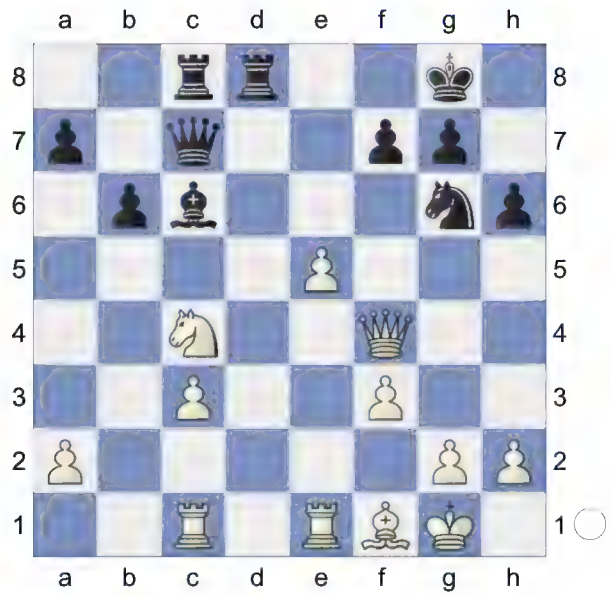
[24...Nf5= 0.27/22 25.Qf4 Bd5]

25.Qf4±

[25.Nd6?! Nf5 26.Nxf5 Rxd4 27.cxd4 Qd8±]

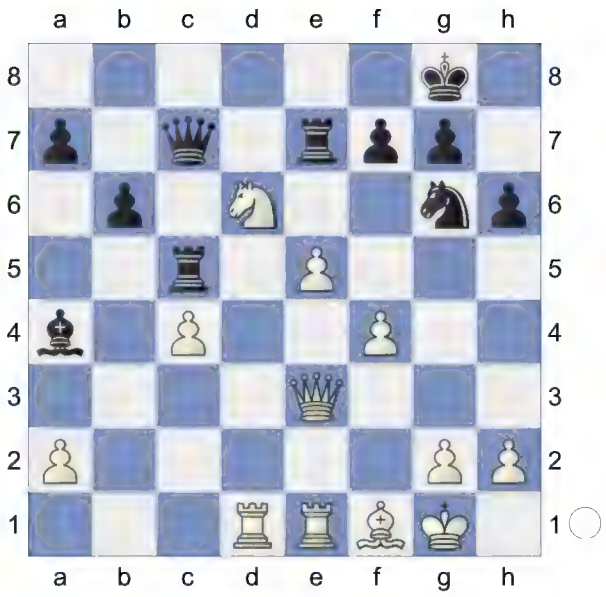
25...Ng6 2.14/21

[25...Bd5± 1.39/19 was necessary. 26.Nd6 Rb8]

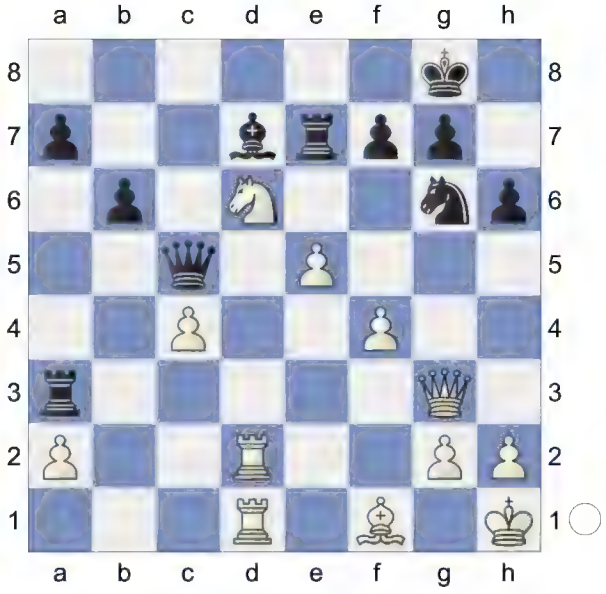


26.Qe3 1.14/20
[26.Qg3+- 2.14/21]
26...Rd5 27.f4 Re8 2.55/19
[⌓27...Rcd8 1.64/20 28.Nd6 Be8]
28.Rcd1 1.47/20
[28.Nd6+- 2.55/19]
28...Rc5? 3.10/20
[28...Rxd1± 1.47/20 29.Rxd1 Ne7]
29.Nd6+- Re7 30.c4 Ba4 3.44/20
[⌓30...Ra5 2.44/19 31.Qg3 Ba4]

(Diagram)



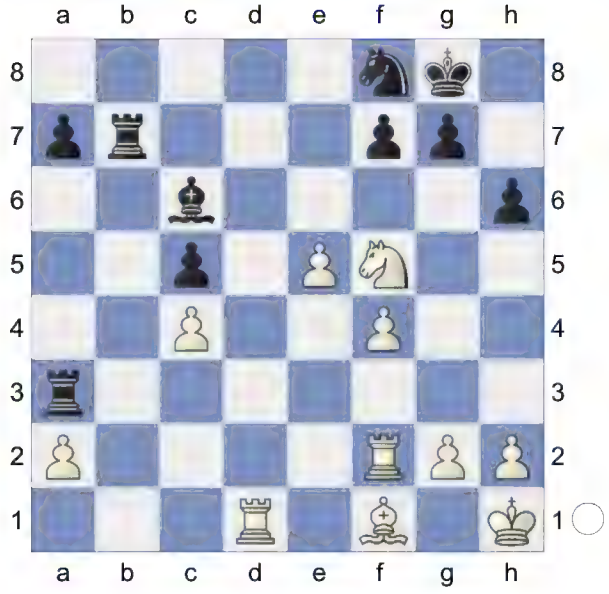
31.Rd2 Bd7 32.Qg3 Ra5 33.Kh1 Qc5 34.Red1 Ra3



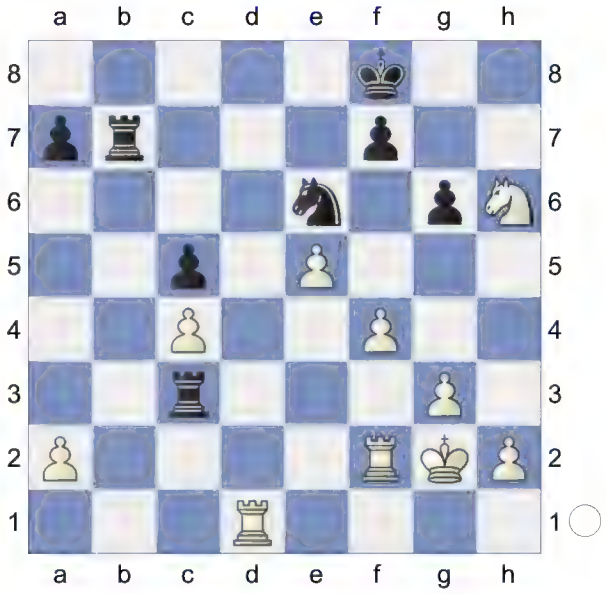
35.Ne4 1.76/23 **Qb4** 2.13/22
[⌓35...Qa5 1.76/23 36.Qf2 Bc6]

(Diagram)

36.Qf2 Bc6 2.38/21
[⌓36...Qa4 1.72/20 37.Rc1 Bc6]
37.Nd6 Qc5 38.Qxc5 bxc5 39.Rf2 Nf8 1.88/20
[39...Rd7± 1.46/20 is a better defense. 40.Kg1 Nh4]
40.Nf5 1.41/20
[40.Rb2+- 1.88/20]
40...Rb7 3.02/22
[40...Re8± 1.41/20 41.Kg1 Ne6]

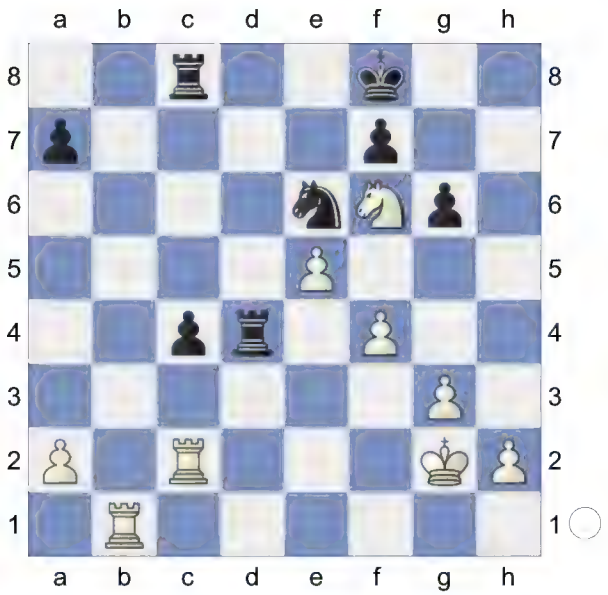


41.Kg1 1.36/20
[41.Rd8+- 3.02/22]
41...Ne6± 42.g3 Kf8 1.87/21
[42...Rc3± 1.25/21 was called for.]
43.Bg2!+- Bxg2 44.Kxg2 g6 45.Nxh6 And now f4-f5 would win. **45...Rc3?** 3.80/21
[45...Nd4 1.73/23 46.Ng4 Rc3]

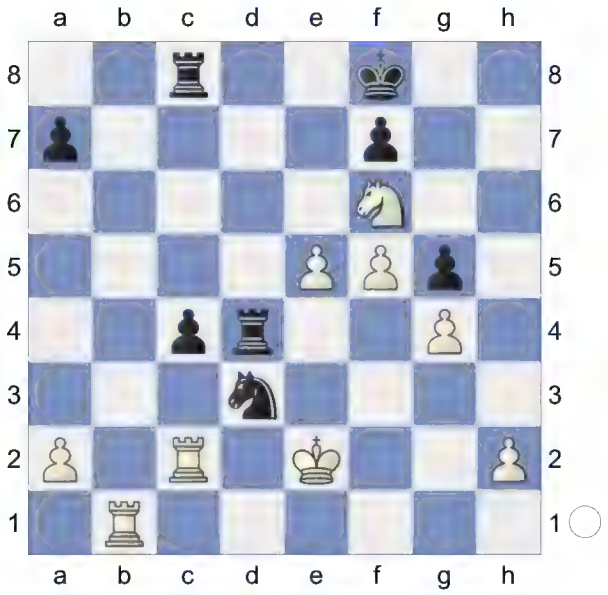


46.Ng4 1.69/21
[⌓46.f5 3.80/21 gxf5 47.Nxf5]
46...Rxc4 47.Nf6 Rd4 48.Rc1 1.46/21
[48.Rxd4+- 1.84/21 cxd4 49.Rc2]
48...c4 49.Rfc2 1.24/22
[49.Rc3+- 1.64/22]
49...Rc7 2.21/21
[49...Rb4± 1.24/22 50.a3 Ra4]
50.Rb1 1.31/21
[White should try 50.Kf3+- 2.21/21]
50...Rc8±

(Diagram)

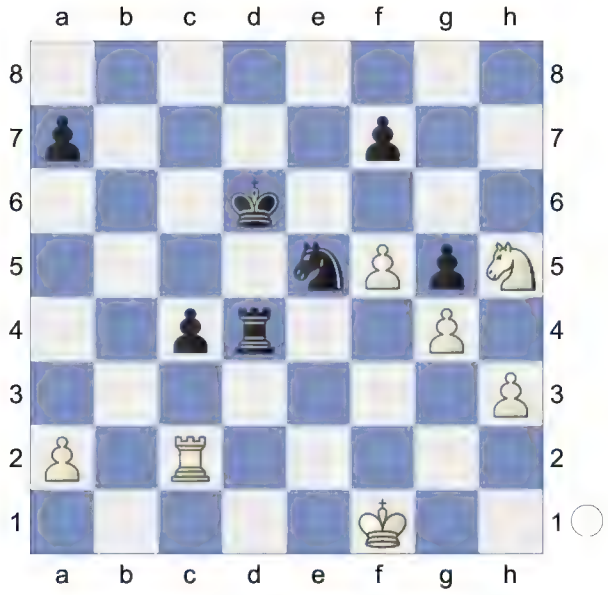


51.Kf2 White is more active. **51...g5** 1.78/22
[51...c3± 1.23/20]
52.f5 0.83/22
[52.Nh7+!+- 1.78/22 Kg7 53.Nxg5 Nxg5 54.fxg5]
52...Nc5 53.Ke3 Rd3+ 54.Ke2 Rd4 55.g4 0.51/23
[55.Rb5± 1.40/19]
55...Nd3!±



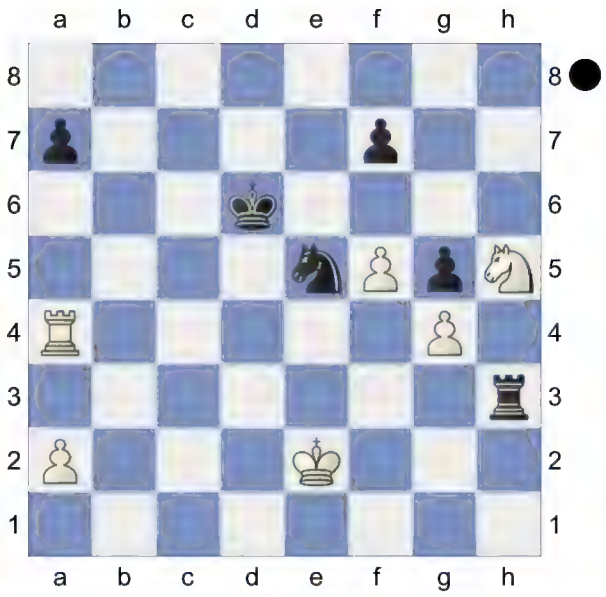
56.Rd1 -0.01/24
[Better is 56.Ke3± 0.74/21 Rdd8 57.Rb5]

56...Rcd8 0.58/25 **57.Kf1?** -1.80/24
[57.Ke3± 0.58/25]
57...Nxe5-+ Discovered Attack **58.Rxd4 Rxd4** Endgame. KRN-KRN **59.h3 Ke7 60.Nh5** -4.10/21 **Kd6?** -1.54/22
[60...Rd3-+ -4.10/21 is more deadly. 61.Ke1 c3 *(61...Rxh3? 62.Re2-+)*]

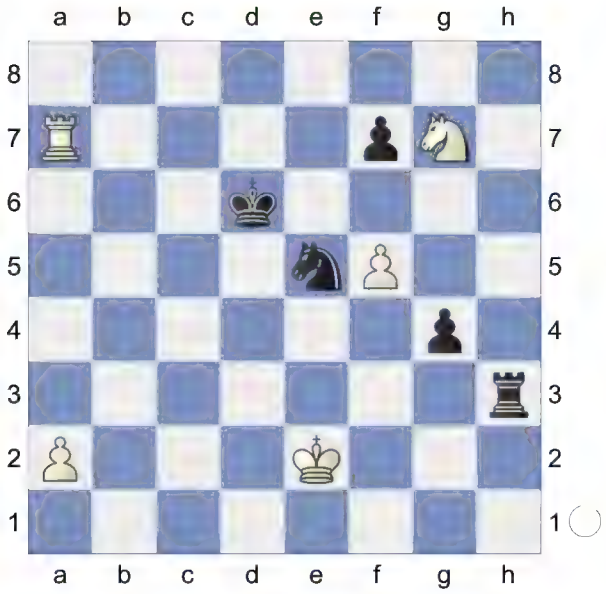


61.Ke2 -2.89/23 Dodges c4-c3
[61.Nf6∓ -1.54/22]
61...Rd3? -0.47/24
[61...Nd3]
62.Rxc4!∓ Remove Defender, Deflection
62...Rxh3 63.Ra4

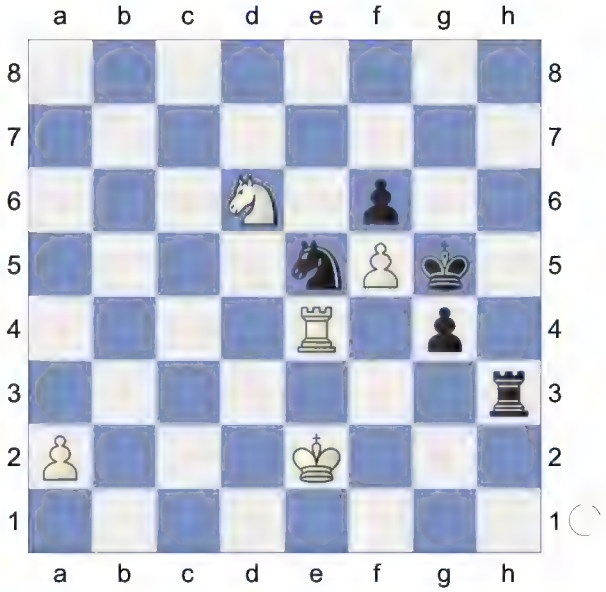
(Diagram)



Nxg4! 64.Ng7! Ne5
[Don't play 64...Rh2+ 65.Kf3 Ne5+ 66.Kg3]
65.Rxa7 g4



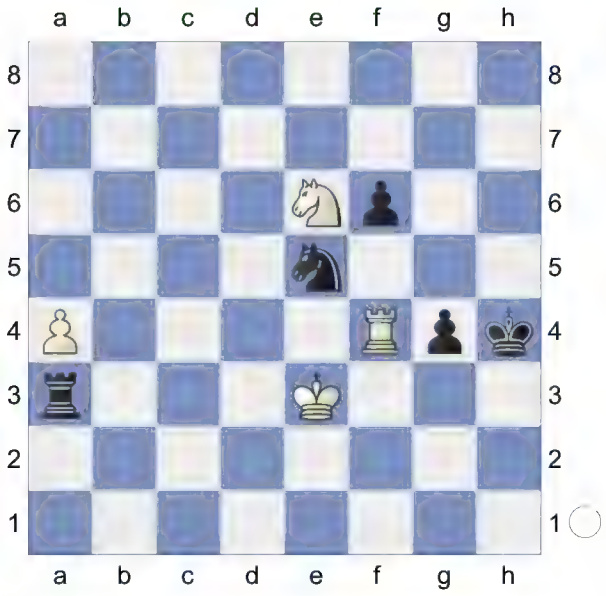
66.Ra6+ -1.39/23
[66.Ne8+= -0.24/21 keeps the balance. Kc6 67.Ra6+ Kb7 68.Ra4]
66...Kd5 -0.62/23
[66...Kc5!∓ -1.39/23 aiming for ...Ne5-d3. 67.Ra7 g3 68.Ra5+ Kd4 69.Ra4+ Kc3]
67.Ne8! Ke4 68.Nd6+ Kf4 69.Ra4+ Kg5 Hoping for ...f7-f6. **70.Re4?** -2.59/22
[70.f6∓ -0.75/22]
70...f6-+



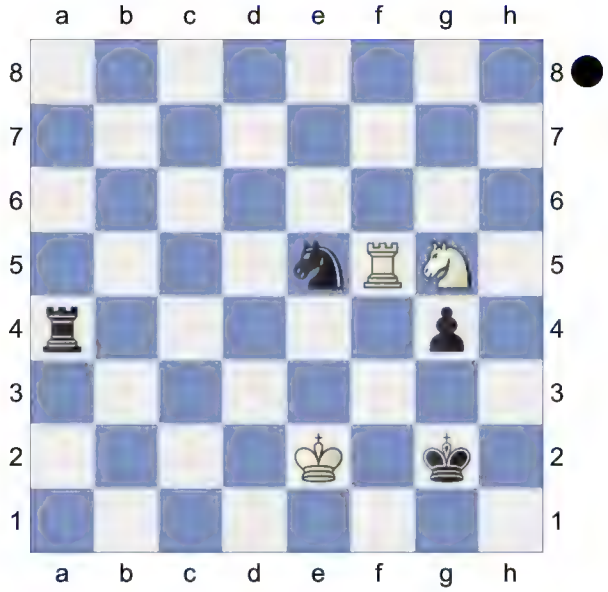
71.a4? -5.17/24
[71.Ra4 -2.00/22]
71...Ra3 72.Kf2 Kh4 73.Ne8? -7.10/21
[73.Nb5 -3.25/24 Ra2+ 74.Ke3]
73...Kg5? 0.01/21
[73...Kh3-+ -7.10/21 74.Ke2 g3]
74.Nd6= Rd3 75.Nb5? -5.36/24
[75.Nc4 -2.67/23 was forced. Nxc4 *(75...Kxf5 76.Nxe5 fxe5 77.Rb4-+)* 76.Rxc4]
75...Kxf5 -2.45/24
[⌓75...g3+ -5.36/24 76.Kg2 Nf3 *(76...Kxf5 77.Rb4=)*]

(Diagram)

76.Rb4 -3.61/24
[⌓76.Re3 -2.45/24 Rd8 77.a5]
76...Rd2+ 77.Ke3 Ra2 78.Nd4+ Kg5 79.Ne6+ Kh4 Strongly threatening ... Ne5-g6. **80.Rf4 Ra3+** -0.97/23
[80...Nd7-+ -2.16/23 White must now prevent ... Ra2-a1. 81.Rb4 Ra1]

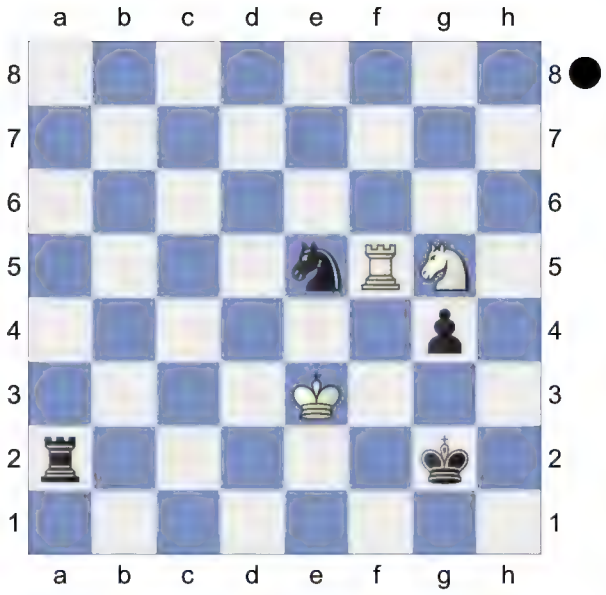


81.Ke2? -2.64/22
[81.Ke4∓ -0.97/23 was worth a try.]
81...Kh3? -0.63/21
[81...Nd7-+ -2.64/22 Threatens to win with ...Kh4-h3. 82.Rb4 Kh5 83.Nf4+ Kg5 84.Ne6+ Kg6]
82.Rxf6∓ Rxa4 83.Ng5+ -1.42/24
[83.Ke3∓ -0.60/22]
83...Kg2 -0.93/23
[⌓83...Kh4 -1.42/24 84.Ne6 Ra6 85.Rh6+ Kg3]
84.Rf5? -4.85/23
[84.Ne6∓ -0.93/23]

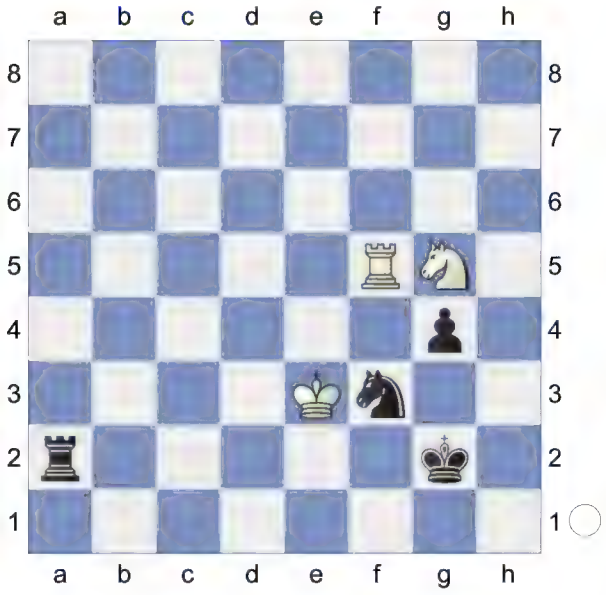


84...Ra2+? -0.52/23
[84...Nf3!-+ -4.85/23 ...Nf3-d4+ is the strong threat. 85.Ke3 Nxg5 86.Rxg5 g3]
85.Ke3

(Diagram)

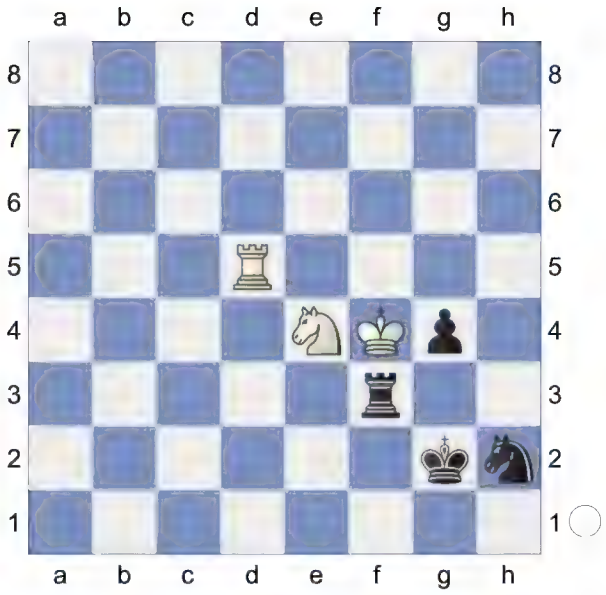


Nf3! -0.30/25

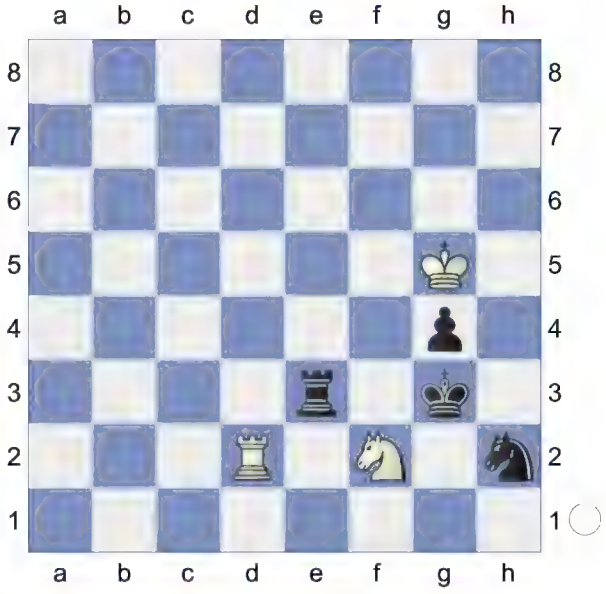


86.Ne4= Ra3+ 87.Kf4 Nh2 88.Rd5 Rf3+ 89.Kg5 Re3 90.Kf4 Rf3+

(Diagram)

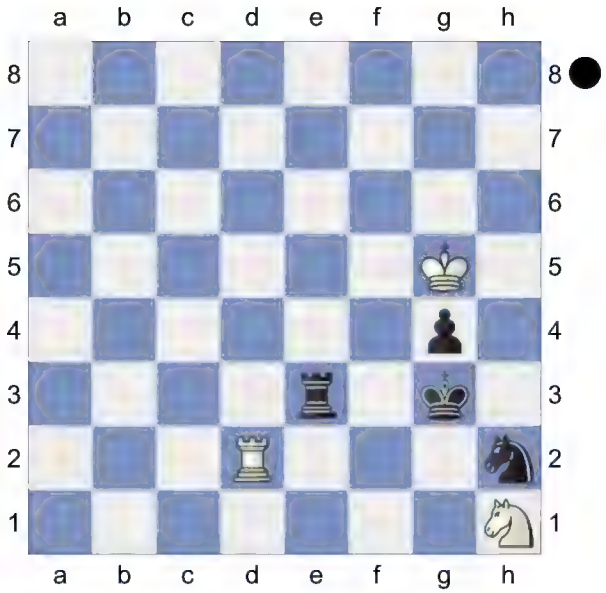


91.Kg5 Kh3 92.Rd2 Re3 93.Nf2+
The position is equal. **93...Kg3 94.Nh1+ Kh3 95.Nf2+ Kg3**



...Nh2-f3+ would now be deadly.
96.Nh1+

(Diagram)

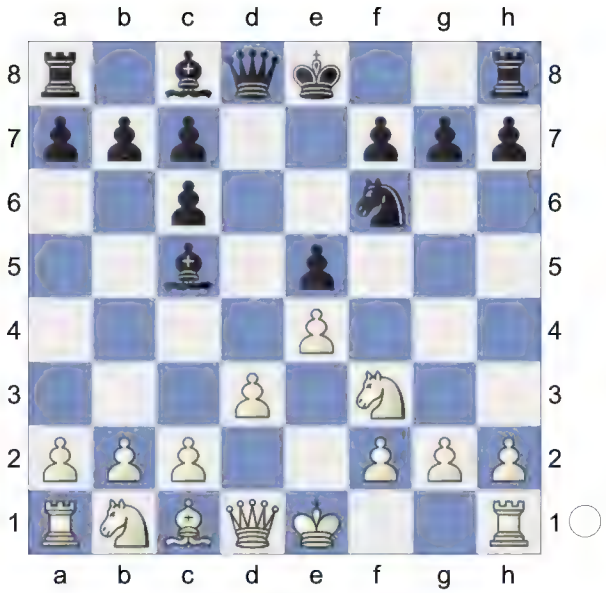


Never resign too early! Weighted Error Value: White=0.57/Black=0.46
½-½

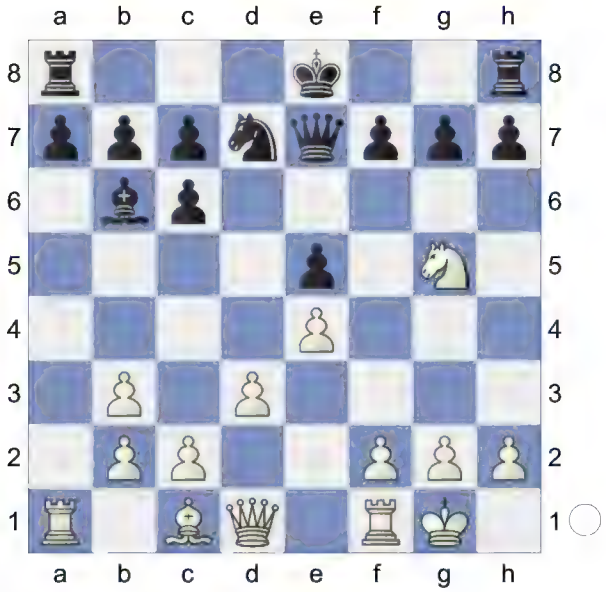
129 **C65**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Grischuk,A** **2732**
Tata Steel IND Blitz Open (3.1) 08.09.23
[Kitty Kat]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6

(Diagram)



6.Nbd2
[6.Nxe5? Qd4 7.Qe2 Qxe5-+]
6...Be6 7.0-0
[7.Nxe5? Qd4 8.Qe2 Qxe5-+]
7...Nd7 7...Bd6 might become the main line. 7...Ld6 könnte zur Hauptfortsetzung werden. **8.Nb3** White is slightly better.
8...Bb6 **9.Ng5** Hoping for Nxe6.
9...Bxb3 10.axb3 Qe7



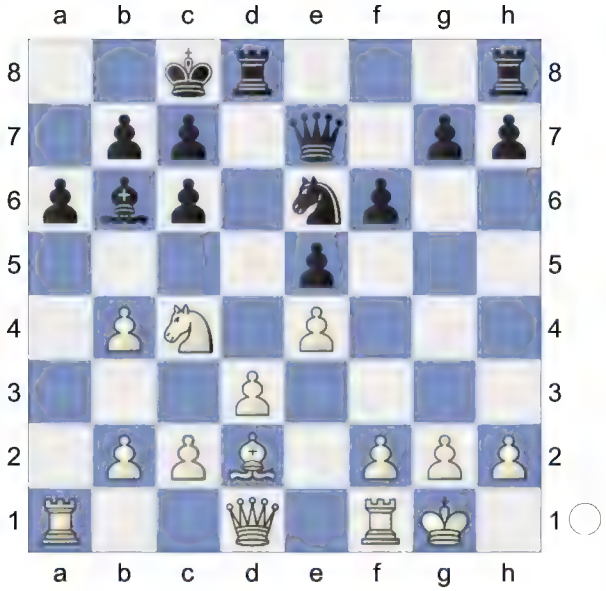
11.Nf3 Nf8 12.Nd2
[12.Qe1 f6 13.Be3 Ne6 14.Nh4 g6 15.g3 a6 16.f4 exf4 17.gxf4 0-0-0 18.Bxb6 cxb6 19.Qf2 Nd4 20.Nf3

c5 21.Nxd4 Rxd4 22.Rae1 Kb8 23.b4 Rxb4 24.c3 Rb5 25.e5 Ka7 26.exf6 Qxf6 0-1 (54) Durarbayli,V (2631)-Grischuk,A (2736) Aimchess Rapid Div 3 W 2023 (2.1)]

12...Ne6 13.Nc4 f6 14.Bd2N

[Vorgänger: 14.Kh1 0-0 15.g3 Rad8 16.Be3 Kh8 17.Qd2 Bc5 18.f3 a6 19.Qf2 Bxe3 20.Nxe3 1-0 Moussard,J (2686)-Parligras,M (2560) Bundesliga 2223 2022 (4.1) Nd4 21.Rae1 Qd7 22.f4 exf4 23.gxf4 f5 24.b4 g6 25.e5 Ne6 26.Rd1 Ra8 27.d4 b5 28.c3 a5 29.bxa5 Rxa5 30.Nc2 Qd5+ 31.Qg2 Qxg2+ 32.Kxg2 Ra2 33.Rb1 Ra4 34.Kg3 Rd8 35.b3 1-0 (56) Novy,M (2686)-Puccini,J (2560) ROM-chT Romania 1994 (4.1)]

14...a6 15.b4 0-0-0



16.Kh1 g5 17.Be3 Qxb4 0.25/19

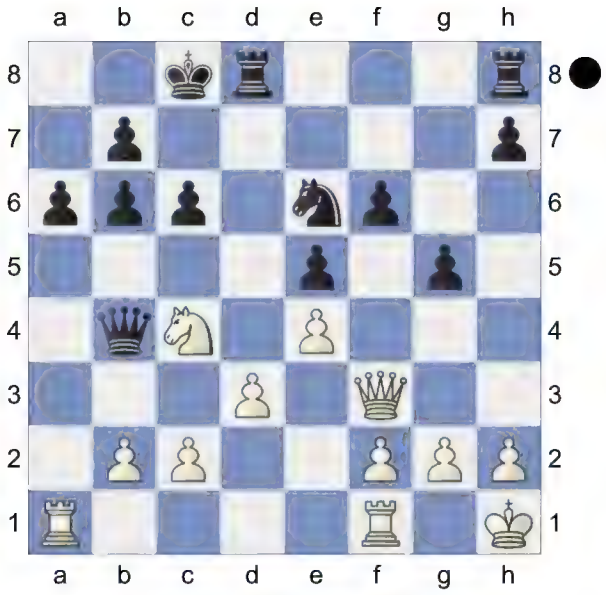
[⌓17...Bxe3 -0.28/22 18.fxe3 h5]

18.Bxb6 -0.78/19

[18.Qf3= 0.25/19 remains equal.]

18...cxb6∓ 19.Qf3

(Diagram)



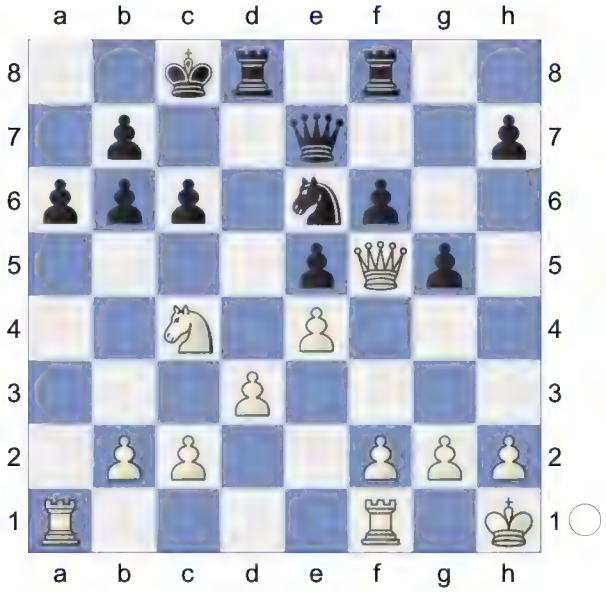
Rhf8 -0.38/20

[19...b5!∓ -0.91/20 20.Qxf6 Rhe8 21.Nxe5 Qxb2]

Now White is beyond hope. **20.Qf5?** -2.13/19

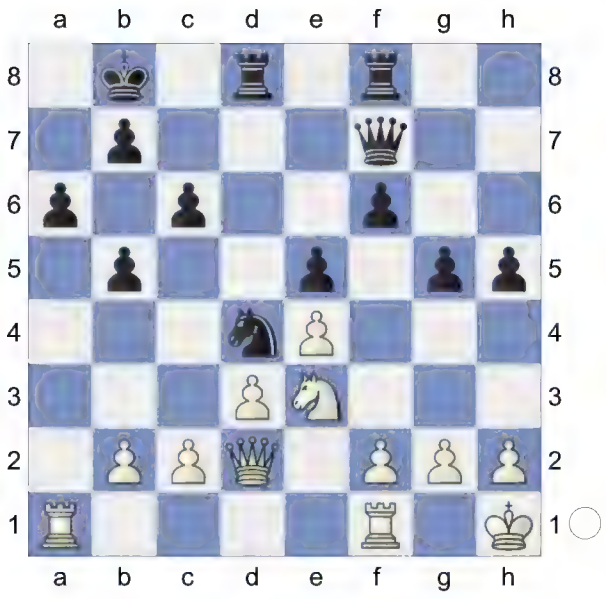
[20.c3∓ -0.38/20 Qe7 21.Nxb6+ Kc7 22.Nc4]

20...Qe7-+

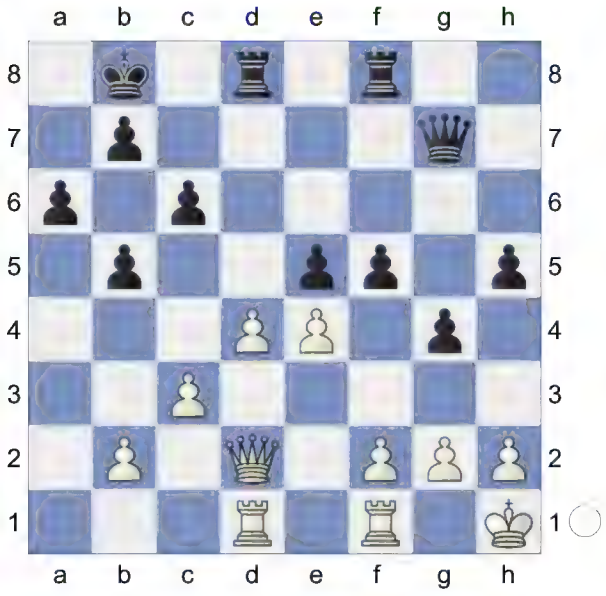


21.Qh3 b5 22.Ne3 Kb8 23.Qf3 Nd4 24.Qd1 Qf7 25.Qd2 h5

(Diagram)



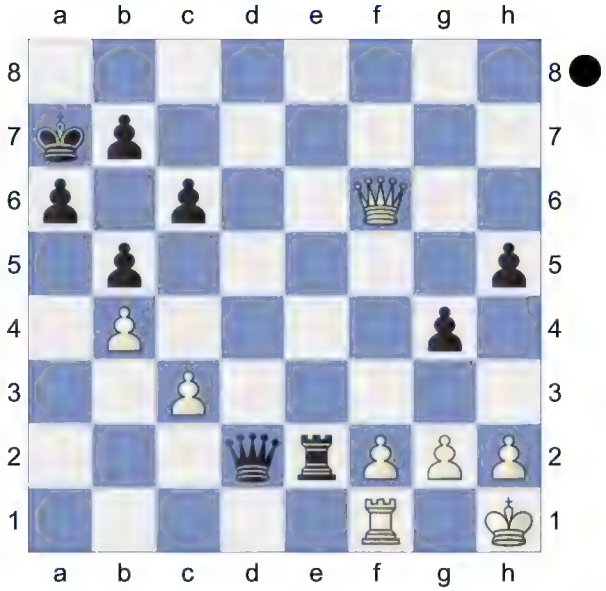
26.Rad1 g4 27.c3 Ne6 28.Nf5 Ng7 29.Nxg7 Qxg7 30.d4 -3.36/17
[30.f4 -1.95/18 is a better defense.]
30...f5



31.exf5 Rxf5 32.Qc2 Qf6 33.dxe5 Rxe5 34.Rxd8+ Qxd8 KQR-KQR. Black is a pawn up. **35.Qc1 Re2**

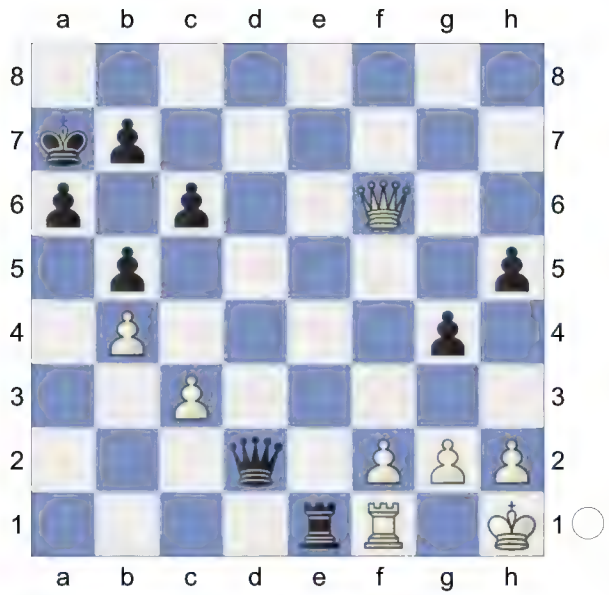
(Diagram)

36.Qf4+ Ka7 37.b4 Qd2 -2.16/18
[⌓37...Qd5 -4.37/21 38.Kg1 Qd3]
38.Qf6? -8.28/22
[38.Qxd2 -2.16/18 Rxd2 39.f4]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/ Black=0.16 (very precise)
38...Re1

(Diagram)



0-1

130 **D43**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2758**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2716**
Tata Steel IND Blitz Open (1.3) 08.09.23
[IM Valderrama]

D43: Semi-Slav: 5 Bg5 h6

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 This is the third game with the black pieces by Grandmaster Nodirbek that we see from this tournament with not very good results in general, although, again, as I have already mentioned in quick games and more so blitz. Incidentally, blitz is my favorite, and it is where I was able to reach my highest peak ELO of 2612 FIDE but, obviously, because of the short time for reflection it is where the biggest mistakes can be made.

5.Bg5 h6

[5...dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 Playing actively, White must justify the pawn minus by attacking. h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 As previously mentioned in this position of this same series, White can play g3 followed by Bg2 and press on the long diagonal, but let's look at another possible option. 11.exf6 Bb7 0-1 Kamsky,G (2645)-Shirov,A (2685) WchT 3rd Luzern 1993 (6.1) Let's warm up with this exciting attack game by the well-known and very strong player Alexei Shirov!]

6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 With a fairly solid structure, in the absence of the f6 knight there may be themes of attacking the king such as Bd3-Ac2-Qd3, the e3-e4 advance is also possible or some idea such as Ne5 and f4 like a Stonewall. On Black's part, the queen on f6 is usually not very well placed and the biggest problem in these structures continues to be the development of the bishop on c8, the typical break for Black will be ...e5 seeking the activity of both bishops. and trying to open the center. **7...g6** [Anish, G - Lagrave, V Carlsen Inv Prelim Rapid 2020.] Let's see this important attacking game.

[7...Nd7 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 \ -\ Van der Sterren,P (2605)-Kamsky,G (2695) Candidates FIDE m3 1994 (7)]

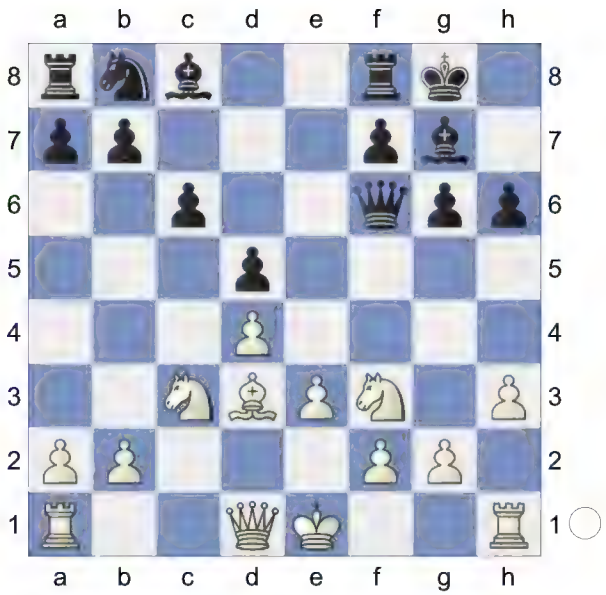
8.Bd3 Bg7 9.cxd5N Avoiding the best known paths, I don't particularly like this play, it gives the impression that it helps Black solve his development problems. An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante.

[9.0-0 0-0 10.e4 dxc4 *(10...Qd8 11.Re1 c5 12.exd5 cxd4 13.dxe6 Bxe6 14.Ne2 Qd6 15.Qd2 Nc6 16.Nf4 Bg4 17.Be4 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Ne5 19.Bd5 Rac8 20.b3 b5 21.Rac1 bxc4 22.bxc4 Rc7 23.Nd3 Nxd3 24.Qxd3 Kh7 25.g3* ½-½ (42) Deslandes,P (2808)-Buchicchio,G (2816) 116/(10) Moscow 2013 (4) *)* 11.e5 Qe7 12.Bxc4 Nd7 13.Qe2 b5 14.Bd3 Bb7 15.Ne4 c5 16.Bxb5 cxd4 17.Bxd7 Qxd7 18.Rfd1 Rfd8 19.Rxd4 Qc7 20.Nd6 Bd5 21.Rad1 Bxa2 22.Nb5 Qb6 23.Rd6 Rxd6 ½-½ (50) Suleymanli,A (2560)-Niemann,H (2706) Baku op 2023 (3)]

9...exd5 10.h3 The position is equal.

10...0-0

(Diagram)



11.0-0 Qe7N

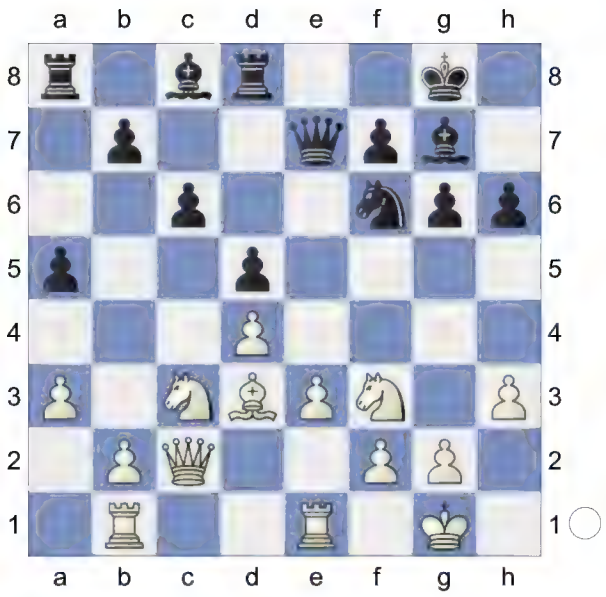
[Vorgänger: 11...Be6 12.Qb3 Qe7 13.Rfe1 Qc7 14.Rac1 Nd7 15.Ne2 Rfe8 16.Nf4 Nf8 17.h4 h5 18.Nxe6 Nxe6 ½-½ Hernandez,A (2401)-Wilhelmi,D (2426) ICCF GMN/058 email 2017]

12.Rb1 Seeking the minority attack as exemplified above. **12...Nd7**

[12...a5 13.a3 Be6 14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 b5 is an alternative used to stop the attack, it leaves weaknesses in the position such as the c5 square and the c6 pawn is weak but the c4 outpost appears for the knight and the b4 point can also be a military objective.]

13.Qc2 a5 14.a3 Rd8 15.Rfe1 Nf6=

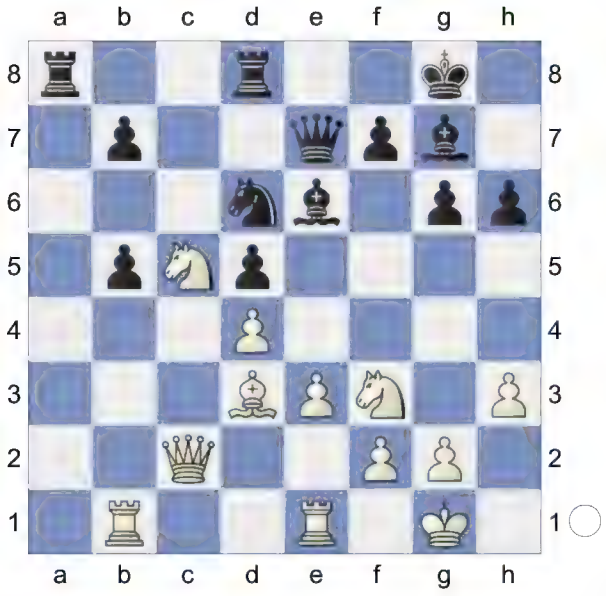
(Diagram)



The position is objectively balanced. **16.b4 Be6 17.Na4** Looking for weaknesses on the dark squares, this is another of the maneuvers that White has. **17...axb4 18.axb4 Ne8**

[18...Ne4 19.b5 Qd6 20.Rec1 cxb5 21.Bxb5 Rdc8 22.Qb2 Rxc1+ 23.Qxc1 was an alternative, Black has a clear weakness on b7 but it's not easy for Gukesh here.]

19.Nc5 Nd6 20.b5 cxb5



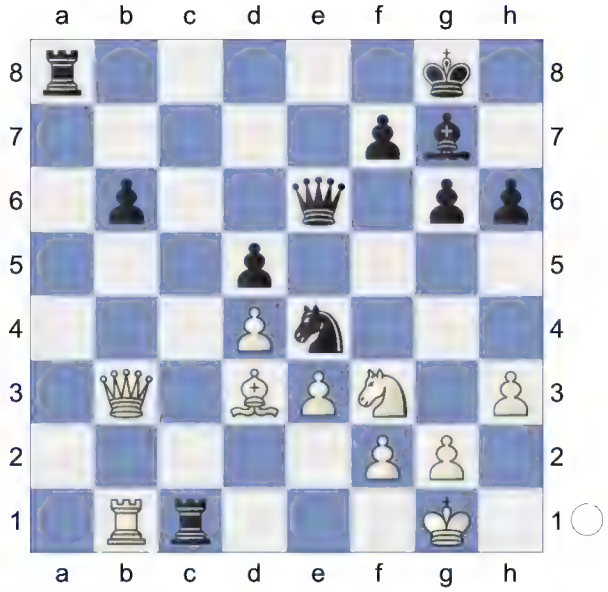
21.Bxb5 Rdc8 Strongly threatening ... b6. **22.Qb3±** Good management of the game through the b column and minor pieces, now White's game is quite comfortable, according to the computer White is slightly better (0.45) **22...b6** 0.71/24

[22...Ra5= 0.24/20 23.Bd3 Rca8]

23.Nxe6 Qxe6 24.Rec1 0.29/22

[24.Bd3± 0.67/20]

24...Ne4 25.Bd3 Rxc1+



26.Rxc1 Bf8 1.91/21

[Black should try 26...Rc8!± 0.44/21 27.Rxc8+ Qxc8]

27.Bxe4+- Qxe4 2.65/22

[≤27...dxe4 28.Qxe6 fxe6 29.Nd2+-]

[27...dxe4 1.93/19 28.Qxe6 fxe6]

28.Qxb6 Qf5 29.Qb1 1.50/21

[29.Qc6 Rd8 30.Ne5 Bg7 31.Qc7 Ra8 3.52/22 *(⌓31...Rf8 2.40/19 32.Nd7 Re8)* 32.Qb7+- Rd8 33.Nc6+- A much more active finish.]

[29.Qb7+- 3.21/23 Ra2 30.Qb1 Qxb1 31.Rxb1]

29...Qf6? 3.27/21

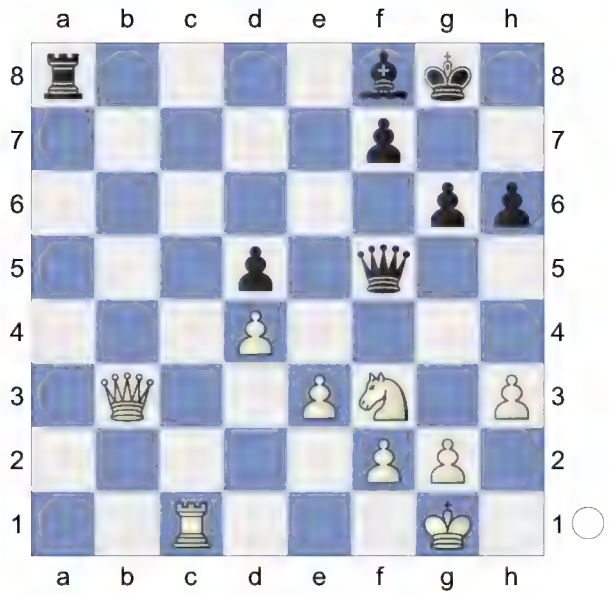
[29...Rc8± 1.50/21 30.Re1 Qe6]

30.Qb3 1.77/20

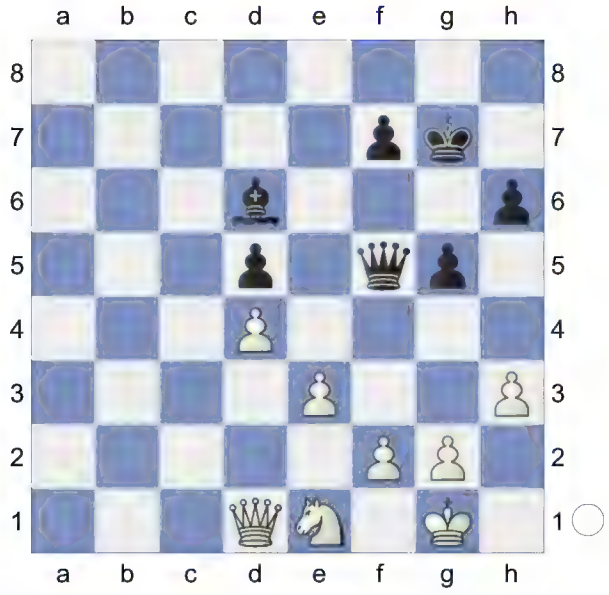
[⌓30.Ne5 3.27/21]

30...Qf5? 3.42/20

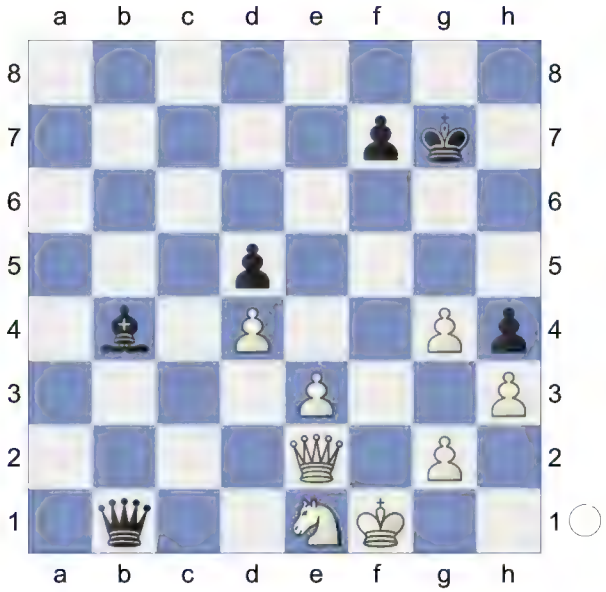
[30...Rd8 1.77/20 31.Qb7 Bd6]



31.Qc2 1.37/20
[31.Ne5+- 3.42/20 has better winning chances.]
31...Ra1± 32.Qb2 Rxc1+ 33.Qxc1
Endgame KQB-KQN. White is a pawn up. **33...Bd6 34.Qd1 g5** 2.20/25
[34...Qc8± 1.19/22 35.Qb1 Kg7]
35.Ne1 Kg7

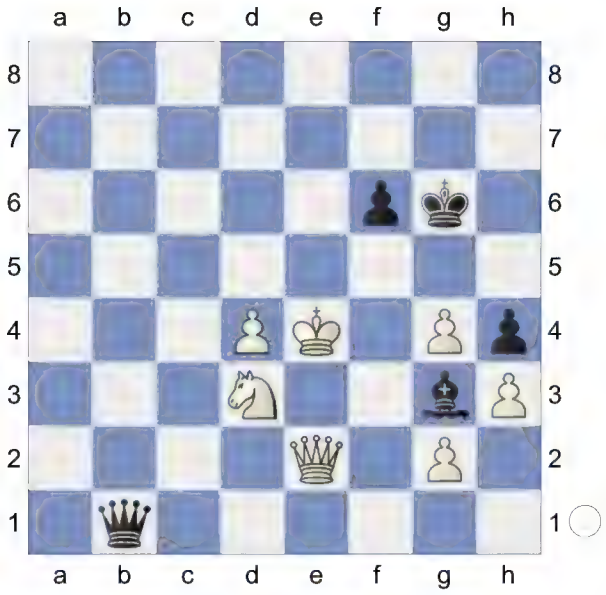


36.Qf3?? 0.07/27 White made very bad decisions, desperately seeking the exchange of queens which did not seem enough to maintain the advantage, the Queen+Rock combination presented greater danger for Abdusattorov.
[36.g4!+- 2.19/18 Qe4 37.Nd3]
36...Qb1= 37.Kf1 Bb4 38.Qe2 h5 39.f3 g4?? 1.20/23 The collapse comes.
[39...h4 40.Kf2 Bd6 41.Qd2 Bb4 42.Qe2 Bd6 43.Kf1 Bg3 44.Qd2 And White has to settle for a draw. 1/2 1/2]
[39...h4= 0.00/26]
White stays focused until the end.
40.fxg4± h4

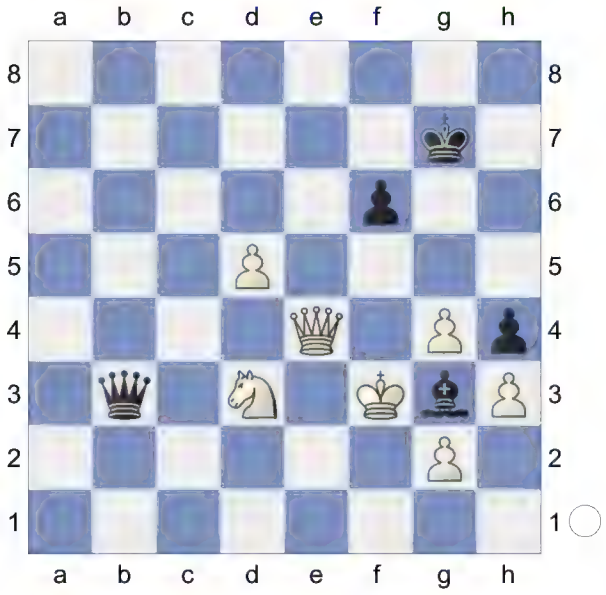


41.Kf2 1.65/20
[41.g5!± 1.28/21]
41...Bd6+- 42.Nd3 Bg3+ 43.Kf3 f6 2.88/21
[43...Kf6 1.70/23 44.Nf2 Kg7]
44.e4 dxe4+ 45.Kxe4 1.22/19
[45.Qxe4+- 2.13/20 Threatens to win with Nc5. Qf1+ 46.Ke3]
45...Kg6? 3.81/22
[45...Qb7+± 1.22/19 46.d5 Qb3]

(Diagram)

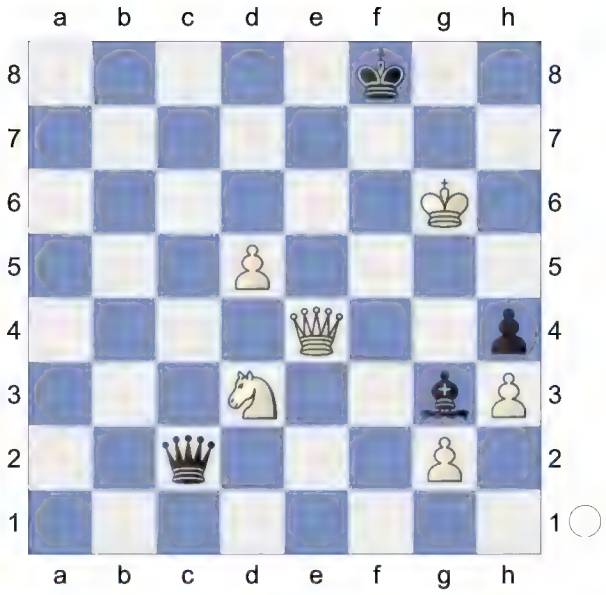


46.Kf3 2.22/19
[⌓46.Qb2 3.81/22 Qf1 47.Qc2]
46...Kf7 47.d5 Qb3 48.Qe6+ Kg7 49.Qe7+ Kg6 3.63/20
[49...Kg8 2.27/21 was worth a try.]
50.Qe4+ Kg7

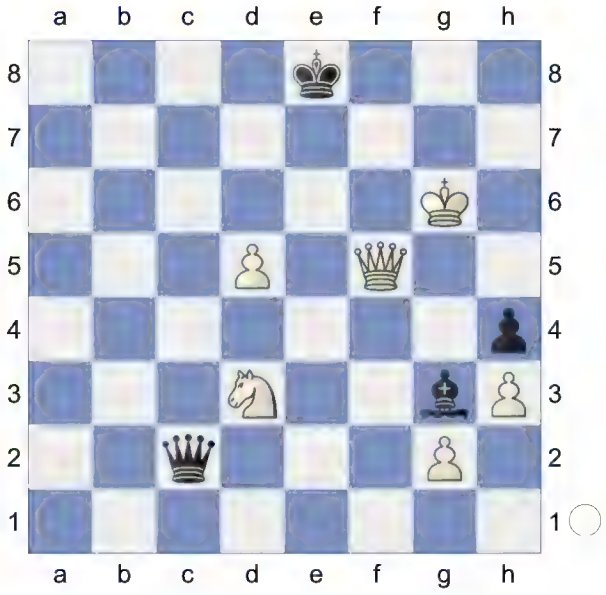


51.g5! fxg5
[51...Qd1+ 52.Qe2]
52.Kg4 Qd1+ 53.Kxg5 Qd2+ 54.Kh5 Kf8 55.Kg6 Qc2

(Diagram)

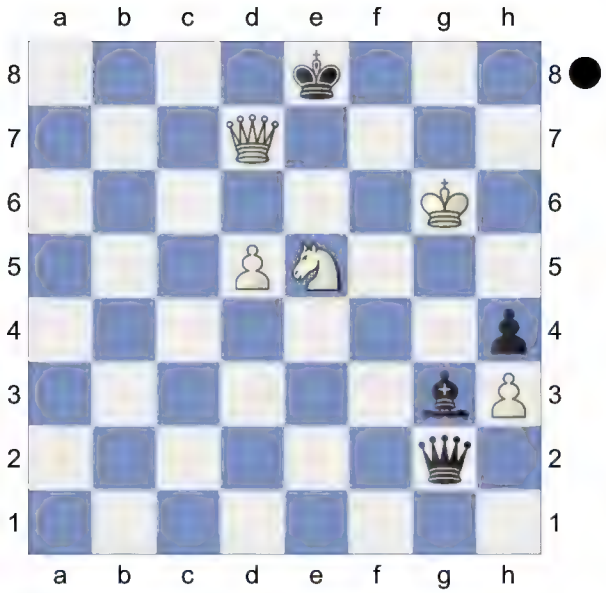


Inhibits Nc5. **56.Qf5+ Ke8**



57.Ne5! Qxg2
[57...Qxf5+ 58.Kxf5]
Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/ Black=0.65
58.Qd7+

(Diagram)



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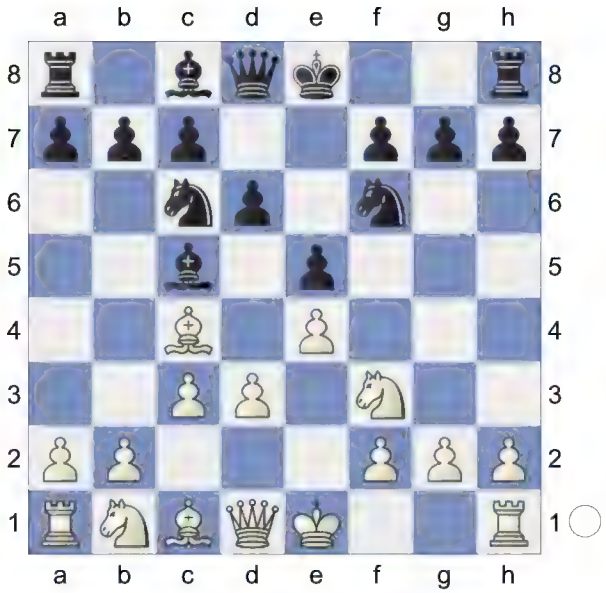
131 **C54**
□ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2732**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2751**
World-chT Rapid (8.9) 27.08.2023
[TA]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6

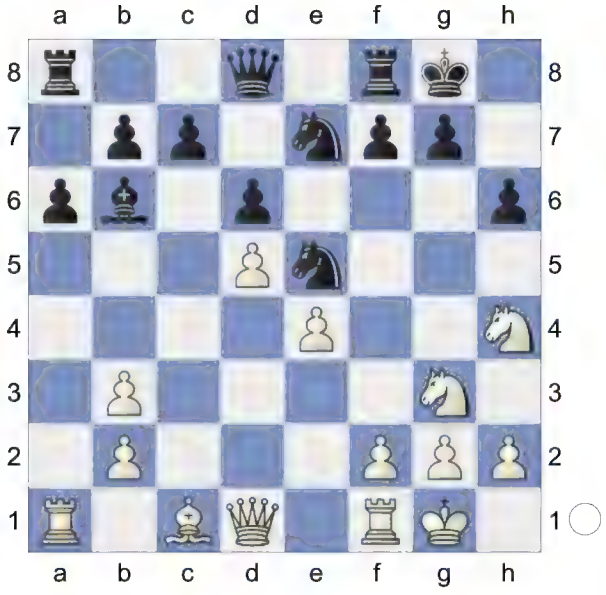
(Diagram)



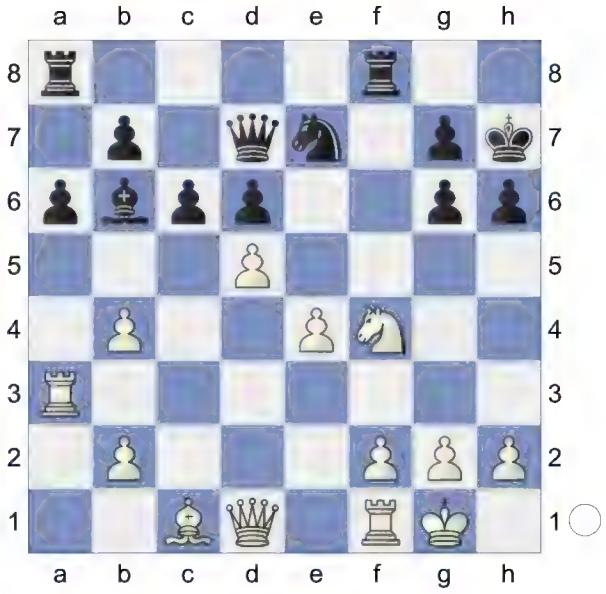
6.Nbd2
[6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 a5 8.Nbd2 Ba7 9.a4 Qe7 10.0-0 g5 11.Bg3 h5 12.h4 g4 13.Ne1 0-0 14.Nc2 Kg7 15.Re1 Ng8 16.Nf1 f5 17.exf5 Nh6 18.Nfe3 Nxf5 19.Nxf5+ Bxf5 20.d4 Bxc2 1-0 (31) Wei Yi (2755)-Navara,D (2677) 7th Prague Masters 2025 (4)]
6...a6N
[6...Bb6 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 h6 9.Re1 Re8 10.Bb3 Ne7 11.Nf1 Ng6 12.Ng3 c6 13.d4 Be6 14.Bc2 Bc7 15.a4 a5 16.b3 d5 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.Bxg6 fxg6 19.dxe5 Rf8 20.Bd2 Qe8 21.Ne4 1-0 (47) Dominguez Perez,L (2741)-Liang,A (2687) Wch Blitz New York 2024 (7)]
7.Bb3 0-0 8.Nf1 Ng4 9.d4 exd4
White is slightly better. **10.cxd4 Bb6**

(Diagram)

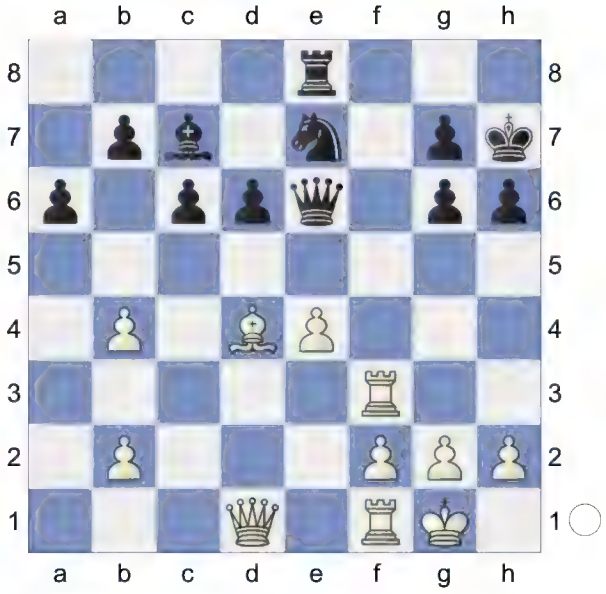
11.Ng3 Be6 0.87/22
[11...d5!= 0.15/20 keeps the balance.]
12.0-0± Bxb3 13.axb3 h6 14.d5 Ne7 15.Nh4 Ne5



16.b4 0.26/20
[16.Ra4± 0.73/19]
16...N5g6= 17.Nxg6 fxg6 18.Ra3 Kh7 0.30/19
[18...c6∓ -0.36/19]
19.Ne2 c6 20.Nf4 Qd7
[20...cxd5 21.Ne6 *(21.exd5 Rf5=)* 21...Rxf2 22.Rxf2+- *(22.Nxd8 Rd2+ 23.Kh1 Rxd1±)*]

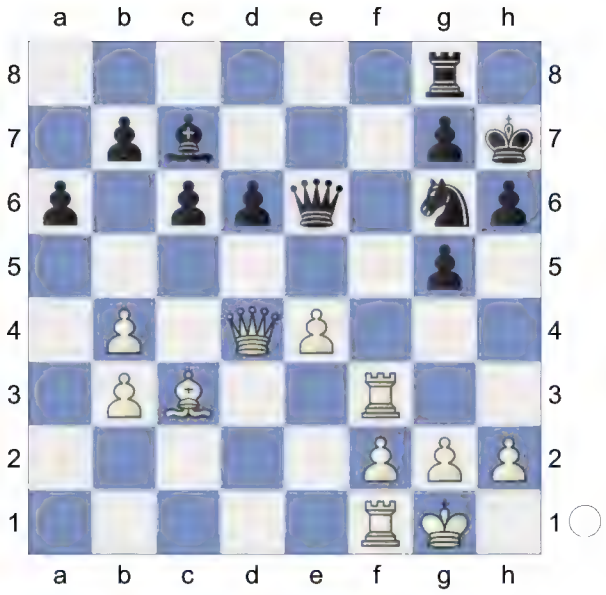


21.Ne6 Rf6 White leaves nothing to chance now. **22.Rf3!** Hoping for Rxf6. White is more active. **22...Rxe6** 1.44/18
[⌓22...Ng8 0.79/19]
23.dxe6± Qxe6 24.Be3 Bc7 25.Bd4 Re8

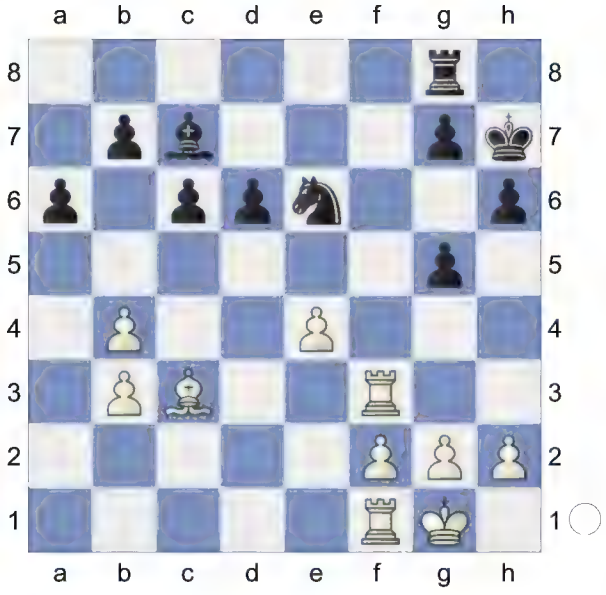


26.Bc3 g5 27.Qd4 Rg8 28.b3 Ng6 2.01/18
[28...Qg6± 1.57/18 29.Rd3 Rf8]

(Diagram)

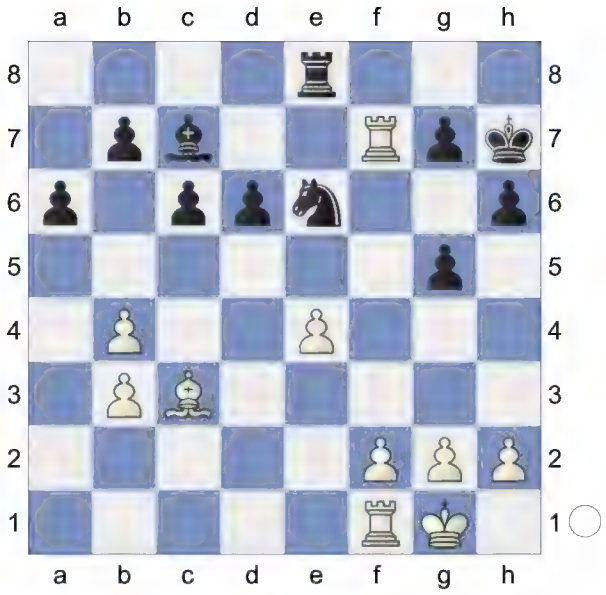


29.Qc4!+- Nf4 3.50/21
[29...Qc8 2.01/18 was necessary. 30.Qf7 Nh8 31.Qf5+ Qxf5 32.exf5 Re8]
30.Qxe6 Nxe6

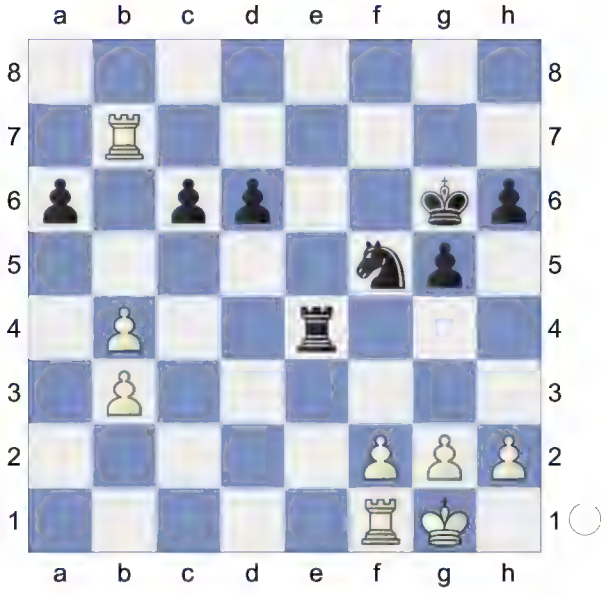


31.Rf7 Re8

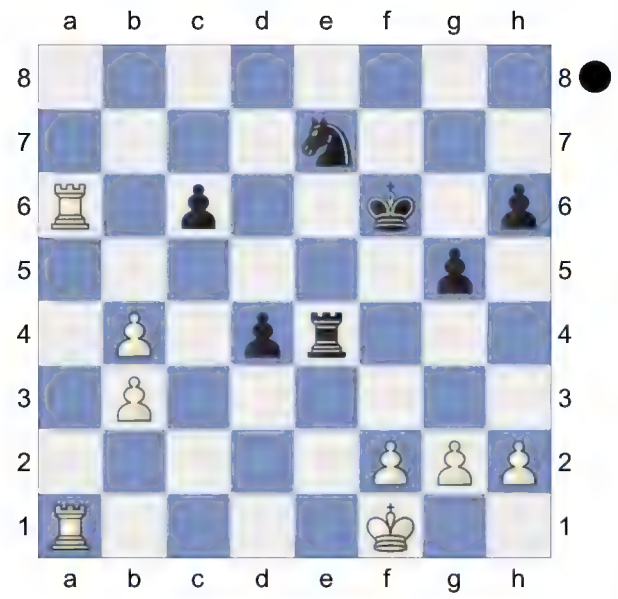
(Diagram)



32.Bxg7! Deflection **32...Kg6 33.Rd7 Nxg7 34.Rxc7 Rxe4 35.Rxb7** KRR-KRN **35...Nf5**



36.Rd1 d5 37.Kf1 Kf6 38.Rb6 White is clearly winning. **38...Ne7**
39.Ra1
[Less strong is 39.Rxa6 Rxb4 40.Rd3 Rb5+-]
39...d4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.24 (precise)
40.Rbxa6
[Don't do 40.Raxa6 d3 41.b5 Re6]



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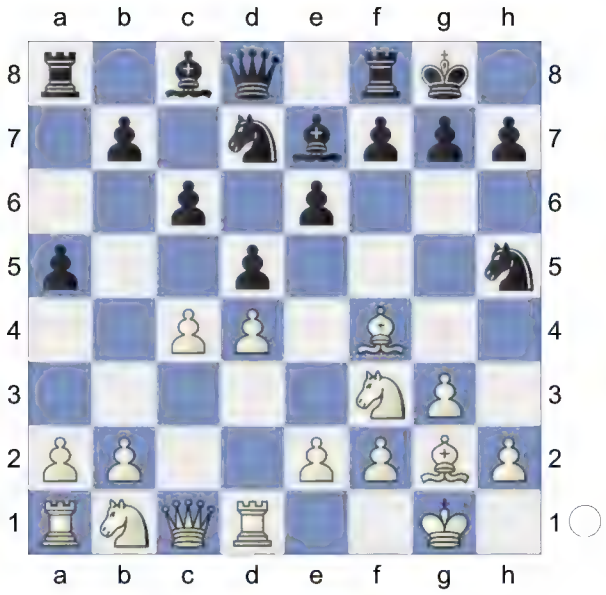
132 **E11**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2751**
■ **Saric,Ivan** **2657**
World-chT Rapid (7.3) 27.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

E11: Bogo-Indian
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.Bg2 d5

(Diagram)

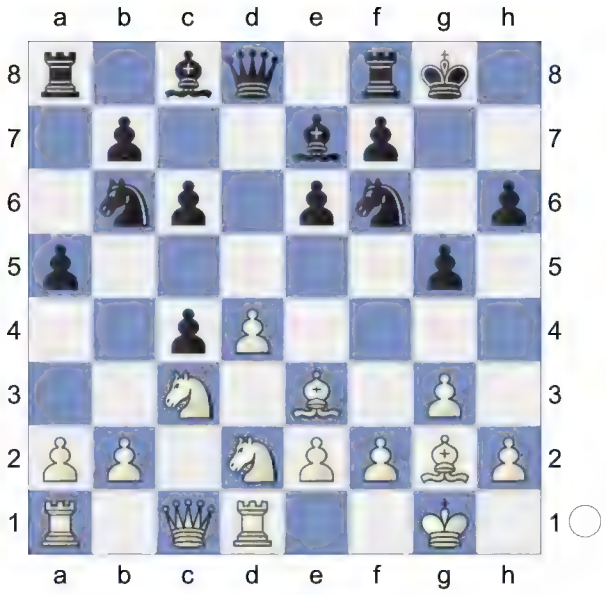
6.Nf3 0-0 6...0-0 is better than 6...dxc4. 6...0-0 ist besser als 6...dxc4. **7.Qc1 Be7 8.0-0 c6 9.Bf4** The position is equal. **9...Nbd7 10.Rd1 Nh5N**
[10...a4 11.Qc2 h6 12.Ne5 *(12.a3 Qb6 13.Nc3 Qb3 14.Qxb3 axb3 15.cxd5 exd5 16.h4 Nb6 17.Nd2 Bf5 18.Rdc1 Bc2 19.Nd1 Na4 20.Ne3 Bg6 21.Nxb3 Nxb2 22.Nc5 Ra7 23.Bc7 Na4 24.Nd3 Bh7 25.Bh3 Ne8 26.Be5 f6* 0-1 (39) Yadegar,R (2401)-Rapport,R (2713) Moscow Aeroflot op-A 2025 (1)*)* 12...Qb6 13.Nxd7 Bxd7 14.c5 Qa7 15.Nc3 Rfc8 16.Rab1 b6 17.cxb6 Qxb6 18.Nxa4 Qa7 19.b3 c5 20.Nxc5 Bxc5 21.dxc5 Rxc5 22.Qd2 Qxa2 23.Rb2 Qa6 24.Bxh6 gxh6 25.Qd4 0-1 (34) Lazavik,D (2560)-Wojtaszek,R (2668) FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (3)]

(Diagram)

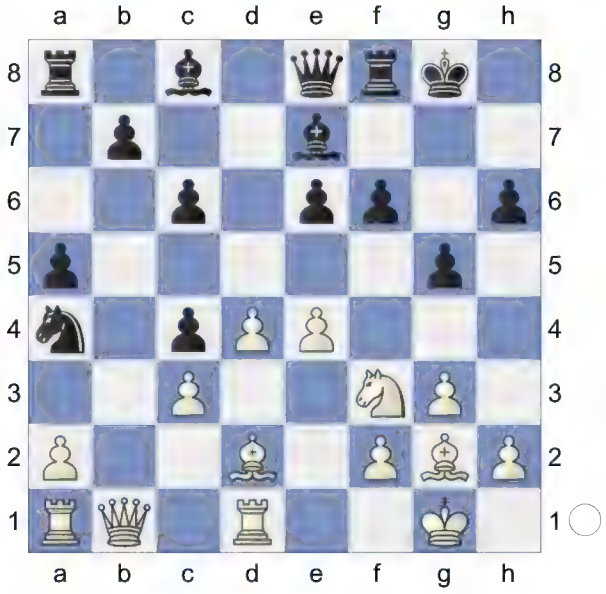


11.Bg5 Nhf6 12.Nc3 h6N
[Vorgänger: 12...b6 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Nd7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.cxd5 exd5 17.f4 Ba6 18.Qd2 Rad8 ½-½ Olson,H (2309)-Stefansson,V (2461) Reykjavik op 2023 (8)]
13.Bf4 dxc4
[13...a4 14.Ne5 Nh5 15.Bd2 Nhf6 16.e4 Nxe5 17.dxe5 Ng4 18.exd5 Qb6 19.Be1 exd5 20.cxd5 Nxe5 21.Qf4 Ng6 22.Qe4 a3 23.bxa3 Bf6 24.dxc6 bxc6 25.Rab1 Qc5 26.Na4 Qh5 27.Qxc6 Bg4 28.Rd5 ½-½ (90) Sikorova,J (2629)-Collignon,A (2459) Chicago op 19th 2010 (10) Ne5 29.Qb5 Be2 30.Qb4 Qg6 31.Nb6 Rab8 32.Qe4 Qxe4 33.Bxe4 Nf3+ 34.Bxf3 Bxf3 35.Rdb5 Bd4 36.a4 Rfe8 37.a5 Re2 38.R5b4 Bc5 39.Rf4 Be4 40.Rc1 Bd4 41.Kf1 g5 42.Kxe2 gxf4 43.Rc4 ½-½ (90) Gukesh,D (2629)-Bronstein,O (2459) World-chT Rapid 2023 (10)]
14.Nd2 g5 15.Be3 White has compensation. **15...Nb6**

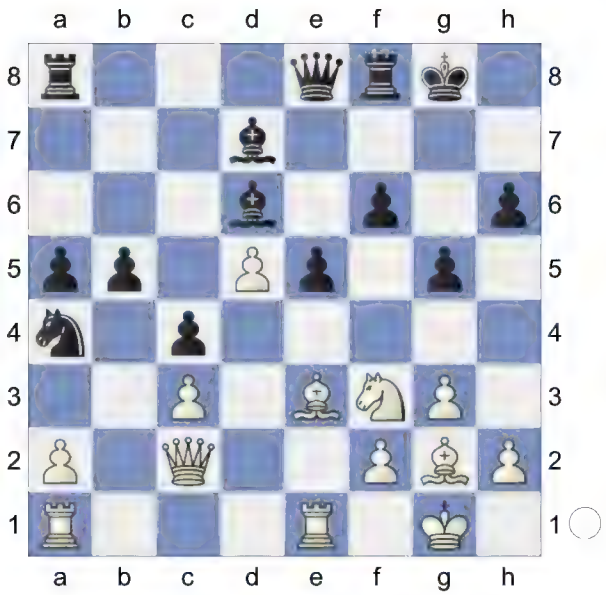
(Diagram)



16.Nf3! Nfd5 17.Bd2! f6 18.Qb1 -0.17/21
[18.e4± 0.49/22]
18...Qe8= 19.e4 Nxc3 20.bxc3 -0.70/21
[White should try 20.Bxc3= -0.04/22 Na4 21.Bd2]
20...Na4∓



21.Qc2 b5 22.d5 -1.77/18 **e5-+**
[22...exd5 23.exd5 c5 *(23...cxd5 24.Nd4=)* 24.Re1=]
23.Be3 cxd5 24.exd5 Bd6 25.Re1 Bd7



26.Nd2 f5 Dodges Ne4 **27.Bd4 Qb8 28.Be3 Rf6 29.g4** -2.71/19

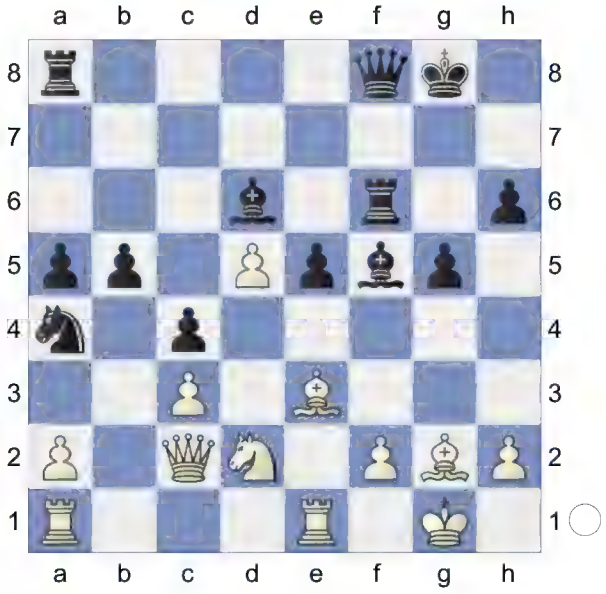
[⌓29.f4 -1.74/18]

29...Qf8 -1.12/17

[29...fxg4 30.Ne4 Rf7 31.Rab1∓]

[29...f4-+ -2.71/19 and Black stays clearly on top. 30.Ne4 Rf7]

30.gxf5∓ Bxf5



31.Ne4 Bxe4 32.Bxe4 Rb8 33.h4 -1.59/20 **Bc5** -0.34/17

[33...g4∓ -1.59/20 34.h5 Qf7]

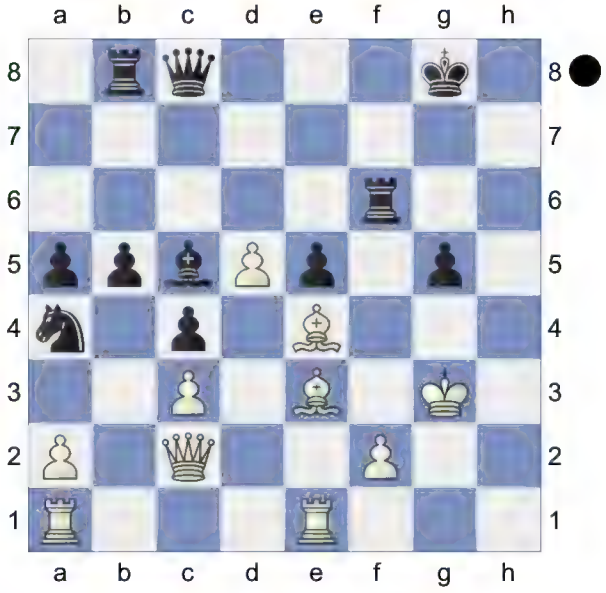
34.hxg5∓ hxg5 35.Kg2 -1.01/20

[35.d6∓ -0.65/17]

35...Qc8 -0.04/18

[35...Qd6∓ -1.01/20 Threatens to win with ...Rbf8. 36.f3 Bxe3 37.Rxe3 Rh6]

36.Kg3=



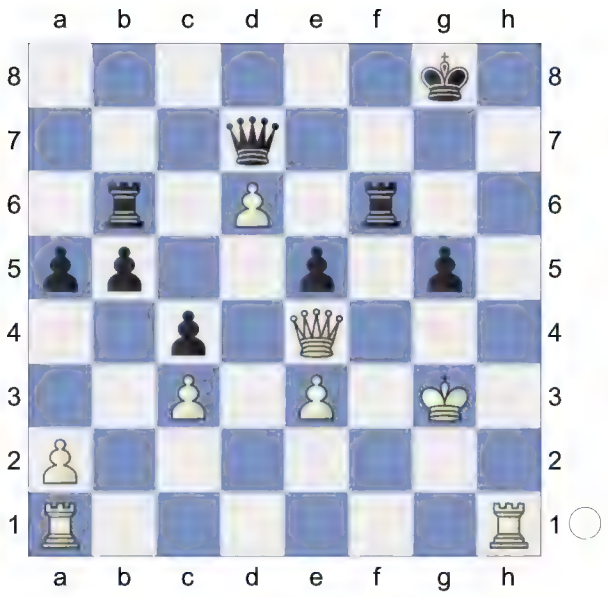
Rbb6 37.Rh1 Prevents Rf4. Black must now prevent d6. Some like it hot **37...Bxe3 38.fxe3 Nc5** 0.48/20

[38...Qc5= 0.00/20 39.Kg2 Qc8 *(39...Qxe3 40.Rh3=)*]

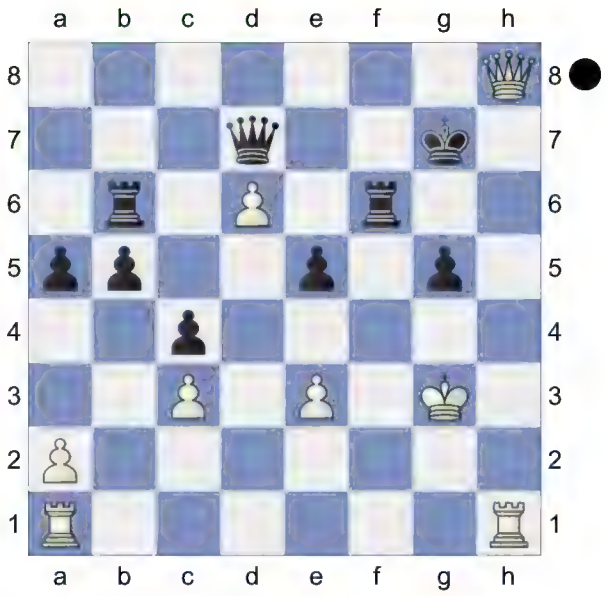
(Diagram)

39.d6 0.01/17 **Nxe4+!**
[39...Rbxd6? 40.Bd5+ Rxd5 41.Qh7+ Kf8 42.Qh8+ Ke7 43.Rh7+ *(43.Qxc8 Ne4+ 44.Kg2 Rd2+ 45.Kg1 Nd6+-)* 43...Rf7 44.Rxf7+ *(44.Qxc8 Rxh7 45.Qc7+ Nd7±)* 44...Kxf7 45.Rf1+ *(45.Qxc8 Ne4+ 46.Kf3 Nf6+-)* 45...Ke7 46.Qxc8+-]
40.Qxe4 Qd7 11.44/18
[40...Rbxd6? 41.Qh7+ *(41.Qxe5? Rde6-+)* 41...Kf8 42.Qh8+ Kf7 43.Qxc8+-]
[40...Qb7= 0.00/18 41.d7 Qxe4 42.d8Q+ Rf8 43.Rh8+ Decoy *(43.Qxb6?* gets mated. *Rf3+ 44.Kg2 Qg4+ 45.Kh2 Rh3#)* 43...Kxh8 44.Qxf8+ Kh7 45.Qf7+ Kh6 46.Qf8+ Kh5 *(46...Kg6 47.Qg8+ Kh5 48.Rh1+ Qxh1 49.Qh8+ Rh6 50.Qe8+ Rg6 51.Qh8+ Rh6 52.Qe8+ Rg6 53.Qh8+ Rh6=)* 47.Qh8+ Rh6 48.Qe8+ Rg6 49.Rh1+ Qxh1 50.Qh8+ Rh6 51.Qe8+ Rg6]

(Diagram)



A g a i n s t Q h 7 + **41.Qa8++-** **Kg7**
White used his chance.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.64
42.Qh8+
[42.Qxa5 e4 *(42...Rbxd6 43.Qa8∓; 42...Qxd6?* loses. *43.Qa7+ Kg8 44.Qh7+ Kf8 45.Rad1+-)* 43.Raf1 Qxd6+ *(43...Rbxd6 44.Qa8±)* 44.Kg4 Qd7+ 45.Kg3 Rxf1 Deflection 46.Rxf1 Rh6]



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133 **B85**
□ **Kramnik,Vladimir** **2753**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2751**
World-chT Rapid (6.3) 27.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B85: Sicilian Scheveningen: 6 Be2 a6, lines with early Be3

SCHACH 1/1982 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6**

[4...d6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.b3 Bb7 10.Bb2 Nbd7 11.Re1 a6 12.Rc1 Re8 13.Bb1 Bf8 14.Qd3 g6 15.Rcd1 Qc7 16.Qg3 Rad8 17.Qh4 Qc5 18.Na4 Qh5 19.Qxh5 0-1 (32) Pokojowczyk,J (2390)-Vogt,L (2455) Telechess ol2 8182 1981 (2.2)]

5.Nc3

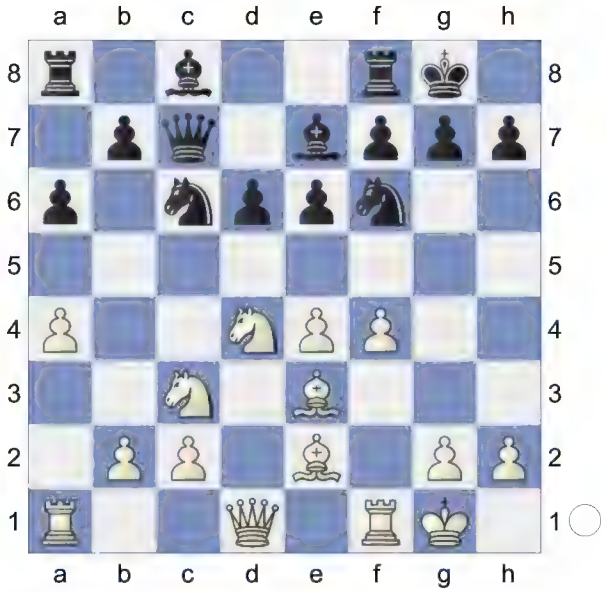
[5.g3 Qb6 6.Nb3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 a6 10.Be3 Qc7 11.a4 Ne5 12.Bf4 d6 13.a5 Bd7 B 44/01 2001]

5...Qc7

6.Be3N

[6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nce2 0-0 10.c4 Nxd4 11.Qxd4 d6 12.b3 Bd7 13.Bb2 Bc6 14.Rac1 b6 15.Nc3 Qb7 16.Rfe1 Rfd8 17.Qe3 Re8 18.Qd2 b5 19.Nd5 exd5 20.cxd5 Bd7 ½-½ (37) Sarbay-Leuthold_H/Schlumpf_H 107/(248) Bischwiller 2009 21.e5 Ng4 22.h3 Nh6 23.e6 Bc8 24.g4 Qb8 25.g5 Nf5 26.Be4 fxe6 27.Bxf5 e5 28.Qd3 Bxf5 29.Qxf5 Qd8 30.h4 Rf8 31.Qe6+ Kh8 32.Re4 Qb6 33.Rc2 Rae8 34.Rxe5 Qd8 35.Rf5 Rg8 ½-½ (37) Damjanovic,M-Browne,W 8/457 San Juan 1969]

6...a6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.f4 d6 10.a4 0-0



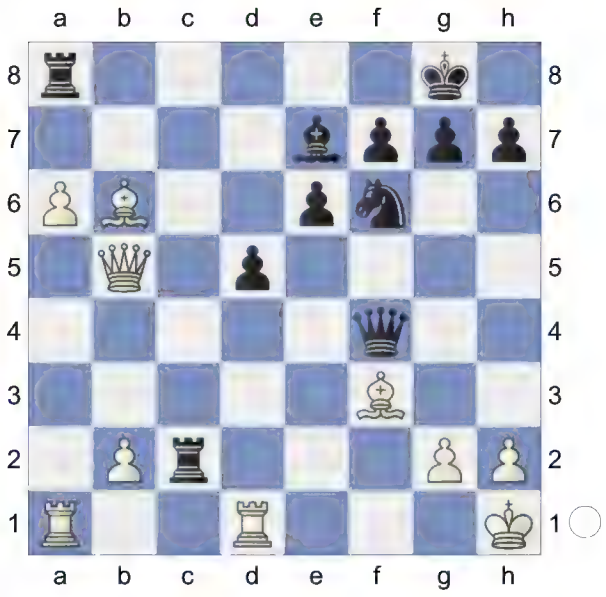
11.Kh1 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 The main line 12.Qxd4 scores better than 12.Bxd4. Die Hauptvariante 12.Dxd4 punktet besser als 12.Lxd4. **12...Bd7 13.a5 Bc6 14.Bf3 Rac8 15.Qd2** White has an edge. **15...Qb8**

(Diagram)

16.Rfd1 Nd7N
[Vorgänger: 16...Rfe8 17.Qf2 Bf8 18.Bd4 Nd7 19.Be3 Qc7 20.Rd2 Rb8 21.Ba7 Ra8 22.b4 -0.17/19 *(22.h3± 0.31/17 deserves consideration.)* 22...Nf6 0.38/19 *(22...f5!= -0.17/19)* 23.Bd4 Nd7 24.Be3 0.00/19 *(24.h3± 0.52/20)* 24...Nf6 0.55/21 *(24...f5= 0.00/19)* 25.Bd4 Nd7 ½-½ Todorovic,N (2306)-Obodchuk,A (2395) SRB Central-chop-A 9th 2016 (6)]
17.Ne2 Rfd8 18.Nd4 Nf6 0.87/19
[18...e5!± 0.51/20]
19.Nxc6 bxc6 1.03/18
[19...Rxc6± 0.61/19 20.g3 d5 21.exd5 exd5]
20.Bb6 Re8

(Diagram)

21.Qe2 d5 22.exd5!
[22.Qxa6 dxe4 23.Be2 Qxf4=]
22...cxd5 23.Qxa6 Rxc2 24.Qb5 0.38/19
[24.Qd3± 0.78/19 Rxb2 25.Rab1 Rxb1 26.Rxb1]
24...Qxf4 1.14/20
[Black should try 24...Rec8± 0.38/19]
25.a6± Ra8



26.Bg1! This pair of bishops is nice.
[26.a7 Bd6 27.Bg1 Ng4 28.Bxg4 Qxg4=]
26...Bd6 27.Ra4

[27.a7 Ng4 28.Bxg4 Qxg4=]

27...Qe5 **28.a7** Qb7 would now be deadly.

[28.b3!?]

28...Qxb2 **29.Qf1** 0.10/18

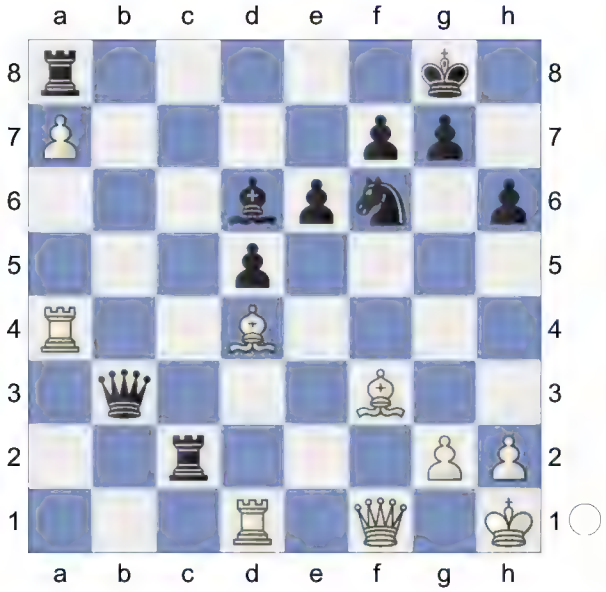
[29.Qa6± 0.61/21 Ne8 30.Bd4]

29...h6

[29...Qb7!?]

30.Bd4 White has compensation.

30...Qb3



31.Ra6 **Bc7** **32.Be2** -1.00/21

[32.Rb1= 0.30/21 Qc4 33.Qxc4 Rxc4 34.Bg1]

32...Ne4∓ **33.Bh5**

[33.Rb1 Ng3+ *(33...Qxb1? 34.Qxb1 Rxe2 35.Ra1+-)* 34.hxg3 Qxg3-+]

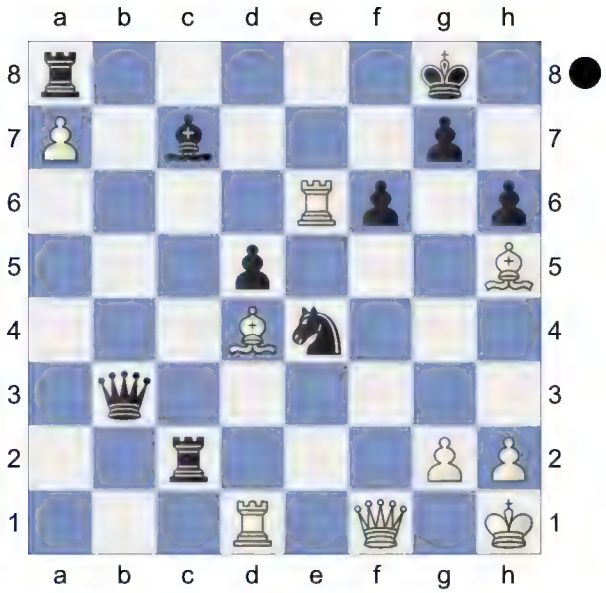
33...f6 0.00/19

[33...g6-+ -1.66/22 ...Ng3+ would now be deadly. 34.Bf3 Nd2]

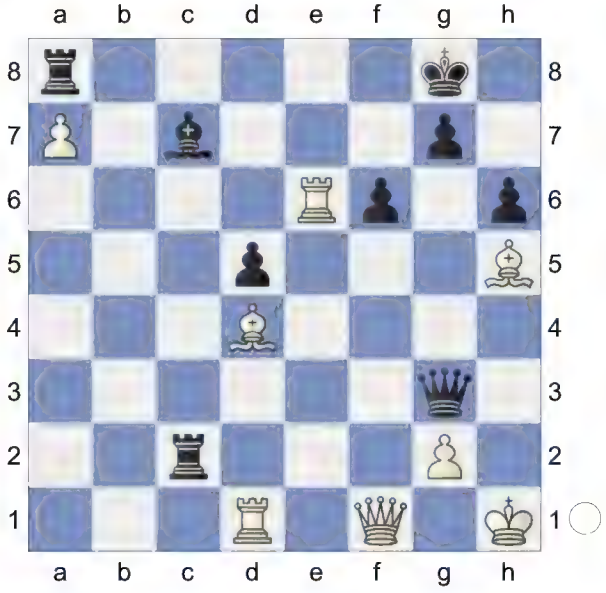
34.Rxe6? -3.42/19

[34.Bg4= 0.00/19 and White stays safe. f5 35.Bf3]

(Diagram)



34...Ng3+!-+ **35.hxg3** **Qxg3**



36.Be5

[36.Re8+ Rxe8]

[36.Bf7+ Kxf7-+]

36...Bxe5

[36...fxe5? 37.Qf7+ *(37.Rxd5? Qh4+ 38.Kg1 Qxh5-+)* 37...Kh8 38.Re8+ Rxe8 39.Qxe8+ Kh7 40.Bg6+ *(40.a8B? Qxg2#)* 40...Qxg6 41.Qxg6+ *(41.a8R? Qxg2#)* 41...Kxg6 42.a8Q+- *(42.a8B? e4-+)*]

37.Rxe5 **Qxe5** Black is clearly winning.

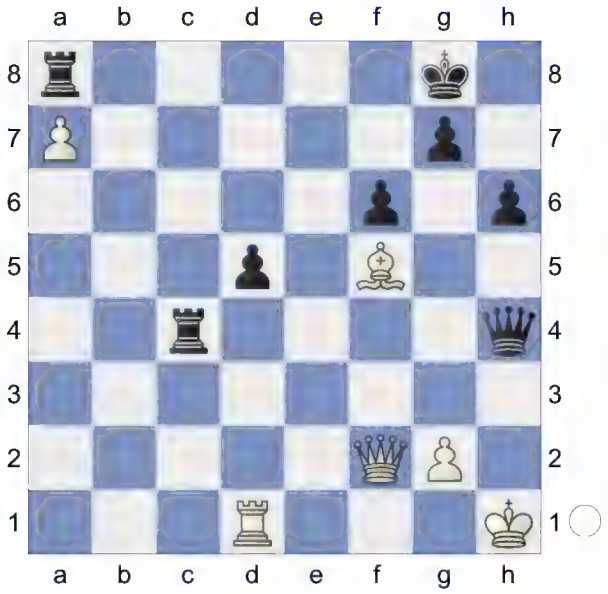
[Inferior is 37...fxe5 38.Bf7+ Kh8 39.Bxd5∓]

38.Bg6 Rc4 39.Qf2 Prevents Rh4+

39...Qg5 40.Bf5 -8.23/17

[⌓40.Bc2 -4.95/16]

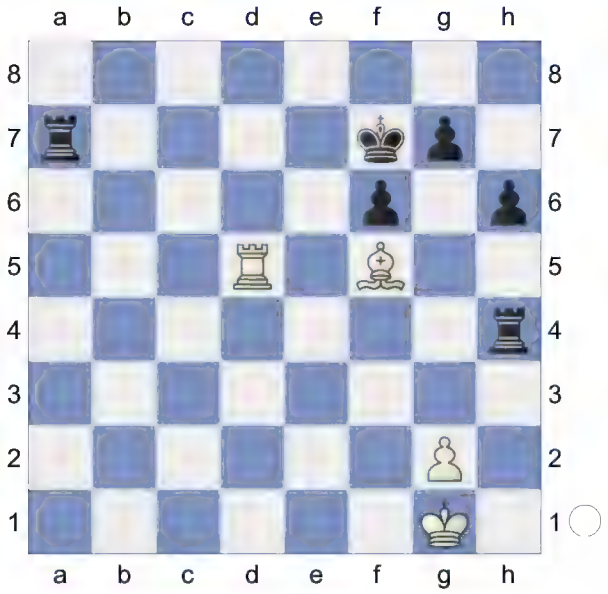
40...Qh4+



41.Qxh4 Rxh4+ 42.Kg1 Rxa7 43.Rxd5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.31

43...Kf7



0-1

134 **E11**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2751**

■ **Solomon,Kenny** **2324**

World-chT Rapid (5.7) 27.08.2023

[Kitty Kat]

E11: Bogo-Indian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7

6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.Rd1 b6 10.b3

[10.Bf4 is more complex. Bb7 11.Ne5 Nh5 12.Bd2]

10...a5

(Diagram)

11.Bc3 Ba6 11...Ne4 is becoming the main line .11...Se4 wird zur Hauptvariante.

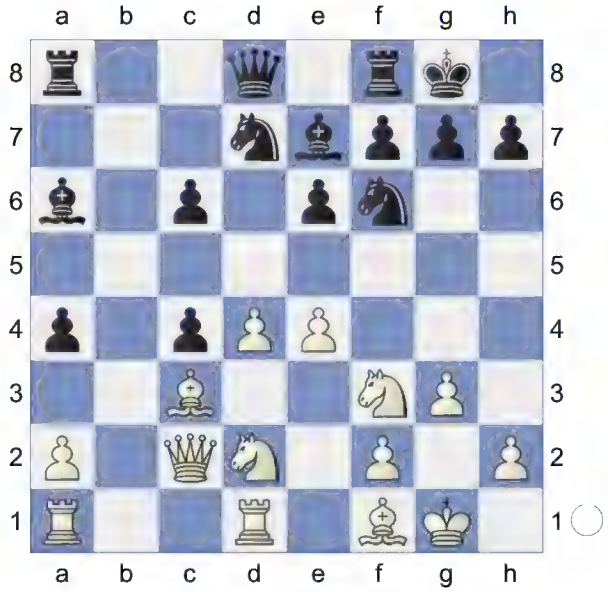
[11...Ne4 12.Bb2 a4 13.Nc3 a3 14.Bc1 f5 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Bf4 Ba6 17.Nxe4 fxe4 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.Bxe5 Rc8 20.Qd2 Bg5 21.e3 Bf6 22.Bxf6 Qxf6 23.Rac1 Bd3 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.Rc1 Qf8 26.Bh3 1-0 (40) Iskusnyh,S (2440)-Sadykov,R (2345) Julius Baer Play In rapid 2023 (5.77)]

12.Nbd2 b5 White is slightly better.

13.e4 dxc4N

[13...bxc4 14.bxc4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Ne5 Nxe5 *(16...f5 17.Nxc6 Qe8 18.Bxa5 Nf6 19.d5 Bb7 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Bc3 exd5 22.Rab1 Rf7 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.cxd5 Rd8 25.d6 Ba6 26.Qc6 Bd3 27.Rxd3 exd3 28.Bd5 Kf8 29.Bxf7 Qxf7 30.Rd1 Qxa2 31.Qc7* 1-0 (40) Ding,L (2791)-Carlsen,M (2863) Carlsen Inv Final 4 rapid 2020 (1.2) *)* 17.dxe5 Qc7 18.Qxe4 Rac8 19.h4 Rfd8 20.h5 h6 21.Bf1 Bb7 22.Bd3 Rxd3 23.Qxd3 Rd8 24.Qe2 c5 25.Rxd8+ Bxd8 26.f3 Bc6 27.Kf2 Be7 28.Rb1 1-0 (41) Peter,W (2690)-Grabinsky,J (2630) 25/743 Bugojno 1978 (8)]

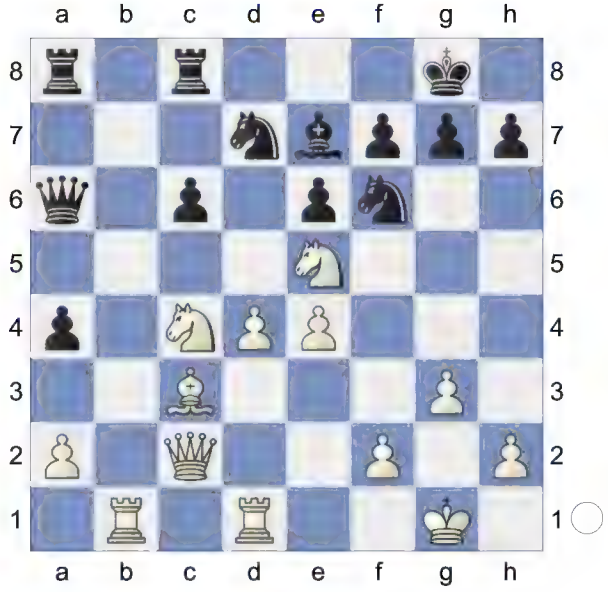
14.bxc4 bxc4 15.Bf1 a4N 0.55/17



16.Bxc4 Bxc4 17.Nxc4 Qc7 18.Rac1 Rfc8 19.Nfe5 Qa7 20.Rb1 0.42/19

[20.Qd3± 0.84/18]

20...Qa6±

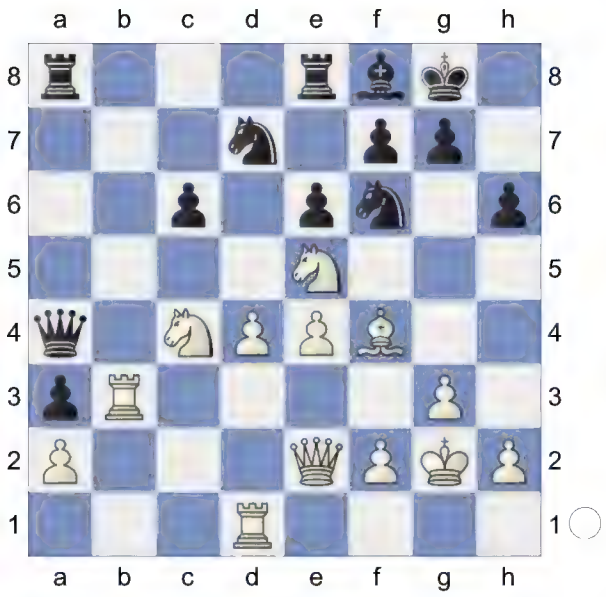


21.Bd2 h6 0.91/23 Wards off Bg5

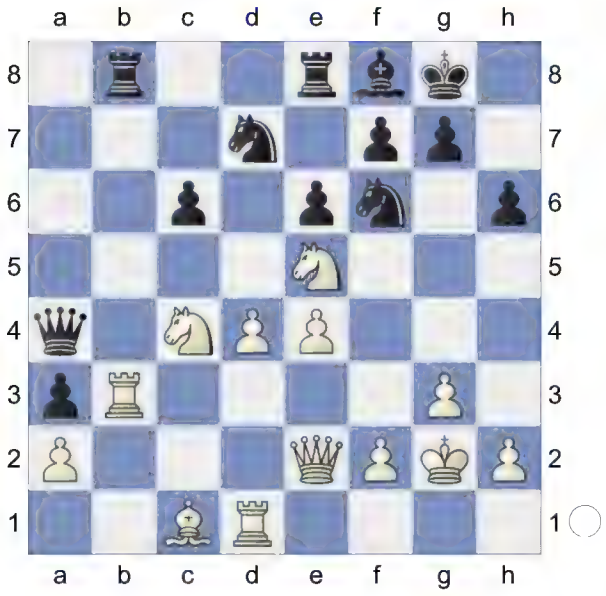
[21...c5± 0.39/20 22.Nxd7 Nxd7]

22.Bf4 a3 23.Kg2 Re8 24.Rb3 Qa4 25.Qe2 Bf8

(Diagram)

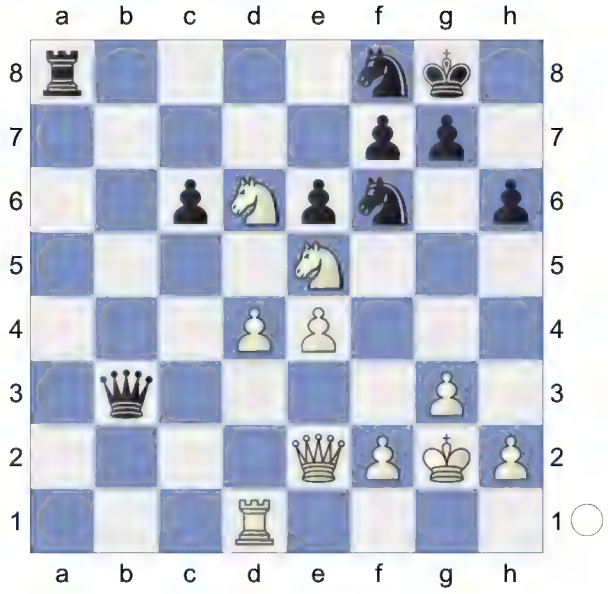


26.Bc1 0.64/19
[26.h4± 1.05/19]
26...Rab8



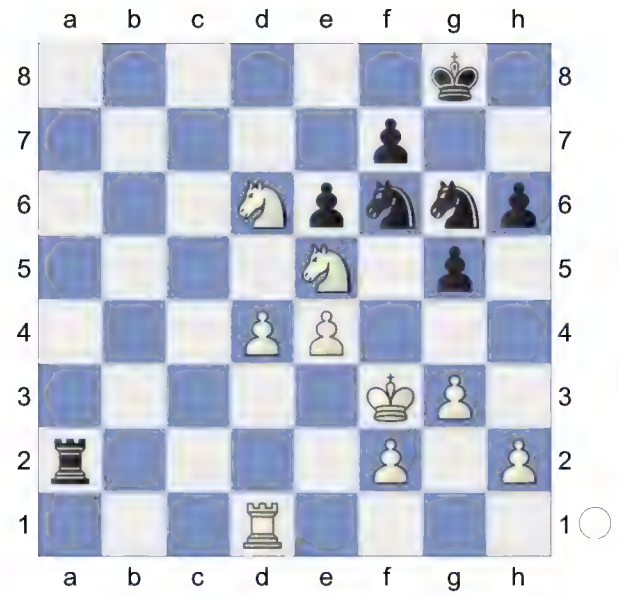
27.Bxa3 0.17/20 White has more active pieces.
[27.Rf3!± 0.79/20]
27...Rxb3= 28.axb3 Qxb3 29.Bxf8 Nxf8 1.44/18
[29...Rxf8= 0.28/19 30.Rd2 *(30.Nxc6 Nxe4 31.Ra1 Nef6=)* 30...Qa4]
30.Nd6±
[30.Nxc6?! Nxe4 31.Ra1 Nf6±]

30...Ra8

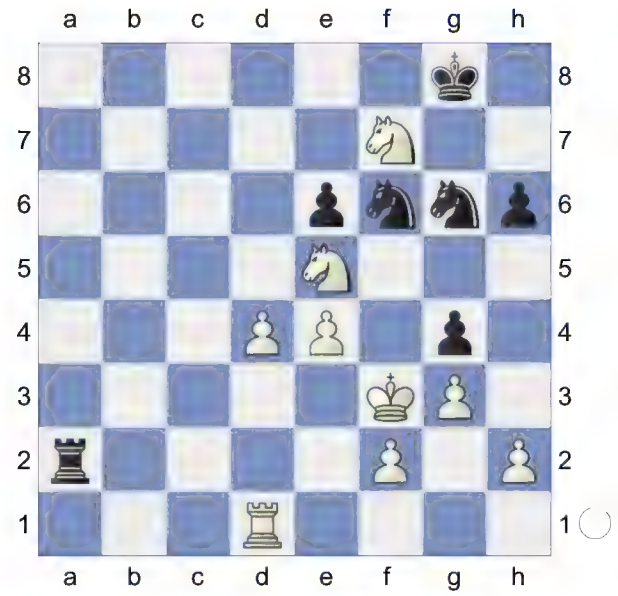


31.Nxc6 0.98/19
[31.Ndxf7?! Nxe4 32.Qf3 *(32.Nxc6 Nxf2 33.Nxh6+ gxh6±; 32.Qg4 Nxf2 33.Nxh6+ Kh7=)* 32...Qxf3+ 33.Kxf3 Nc3=]
[White should try 31.Nexf7 1.51/18 Ng6 32.Qd3 Qxd3 33.Rxd3]
31...Ra2 32.Qf3 Qxf3+ 33.Kxf3 g5 34.Ne5 This move loses the game for Black. **34...Ng6?** 3.04/23
[34...Kg7± 1.34/20 35.Ke3 *(35.Nexf7 Ra3+ 36.Kg2 Nxe4±)* 35...Ra7 36.Ndxf7 Ng6]

(Diagram)

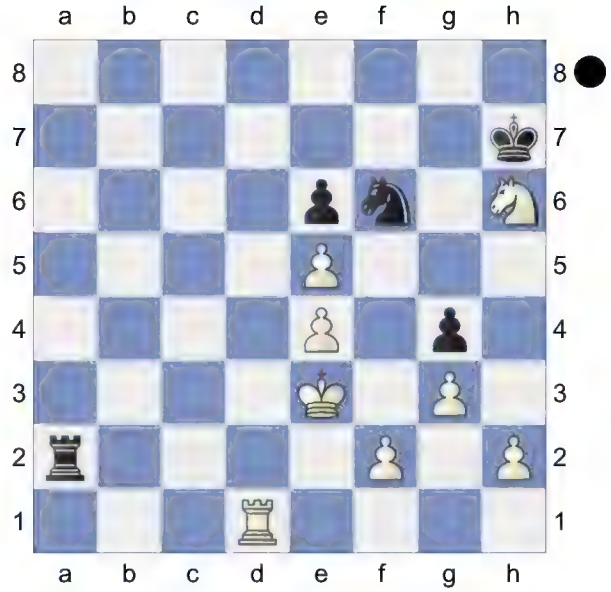


35.Ndxf7 g4+? 3.61/21
[35...Ra3+ 2.02/19 was worth a try. 36.Kg2 Kg7]



36.Ke3!+- Nxe5 37.Nxh6+
[Stronger than 37.dxe5 Kxf7 38.exf6 Kxf6±]
[Much less strong is 37.Nxe5 Ra3+ 38.Nd3 h5+-]
37...Kh7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.29 (precise)

38.dxe5

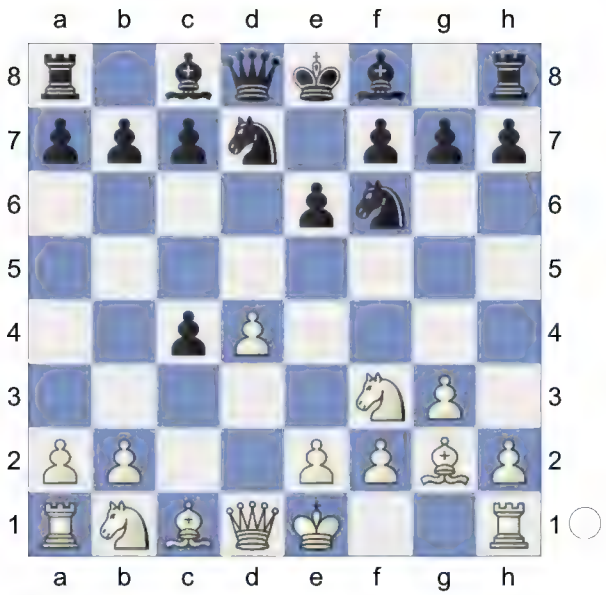


1-0

135 **E04**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2751**
■ **Erigaisi,Arjun Kumar** **2704**
World-chT Rapid (3.2) 26.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

E04: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Nf3 Nbd7

(Diagram)



6.0-0 c6! 6...c6 is better than 6...Rb8. 6...c6 ist besser als 6...Tb8. **7.a4 a5!**

8.Bg5N 0.10/21

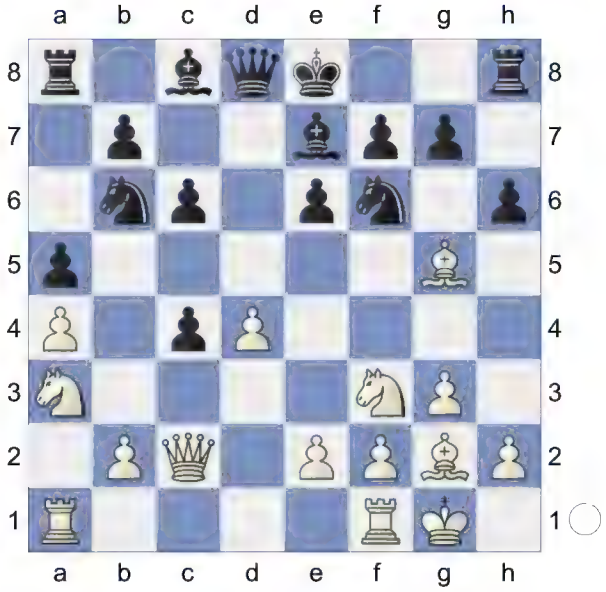
[8.Qc2!± 0.67/17 b5 *(8...Nd5 9.Qxc4 Nb4 10.Bf4 Be7 11.Rd1 b6 12.Qc1 Ba6 13.Nc3 0-0 14.h4 Rc8 15.Qd2 h6 16.Rac1 Nf6 17.Ne5 Nfd5 18.Bxh6 gxh6 19.Qxh6 Bf6 20.Be4* 1-0 Muradli,M (2539)-Vokhidov,S (2601) chess.com (Int.-m/2-rapid) 155/(170) 2023*)* 9.Ne5 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nd5 11.axb5 cxb5 12.Nc3 Qb6 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.Bxd5 Ra7 15.Qe4 *(15.b3 Bc5 16.bxc4 b4 17.Qe4 0-0 18.Kg2 b3 19.Bb2 a4 20.Ra3 Qh6 21.Rd1 Qh3+ 22.Kg1 Qf5 23.Qxf5 Bxf5 24.e4 Bg4 25.Rda1 Bd7 26.Kf1 Rb8 27.Ke2 Ra6 28.h4 g6 29.f4 h5* ½-½ (55) Gelfand,B (2648)-Erigaisi,A (2397) FIDE World Rapid Championship 2021 (3.8)*)* 15...Bc5 16.Bc6+ Bd7 17.Bxd7+ Rxd7 18.Qa8+ Rd8 19.Qxa5 Qc6 20.Qa6 Qxa6 21.Rxa6 0-0 22.Kg2 11. Open Catalan,o-5... Nbd7 #6]

[8.Nc3 Bb4 9.e4 0-0 10.Qc2 Re8 11.Rd1 Qe7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Nd2 N7b6 14.Nce4 Qc7 15.Nxc4 Nxc4 16.Qxc4 b6 17.Qc2 Be7 18.Bg5 Bf8 19.Rac1 Bb7 20.Qe2 Qd7 21.Qg4 Kh8 22.Qh4 Rac8 1-0 (33) C 06/32 (2693)-Pina,J (2525) DDR-corr H/119 1984 (1)]

8...Be7N

[Vorgänger: 8...h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nbd2! e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Qxe5 13.Nxc4 Qc5! 14.Qb3 Be7! 15.Rac1 Nb6 would now be deadly. Qb4 -0.02/18 *(15...Qa7∓* -0.40/21 *)* 16.Qxb4= Bxb4 ½-½ Kamsky,G (2658)-Vallejo Pons,F (2704) Bundesliga 2122 2022 (13.7)]

9.Na3 Nb6 10.Qc2 White is slightly better. **10...h6**



11.Bxf6 0.11/18

[11.Bd2± 0.62/18]

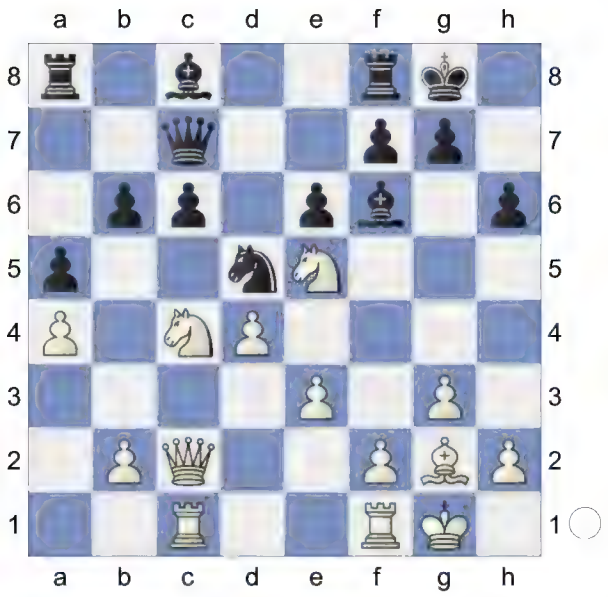
11...Bxf6= 12.Nxc4 0-0 13.e3 Nd5

[13...Nxc4 simplifies 14.Qxc4 Qe7 15.Ne5 Rd8]

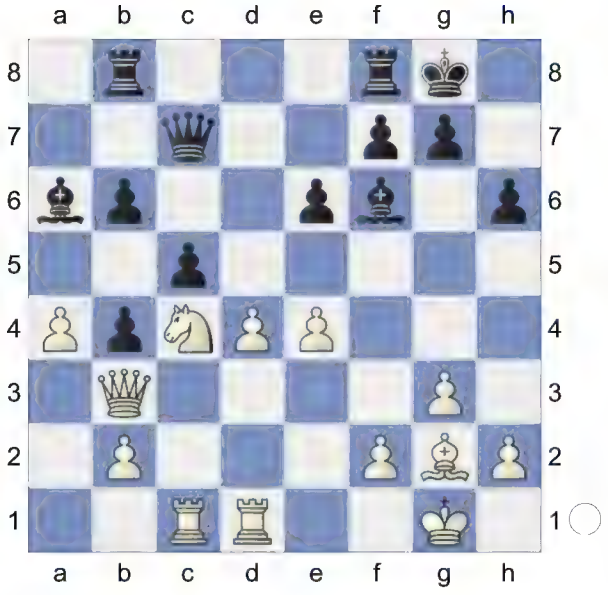
14.Nfe5 Qc7 15.Rac1 b6 0.43/21

[15...b5= 0.01/20 16.axb5 cxb5]

(Diagram)

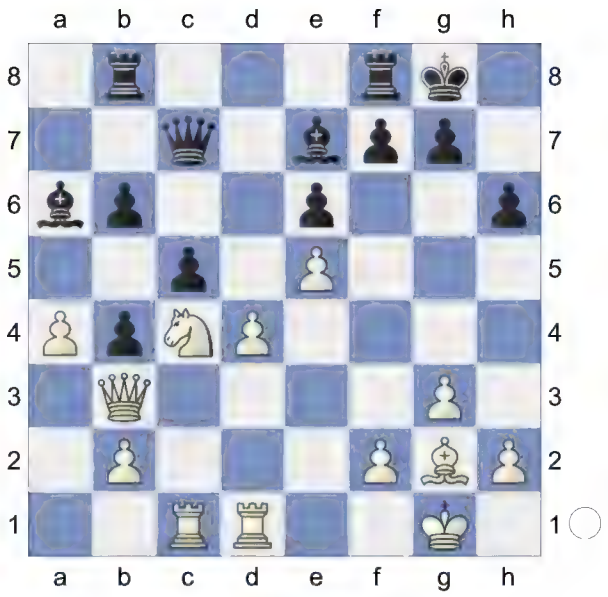


16.Qb3 Ba6 17.Rfd1 Rab8 18.Nd3 c5 19.e4 Nb4 1.15/21
[19...Ne7!= -0.25/20 keeps the balance. 20.e5 Bg5]
20.Nxb4± axb4

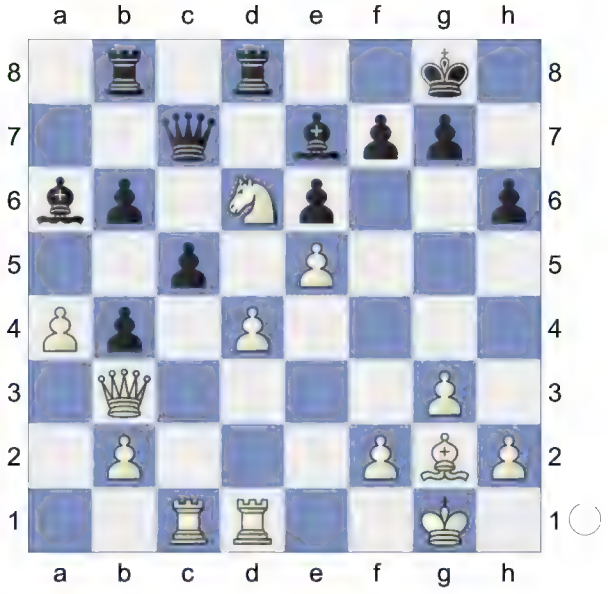


21.e5 Be7

(Diagram)



22.Nd6! Rfd8
[22...Bg5 23.f4]

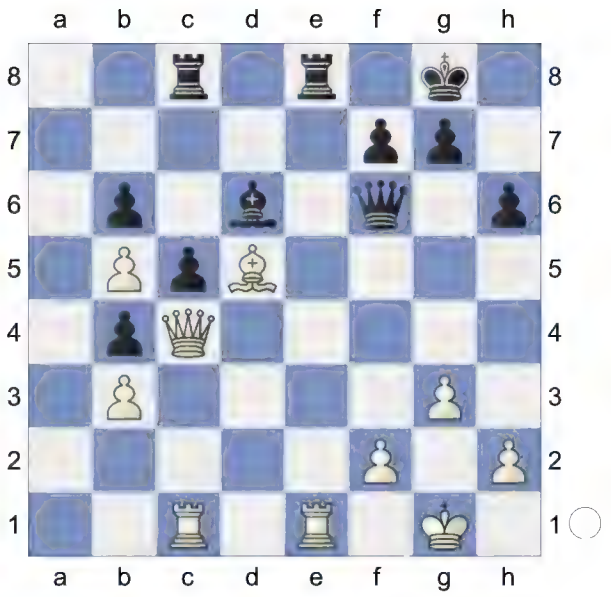


23.Nb5 0.69/20 White is much more active.
[23.a5!± 1.27/22]
23...Bxb5± 24.axb5 Rbc8 Black is weak on the light squares **25.Qa2** -0.12/19
[Better is 25.f4!± 0.64/19]
25...Qb8!=

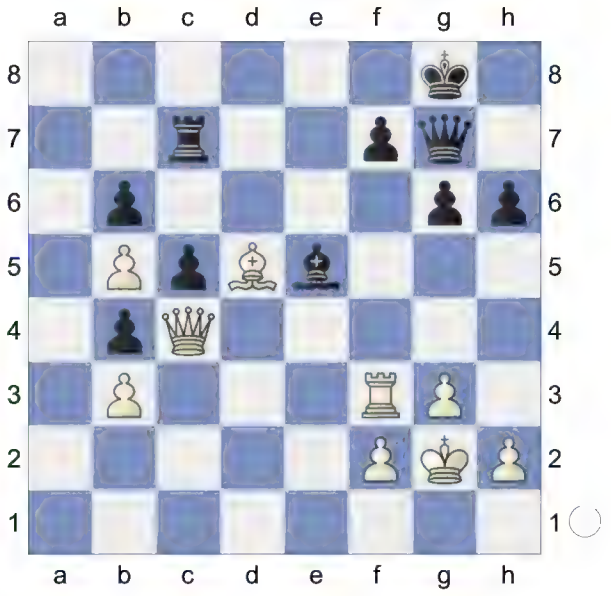
(Diagram)

26.d5 Qxe5 27.Re1 Qf6
[27...Ra8? 28.Qxa8+-]
28.Qc4 -1.05/19
[28.dxe6∓ -0.60/19 Rd2 29.exf7+ Qxf7 30.Qxf7+ Kxf7 31.b3]
28...exd5 -0.21/19
[Black should try 28...Qxb2∓ -1.05/19 and ...e5 would now be decisive 29.dxe6 f5]
29.Bxd5 Bd6 0.24/22
[29...Rd7 -0.22/19 feels stronger.]
30.b3 -0.20/20
[⌓30.Re3 0.24/22]
30...Re8

(Diagram)

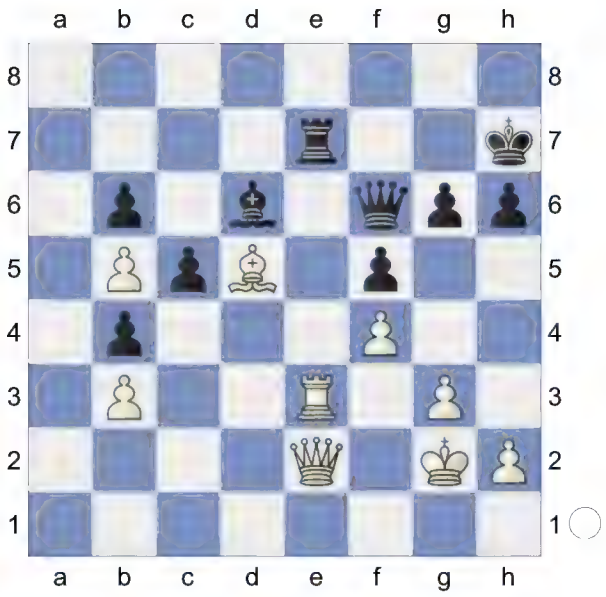


The position is equal. **31.Kg2 Re5 32.Rcd1 Rc7 33.Rxe5 Bxe5 34.Rd3 g6 35.Rf3 Qg7**



36.Qg4 Kh7 37.Qc4 f5 38.Re3 Re7 39.Qe2 Qf6 40.f4 Bd6

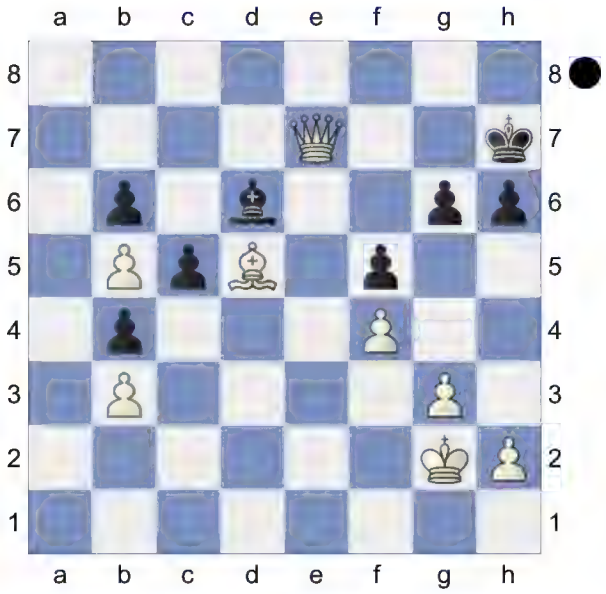
(Diagram)



41.Rxe7+ Qxe7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)

42.Qxe7+



½-½

136 **D37**

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2835**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**

FIDE World Cup (6.2) 16.08.2023

[Kitty Kat]

D37: Queen's Gambit Declined: 5 Bf4

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.a3N

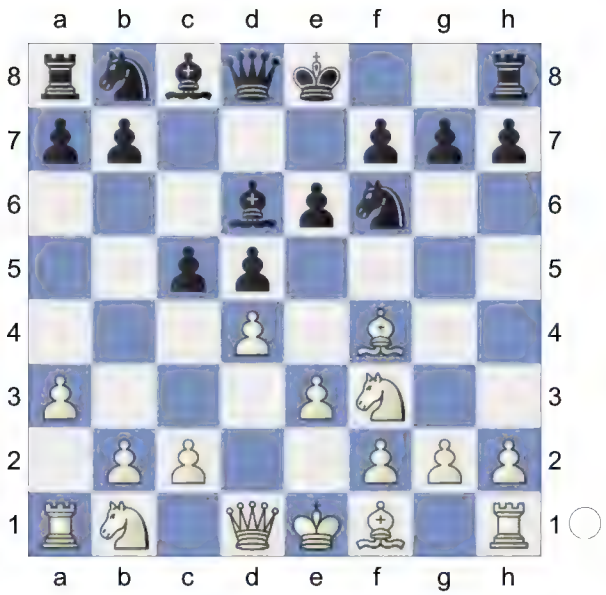
[3.c4 c5 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Ndb5 d4 7.Qa4 Bd7 8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.cxd5 a6 10.e4 Qb6 11.Bd2 Bxb5 12.Qb3 Nd7 Chapter Part-Game Chapter Part 7 (2)]

[3.e3 c5 4.c4 cxd4 5.exd4 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Bf4 *(10.Be2 Nc6 11.0-0 b6* The Rest On the way to the Queen's Gambit Declin) 10...Nc6 11.Be2 b6 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Rfe1 Rc8 14.Qb2 Na5 15.Nd2 Qd5 16.Bf1 Qf5 17.Bg3 e6 ½-½ (28) Kluegel,J (2500)-Nickel,A (2630) 30/A (SUI) ICCF 2015]

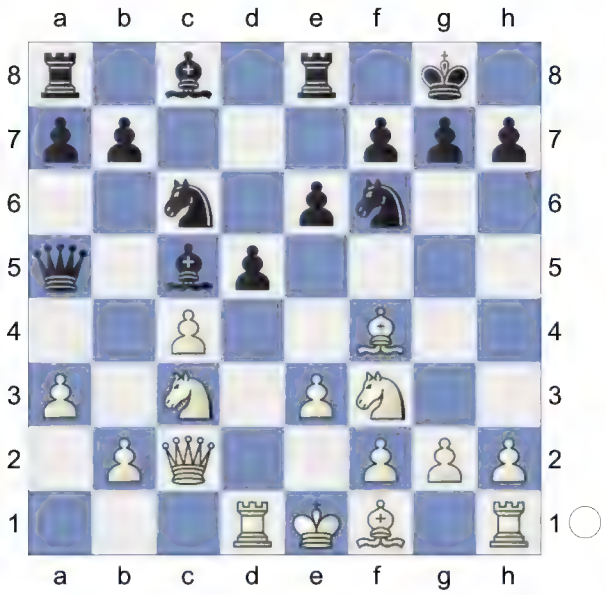
[3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Nc3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Nc6 10.Be3 Bf6 11.Qd3 Qa5 12.Rfd1 Rd8 13.Bg5 Bxg5 14.Nxg5 g6 15.Qf3 Qc7 16.dxc5 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Ne5 1-0 (51) Venskaya,N (1871)-Sovetbekova,N (1940) Swiss Queens Wed #39 blitz 2024 (9)]

3...e6 4.Bf4 c5 5.e3 Bd6

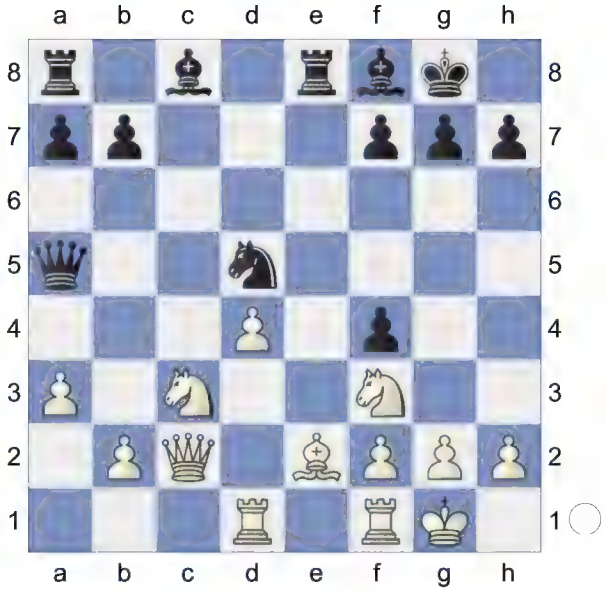
(Diagram)



6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.c4 0-0 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.Qc2 Qa5 10.Rd1 Re8

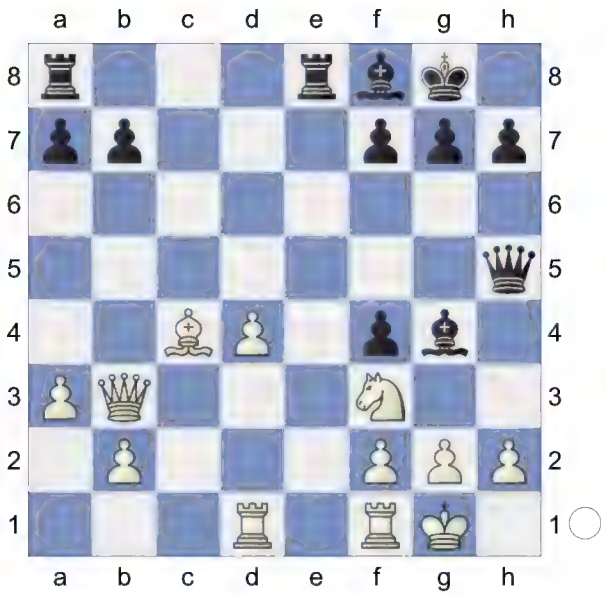


11.Bd3 -0.36/20
[11.Nd2! e5 12.Bg5 Nd4 13.Qc1 0.00/49 *(13.Qb1!± 0.91/24)* 13...Bf5!= ...Nc2+ would now be deadly. 14.Bxf6! Nc2+ 15.Ke2 Nd4+! 16.Ke1! Nc2+ 17.Ke2 Nd4+! 18.Ke1! Nc2+]
[11.Nd2!± 0.67/23]
11...e5∓ 12.cxd5! Nd4 0.58/22
is now more promising than 12...a6. im Vergleich zu 12...a6 vielversprechender.
[12...exf4 13.dxc6 fxe3 0.53/20 *(Black should try 13...Bb6!∓* -0.42/19 *14.e4 bxc6)* 14.b4± exf2+ 15.Kf1 Ng4? 2.13/19 *(15...Bxb4!±* 0.46/21 *16.axb4 Qxb4)* 16.Nd5+- Qd8 3.11/19 *(⌓16...Qxa3* 2.10/19 *17.bxc5 Be6)* 17.Qxc5 1.77/19 *(⌓17.h3* 3.11/19 *g6 18.hxg4 bxc6 19.Qxc5 cxd5 20.Qd4)* 17...bxc6+- 0-1 Hernandez Sanchez,E (2308)-Andres Gonzalez,A (2515) San Sebastian op 38th 2015 (6) 18.Nc3 Threatens to win with Bxh7+!. Qf6]
[12...exf4∓ -0.31/20 13.dxc6 Bb6 *(13...fxe3 14.b4±)*]
13.exd4±
[13.Nxd4 exd4 14.b4 Qxa3 15.bxc5 dxc3=]
13...exf4+ 14.Be2 Bf8 15.0-0 Nxd5

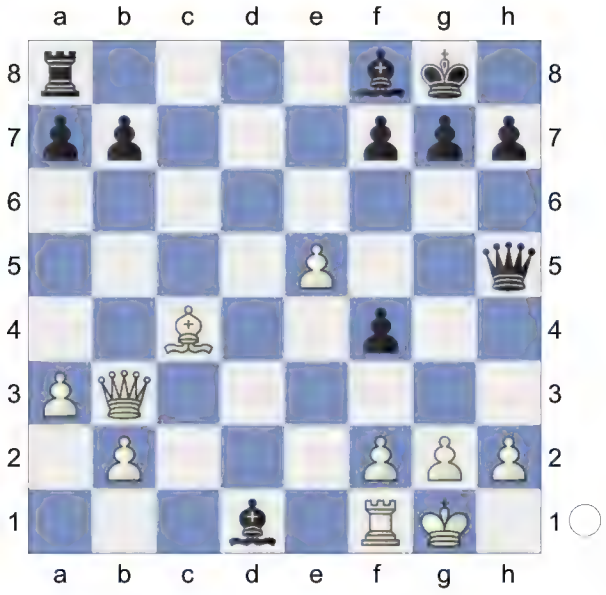


16.Nxd5 Qxd5N 17.Bc4 Qh5 1.33/19
[17...Qf5!± 0.58/20 18.Qb3 Be6]
18.Qb3 0.37/18
[18.Rde1!± 1.33/19 Bg4 19.Re5 Rxe5 20.Nxe5]
18...Bg4±

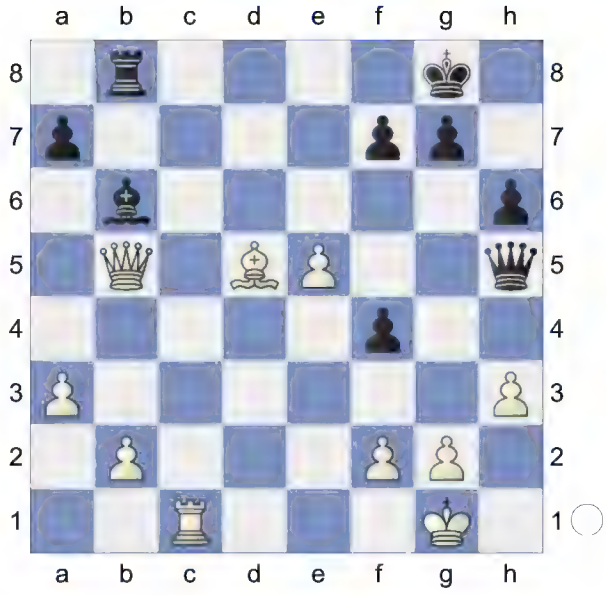
(Diagram)



19.Ne5! Rxe5! 20.dxe5 Bxd1

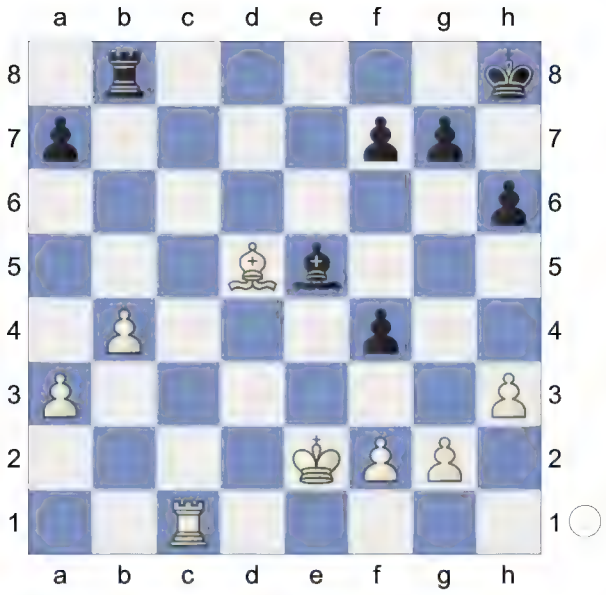


21.Rxd1
[21.Qxd1 Qxe5 22.Qd7 Qe7=]
21...b5 Black is weak on the light squares **22.Bd5**
[22.Bxb5 Rb8 23.e6 a6 *(23...Qxb5? 24.exf7+ Kh8 25.Qxb5+-)* 24.exf7+ Kh8-+]
[22.Bxf7+!? Qxf7 23.e6±]
22...Rb8 23.h3 Bc5 24.Rc1 Bb6 25.Qxb5 h6? 3.14/21
[25...Qxe5? 26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.Qxe5+-]
[25...Bxf2+? 26.Kxf2 Rd8 *(26...Qh4+? 27.Kg1+-)* 27.Kg1+-]
[25...Qf5± 0.42/21 26.Qc4 Re8]

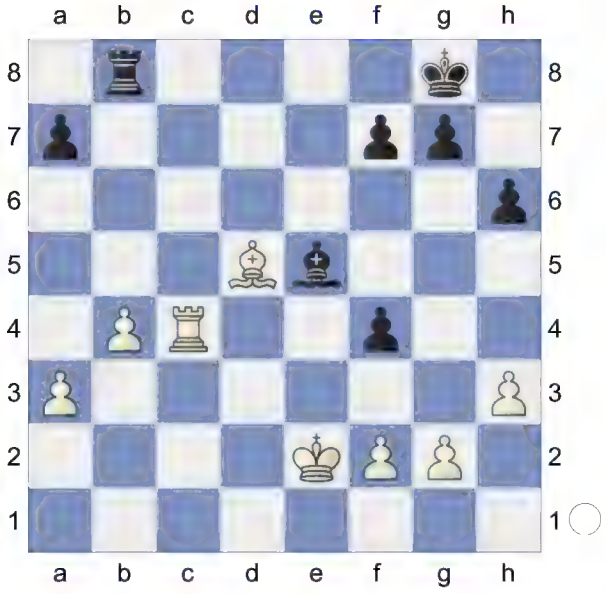


26.Kf1? 0.26/19
[26.e6!+- 3.14/21 Qe5 *(26...Bxf2+? 27.Kxf2 Rxb5 28.exf7++-)* 27.exf7+ Kf8 28.Qb4+ Qe7 29.Qxf4]
26...Kh8 27.Qe2 White is more active. **27...Qxe2+ 28.Kxe2** Endgame KRB-KRB. White is a pawn up. **28...Bd4 29.b4**
[29.Bxf7 Rxb2+ 30.Kf3 Bxe5]
29...Bxe5

(Diagram)

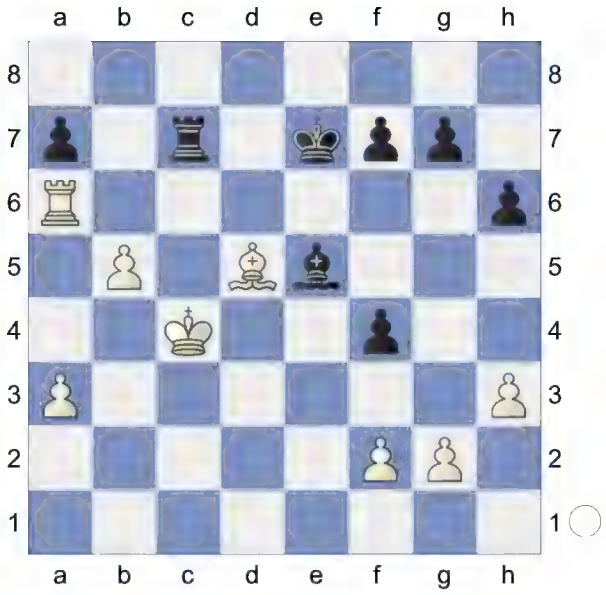


30.Rc4 0.34/18
[30.Rc5!± 0.95/22]
30...Kg8

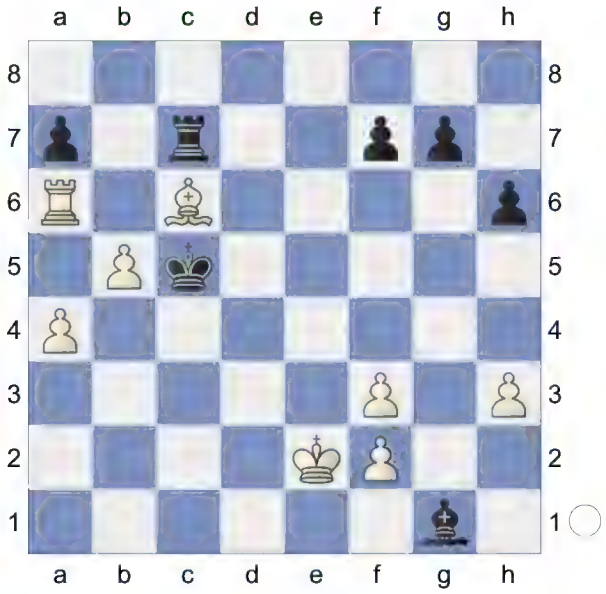


31.Kd3 Kf8 32.Rc6 Rd8 33.Kc4 Rd7 34.Ra6 Ke7 35.b5 Rc7+

(Diagram)



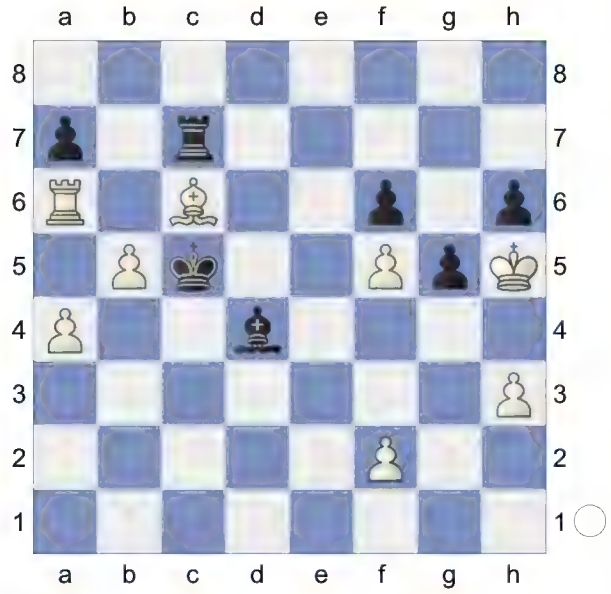
36.Bc6 f3 37.gxf3 Bh2 38.Kd3 Bg1 0.75/21
[38...Kd6= 0.22/21]
39.Ke2 0.37/20
[39.Ke3± 0.75/21]
39...Kd6 0.88/21
[39...Bh2± 0.37/20]
40.a4 0.05/22
[40.f4± 0.88/21]
40...Kc5 0.48/24
[40...Re7+= 0.05/22
is more appropriate. 41.Kf1 Bh2]



41.f4 Bh2 42.Kf3 g5! White now steadily converts the win. **43.f5 f6?** 3.96/19

[43...h5± 0.91/17 is more resistant.]

44.Kg4+- Be5 45.Kh5 Bd4

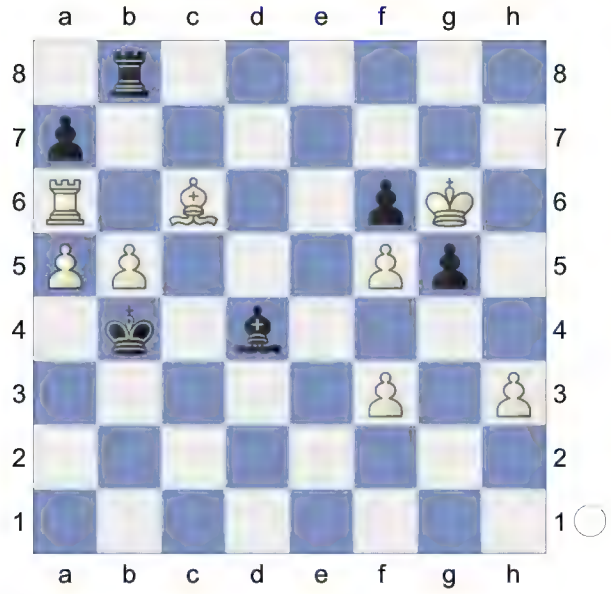


46.f3

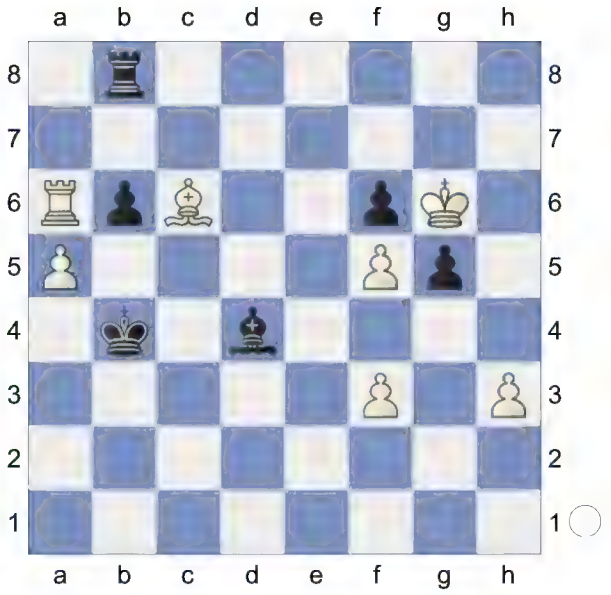
[Weaker is 46.Kxh6 Bxf2 47.Be8 Bd4+-]

46...Kb4 47.Kxh6 Rc8 48.Kg6 Rh8 49.a5 Rb8? 5.08/20

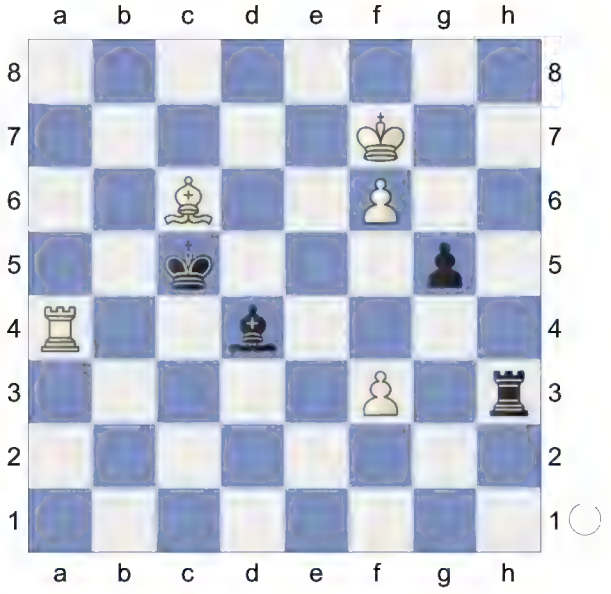
[49...Rc8 3.03/17 50.b6 axb6]



50.b6! Deflection **50...axb6**



51.axb6 Bxb6 52.Kxf6 White is clearly winning. **52...Bd4+ 53.Kf7 Rh8 54.f6 Rxh3 55.Ra4+ Kc5**



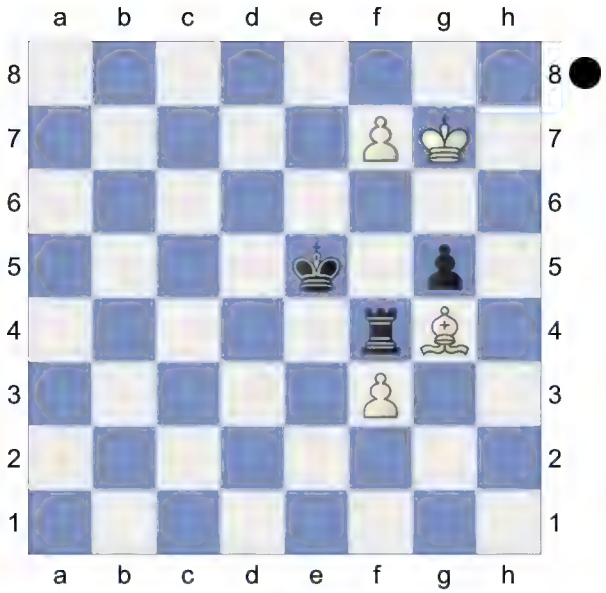
56.Rxd4 Promotion **56...Kxd4 57.Kg7 Rh4 58.Bd7**

[Worse is 58.f7 Rf4=]

58...Rf4 59.Bg4 Vorgänger: **59...Ke5** Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.54

60.f7

(Diagram)

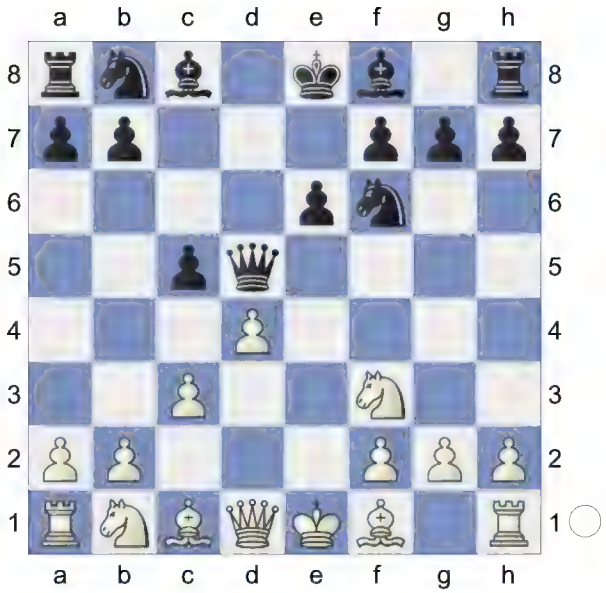


An unexpected result.
½-½

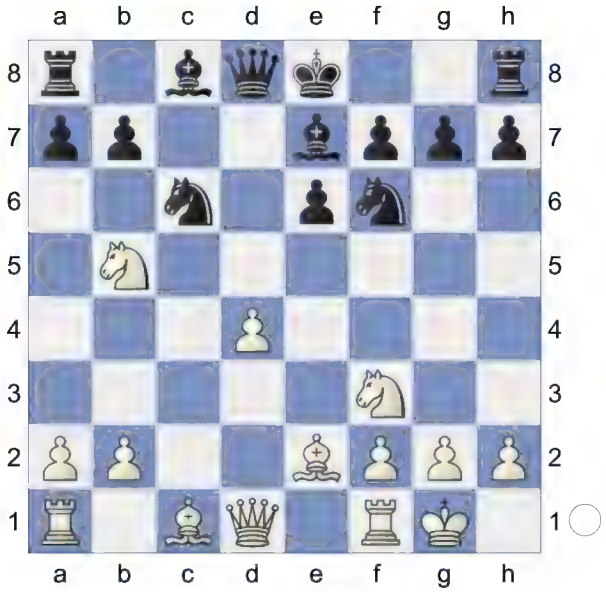
137 **B22**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2835**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**
FIDE World Cup 2023 (6.2) 16.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B22: Sicilian: 2 c3
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 e6
[5...Bg4 6.dxc5 Qxc5 7.Na3 a6 8.Be3 Qc7 9.h3 Bh5 10.Qa4+ Nbd7 11.0-0-0 e6 12.g4 Bg6 13.Bg2 Be4 14.Nb5 Qb8 15.Na7 Rxa7 16.Bxa7 Qxa7 17.Rxd7 Nxd7 18.Qxe4 Bc5 19.Nd4 Bxd4 20.cxd4 ½-½ (31) 6. ♘c6 bc6 7.e5 ♘d5 8. ♘d (2645)-Lopez Ziegler,J (2560) 75/461 Israel 1999 (1.1)]

(Diagram)

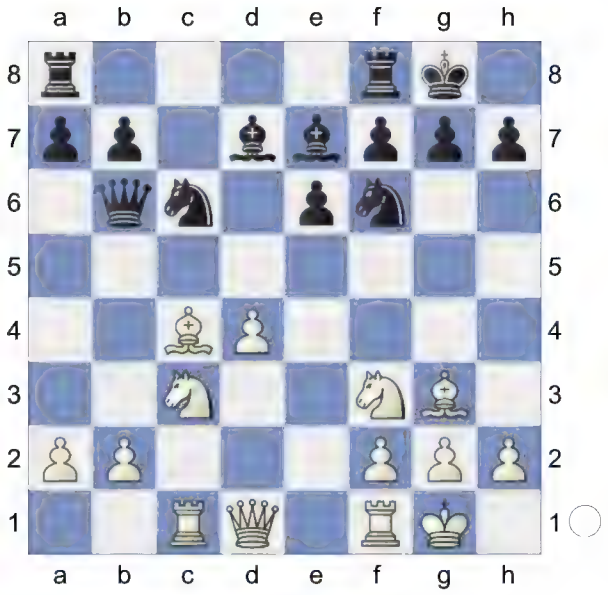


6.Be2 cxd4N
[6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 Qd8 9.Nc3 cxd4 10.Qxd4 Bd7 11.Ne5 Nc6 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Qxd8 Rfxd8 14.Be3 Kf8 B 22/31 2000]
7.cxd4 Nc6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.Nb5 Qd8



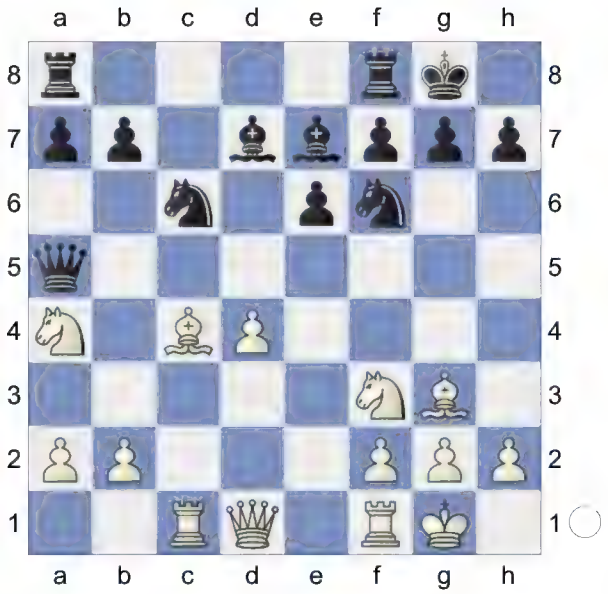
11.Bf4 Nd5 12.Bg3 0-0! is now more promising than 12...a6.im Vergleich zu 12...a6 vielversprechender. **13.Rc1 Bd7 14.Nc3 Qb6 15.Bc4 Nf6**

(Diagram)



16.Na4 Qa5N

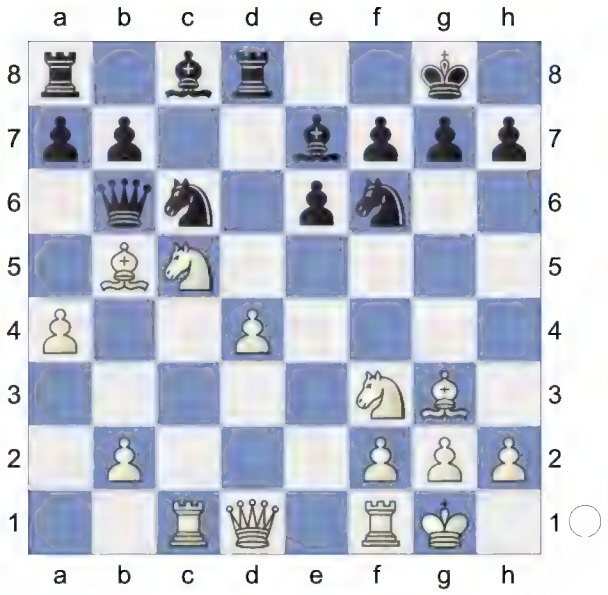
[Vorgänger: 16...Qd8 17.Nc5 Bc8 18.Bb5 Qb6 19.Qa4 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bxc5 21.Nb3 Bd6 22.Bh4 Nd5 0-1 Hernandez Sanchez,E (2308)-Andres Gonzalez,A (2515) San Sebastian op 38th 2015 (6)]



17.Nc5! Bc8 18.a3 Qd8 0.63/19

[18...Nxd4= 0.26/18 19.b4 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 Qb6]

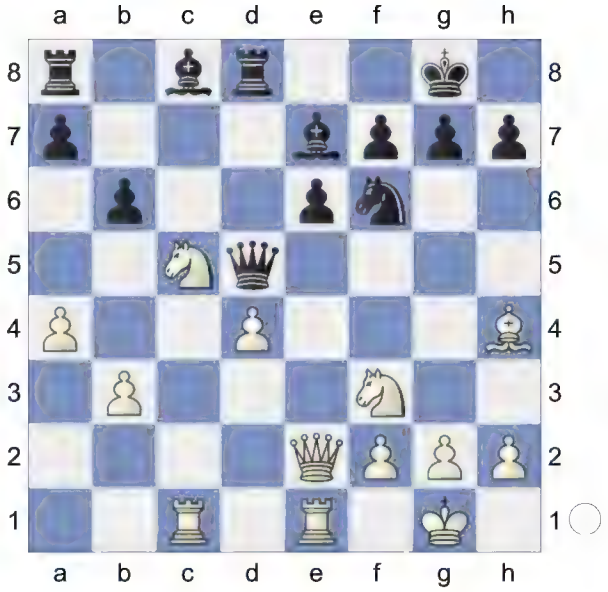
19.Bb5 White is more active. **19...Qb6 20.a4 Rd8**



21.Qe2 Rd5

[21...Nxd4?! 22.Nxd4 Rxd4 *(22...Bxc5? 23.a5+-)* 23.Nb3±]

22.Bxc6 Qxc6 23.b3 Rd8 24.Bh4 Qd5 25.Rfe1 b6



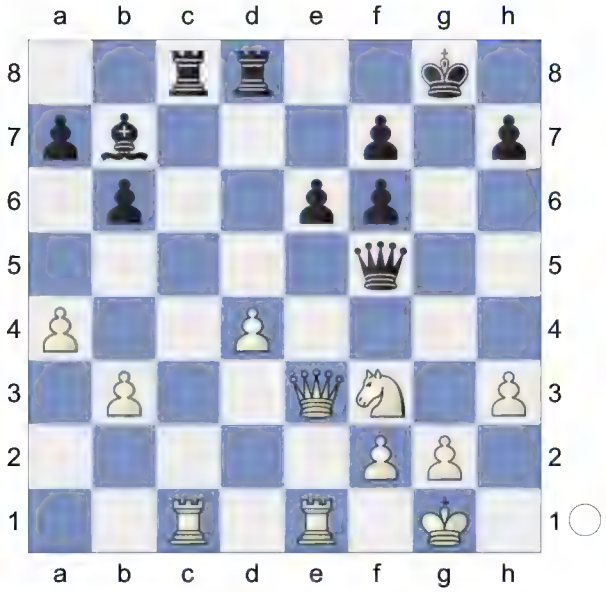
26.Ne4 Bb7 Hoping for ...Qxb3!

[26...Qxb3 27.Ne5 Rxd4 *(27...Qxa4? 28.Nxf6+ Bxf6 29.Bxf6+-)* 28.Nxf6+ Bxf6 *(28...gxf6? 29.Qh5+-)* 29.Bxf6 gxf6 30.Ng4±]

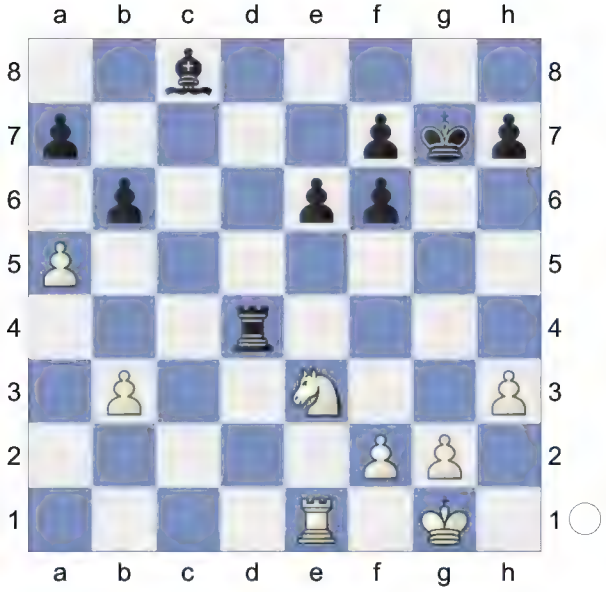
27.Bxf6 Bxf6 28.Nxf6+ gxf6 29.Qe3 Rac8 -0.01/22

[29...Qf5∓ -0.49/22]

30.h3 -0.52/19
[Better is 30.Qf4= -0.01/22]
30...Qf5∓

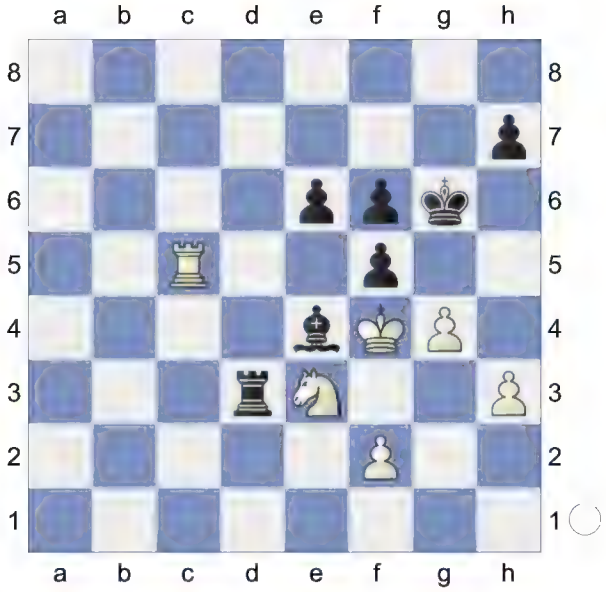


31.Nh2 Qg5 32.Ng4 Kg7 33.a5 Qxe3
[33...bxa5 34.Qxg5+ fxg5 35.Rxc8 Bxc8 *(35...Rxc8 36.Ra1=)* 36.Rc1=]
34.Nxe3 Rxd4
[34...bxa5 35.Rxc8 Bxc8 *(35...Rxc8 36.Ra1∓)* 36.Rc1∓]
35.Rxc8 Bxc8∓



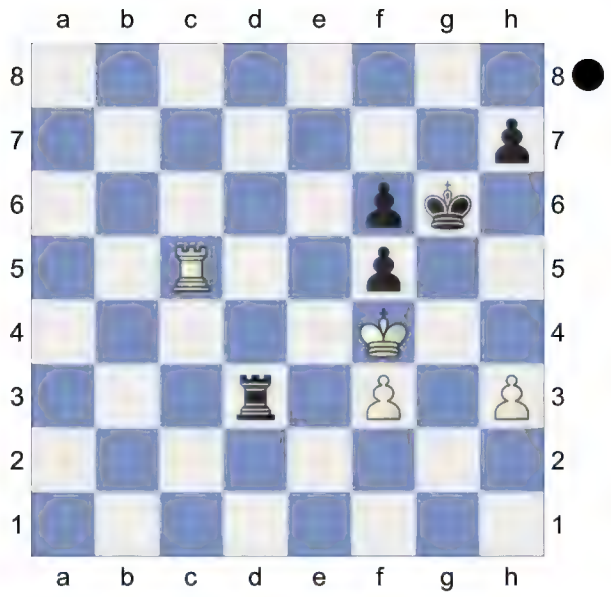
Endgame. K R B - K R N **36.Rc1**
Threatens to win with axb6. **36...Bd7**
37.Rc7 bxa5 38.Rxa7 a4 39.bxa4 Bxa4 40.Ra5 Kg6

41.g4 Bc6 42.Rc5 Be4 43.Kh2 Rd3 44.Kg3 f5 45.Kf4 f6

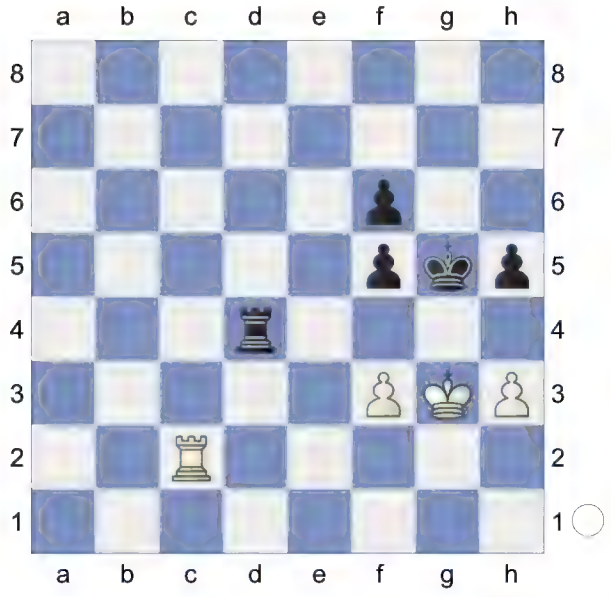


White must now prevent ...e5+. **46.gxf5+ Bxf5 47.Nxf5 exf5∓** KR-KR **48.f3** -0.85/27
[48.Rxf5∓ -0.45/29 is superior. h5 *(48...Rxh3 49.Ra5=)* 49.Rc5]

(Diagram)

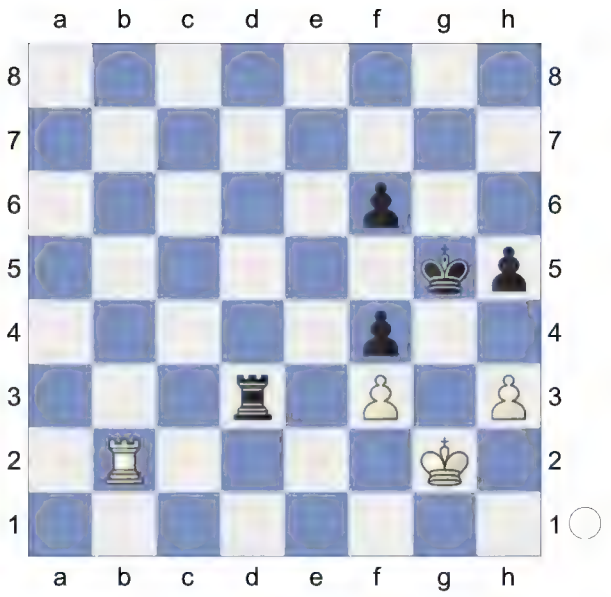


48...Rd4+!∓ 49.Kg3 Kg5 50.Rc2 h5

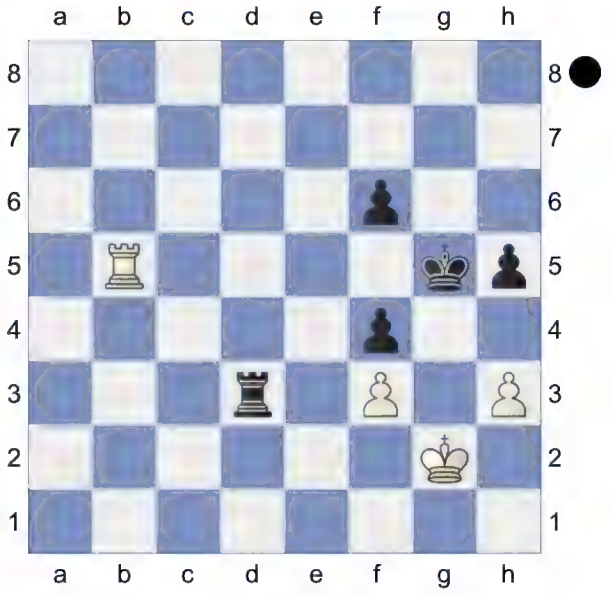


51.Ra2 f4+ 52.Kg2 Kh4 53.Kh2 Rd7 54.Rb2 Rd3 55.Kg2= Kg5

(Diagram)

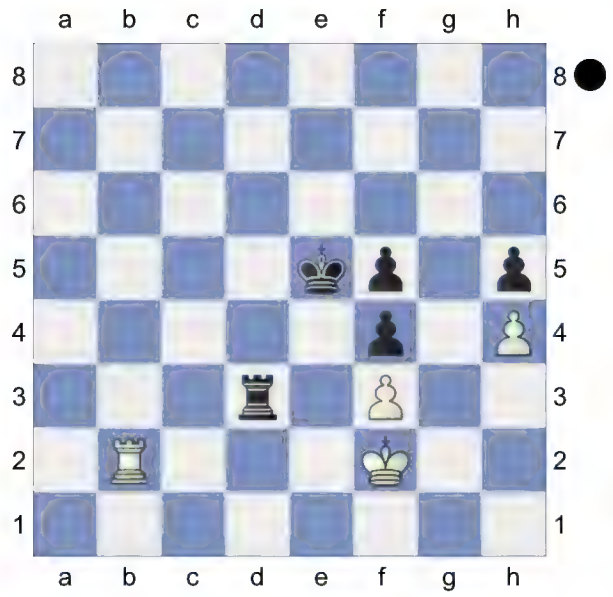


56.Rb5+



f5! 57.Rb2 Kf6 -0.01/32
[57...Ra3∓ -0.73/31]
58.h4= Ke5 59.Kf2

(Diagram)



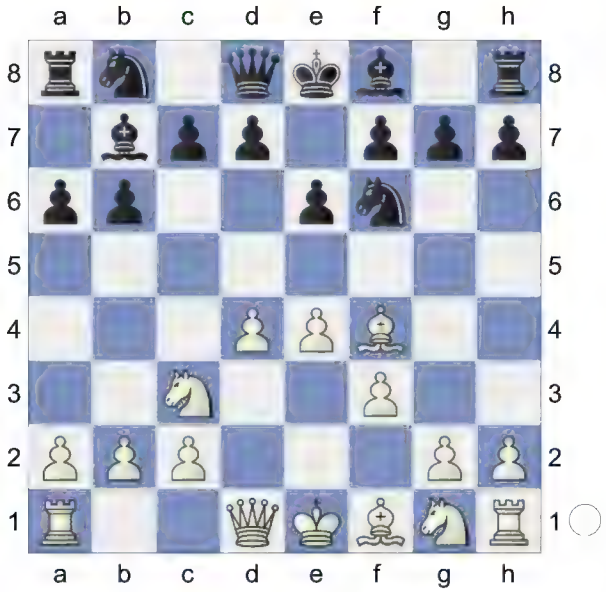
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
½-½

138 **A45**
Gukesh,Dommaraju **2744**
Carlsen,Magnus **2835**
FIDE World Cup 2023 (6.1) 15.08.2023
[Richard Palliser]

A45: Trompowsky Attack
1.d4 Nf6
[1...d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 g6 *(3...Nbd7 4.f4 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.0-0 b6 7.Nbd2 Bb7 8.c3 0-0 9.Ne5 Ne4 10.a4 a6 11.Qb3 Nd6 12.a5 b5 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Qc2 e6 15.Nb3 Bc6 16.Nc5 Qc8 17.Be2 Rd8 18.b3* 1-0 (36) Can,E (2483)-Erdogan,H (2234) ch-TUR Kemer-Antalya TUR 2011 (6.3)*)* 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c3 b6 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.Bd2 Qc8 10.Be1 Ba6 11.Bh4 Qb7 12.Ne5 Bxd3 13.Nxd3 Ne4 14.f5 Nc6 15.Nd2 c4 16.Nf4 0-1 (25) Abdulla,A (2359)-Rausis,I (2525) Goodricke 12th op 2001 (5)]
2.Bf4 b6N
[2...c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.a4 Na6 8.Be2 Nc7 9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nd7 12.Qd2 a6 13.Be2 Rb8 14.a5 b5 15.axb6 Rxb6 16.Nd1 Benoni Benko Defense-3...d6 with 4...g6 #2]
3.Nc3!?
[A new move for us, as Gukesh was quick to counter Carlsen's small surprise in Jobava-Prie fashion. The alternative is to stay in classic London waters, as we saw in Henriquez Villagra-Ivanchuk, or to follow up 3.e3 Bb7 4.Nf3 g6 with 5.c4!? , as in Prie-Abergel, Nimes 2009 - see the Archive.]
3...Bb7 4.f3 Preparing e2-e4 so is certainly critical here. **4...e6**
[Carlsen isn't in a rush to contest the centre. Other recent games have seen Black prefer 4...d5 when 5.e4!? dxe4 *(5...e6 6.Nb5! Na6 7.e5 Nd7 8.c3 c6 9.Nd6+ Bxd6 10.exd6 0-0 11.Bd3* isn't completely clear, but felt like it might be promising for White at this stage in Liang-Wang, Saint Louis 2023 *)* 6.Bb5+!? *(*the simple *6.fxe4* would improve, with the idea of *Nxe4 7.Qf3! Nd6 8.Bb5+ c6 9.Bd3* with decent compensation for the pawn *)* 6...c6 7.Bc4 was the course of Edouard-David, Cap d'Agde (blitz) 2022, where b5!? 8.Bb3 a5 9.a3 e6! leaves White with insufficient compensation according to Stockfish, and if 10.fxe4?! *(10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.fxe4 c5 12.Nf3 c4* must also be at least comfortable for Black*)* 10...a4 11.Ba2 b4 12.axb4 Bxb4 13.Nge2 Ba6 14.0-0 a3 when White has definitely come under some

pressure.]

5.e4 a6



Keeping White out of b5 ahead of striking back in the centre. **6.Qd2 d5**

7.0-0-0!?

[An aggressive novelty. Previously, 7.exd5 -0.20/20 7.e5 0.16 Nxd5 0.33/19 *(7...Bxd5=* -0.20/20 *8.0-0-0 b5)* 8.Nxd5± Bxd5 9.Bd3 Bd6 hadn't seemed too bad for Black in Lantos-Karacsonyi, Hungarian League 2016.]

7...Bb4

[Carlsen sensibly declines the pawn. The engines also wonder about 7...b5!? ,]

[but 7...dxe4 0.29/19 7...b5 -0.13 8.Nxe4 *(*to avoid *8.fxe4* -0.47/19 8.Nxe4 0.28 *Bb4!)* 8...Nxe4 9.fxe4 Bxe4 10.Qe3! would certainly give White fair compensation, with d4-d5 and/or Qg3 set to follow.]

8.a3!? White has an edge.

[A tempting move, although I would have thought that the simple 8.e5 Nfd7 9.Bg5 Be7 *(9...f6* 1.11/20 9...Be7 0.49 *10.exf6 gxf6 11.Bh4* feels much more suspicious for Black than the related positions in Erigaisi-Azarov did*)* 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.f4 should be a fairly decent version of a Classical French and an edge for White.]

8...Bxc3

[Carlsen takes up the challenge rather than allow White a pleasant edge with 8...Be7 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Bxd5 *(*or *10...exd5 11.Ne2* and Ng3 *)* 11.c4 .]

9.Qxc3 dxe4 10.d5!?

[Really taking the fight to his illustrious opponent rather than settle for 10.Bxc7 Nd5 11.Bxd8 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Kxd8 with rough equality.]

[10.Bxc7!? Qd5 11.Ne2 *(11.Bxb6 0-0=)* 11...exf3 12.Qxf3∓]

10...Nxd5

11.Qxg7

[11.fxe4? Nxc3 12.Rxd8+ Kxd8-+]

11...Qf6 Necessary, of course, and now the queens come off, leaving Black's dark squares less of an issue than perhaps you might have thought.

12.Qxf6 Nxf6 13.Be5 Ke7 14.Bxc7 White didn't really have anything better than regaining the pawn, but now Black

is able to consolidate and coordinate to a fair extent. **14...Nbd7 15.Bg3**

[To plug the g-file, although according to the engines 15.Bd6+ Ke8 16.Ne2!? was also possible, with exf3 17.gxf3 Bxf3 18.Rg1 supplying full compensation for the pawn, which certainly seems likely considering the option nature of the position.]

15...Rhg8

16.Be2 Ke8!?

[Tempting Gukesh to exchange on e4, although there was nothing wrong either with 16...Rac8 , and if 17.Nh3 Nd5!? .]

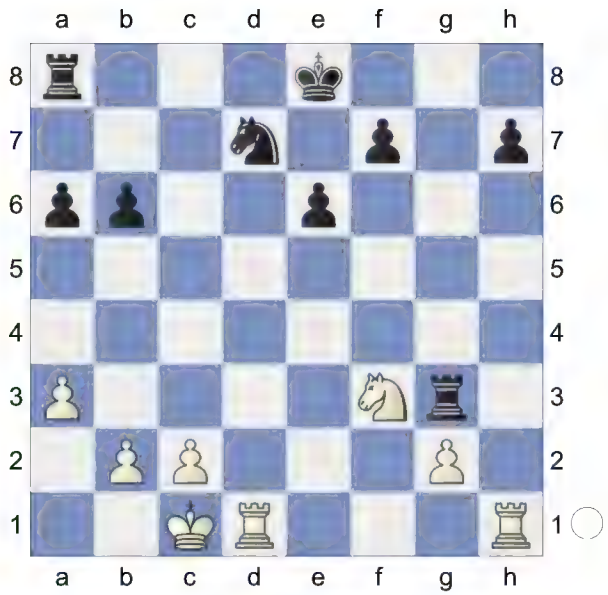
17.fxe4

[Gukesh settles for exchanges. The alternative was 17.Nh3 when I suspect Nh5! was Carlsen's idea, thereby forcing a pretty pleasant endgame for Black in any case.]

17...Nxe4 18.Bf3 Fairly essential and now Carlsen elected to liquidate.

18...Nxg3 19.hxg3 Bxf3 20.Nxf3 Rxg3

(Diagram)



21.Rxh7 Ke7!

[Carlsen begins to press, rather than allow White to solve all his issues with 21...Rxg2 22.Ne5! .]

22.Nd4! Good defence as Gukesh elects to go active, threatening to invade on c6.

22...Ne5 Repels Nc6+ **23.Re1 Rg4!** Dangling the possibility of a further exchange before White. **24.Rxe5?!**

[This isn't condemned by the engines, but as Peter Leko pointed out in his ever excellent commentary, to avoid a fair degree of suffering White should really want to retain the knights. As such, 24.Nf5+! Kf6 *(24...Kf6!? 25.Ng7 Kg6∓)* 25.Nd6 was indicated, and if Rf8 26.Rhh1 , continuing to look for counterplay and to resist actively.]

24...Rxd4= Endgame KRR-KRR

25.Re2?!

[Gukesh is drifting and 25.Re3 Rad8 26.b3 followed by placing the pawn on g3 when attacked would have offered better defensive prospects.]

25...Rad8

(Diagram)

26.c3

[Here 26.b3 Rd1+ 27.Kb2 R1d2! is an important point and after 28.Rxd2 Rxd2 29.g4 Rg2 30.Rh4! Kf6 White would need to play pretty well to save the day, beginning with 31.a4! to secure seemingly enough counterplay in the nick of time.]

26...Rf4 27.Kc2

[27.Rg7!? would have prevented Black's next, although even here after Kf6 28.Rg3 b5 Black can very much press with his king and e-pawn set to advance]

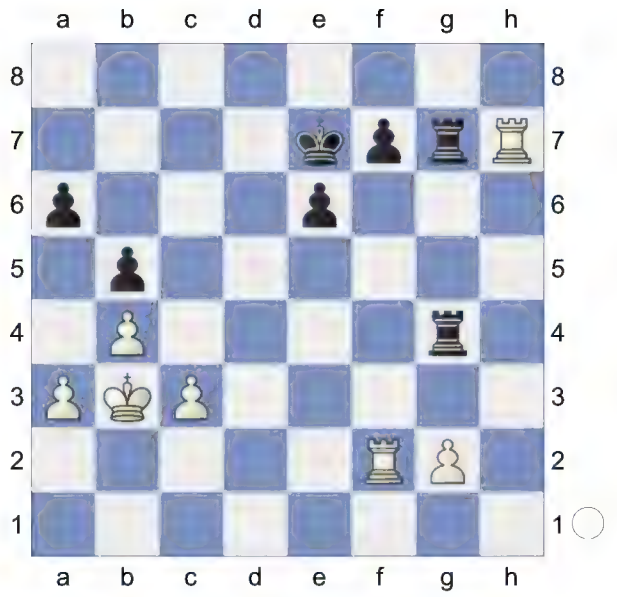
27...Rg8 28.b4!?

[A big decision and 28.Kd2 Rfg4 29.Rf2 wasn't impossible when notably the engines want to meet R8g7 with 30.Rh2! .]

28...b5 29.Kb3! Rfg4 30.Rf2 A key tactical point Gukesh had been relying on for some time. **30...R8g7** -0.64/24

[Black should play 30...R4g7= -0.09/28 31.Rh2 *(31.Rxg7 Rxg7 32.a4 f5∓)* 31...Rg3]

(Diagram)



31.Rxg7!∓

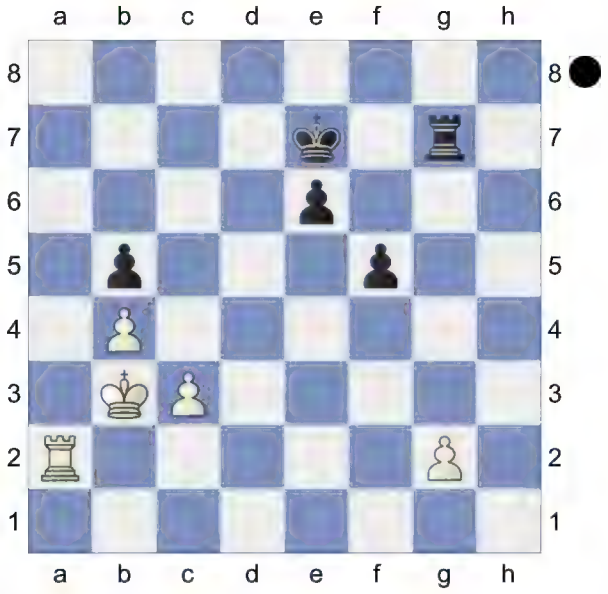
[Now this is definitely best since 31.Rh2? -1.15/22 31.Rxg7 -0.25 Rg3! would take advantage of b2-b4 and leave Black at least clearly for choice after 32.Rc2 -2.26/20 *(32.Ra2∓ -1.27/19)* 32...f5!-+ 33.a4 Kf6 followed by continuing to advance in the centre.]

31...Rxg7 KR-KR **32.a4** Securing some much needed counterplay. The engines suggest this should be a draw, but in practice Black's position is somewhat the easier to play thanks to his well-placed king and central majority. **32...f5 33.axb5 axb5** Black continues to play with concentration. **34.Ra2?** -2.01/24

[Natural enough, but a key mistake. White had to go 34.c4! Rg3+ 35.Rf3! when bxc4+ 36.Kxc4 Rxg2 37.Rb3! supplies sufficient counterplay, and if Kd6 *(37...f4 38.b5 Kd7 39.b6* and b7 should not be overlooked *Kc8 40.b7+ Kb8 41.Rf3! e5 42.Kd5* is also a draw*)* 38.Rd3+! Kc7 39.Re3 Rg6 40.Kc5 which shouldn't be too hard to hold.]

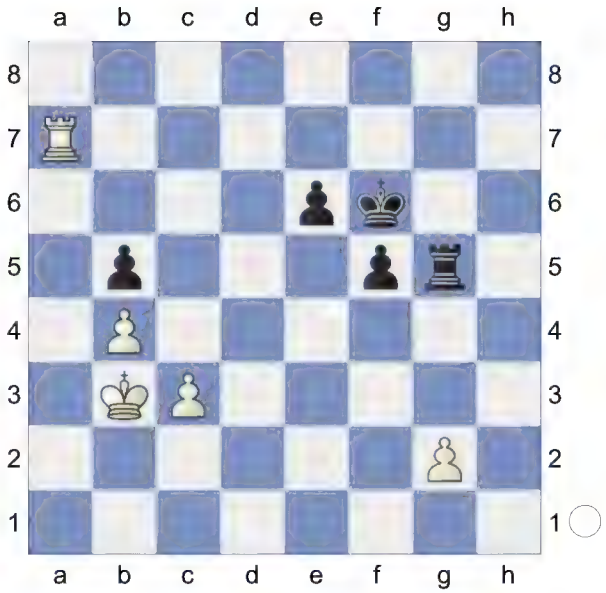
[34.c4!= -0.12/24 and White stays

safe.]

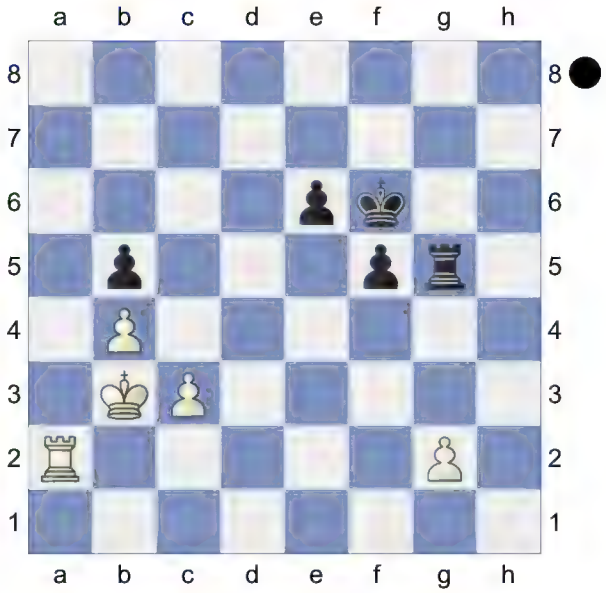


34...Rg5? -0.40/23
[Preparing to cover b5, but the engines point out that 34...Kd6! 35.Ra6+? -4.45/23 *(35.Rd2+* -1.78/22 *Ke5 36.Re2+ Kf6 37.Rc2)* 35...Kd5 36.Ra5 Ke4! 37.Rxb5 Rxg2 leaves the f-pawn too fast and Black winning.]
[34...Kd6!-+ -2.01/24 35.Ra5 Kc6 *(35...Rxg2 36.Rxb5 f4 37.Rb8∓)* 36.Ra6+ Kd5]
35.Ra7+? -4.44/24
[35.Ra5 f4 was the point, of course, but after 36.Kc2! Rxg2+ *(36...Kf6 37.Kd3 Kf5 38.Rxb5+ e5 39.Rb8! Rg3+ 40.Kc4 Rxg2 41.b5* leaves White just fast enough*)* 37.Kd3 Rg5 38.Ke4 Wards off Re5+ Rf5 39.Ra7+! Kf6 Threatens to win with ... f3. 40.Kf3! White would still have had good drawing chances.]
[35.Ra5∓ -0.40/23]
35...Kf6-+

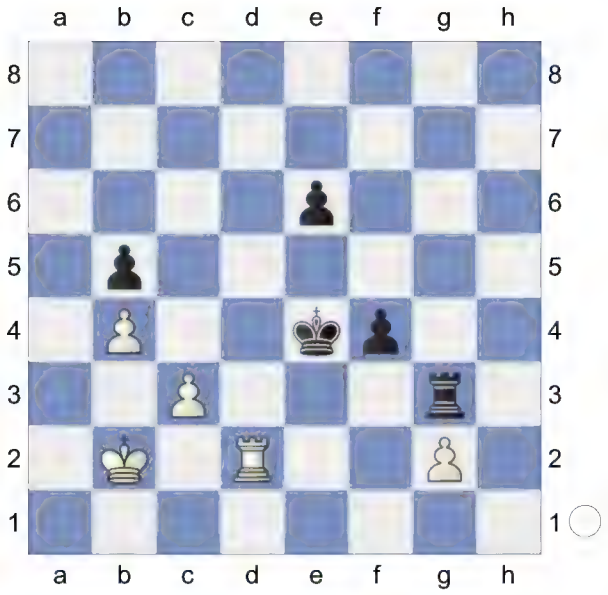
(Diagram)



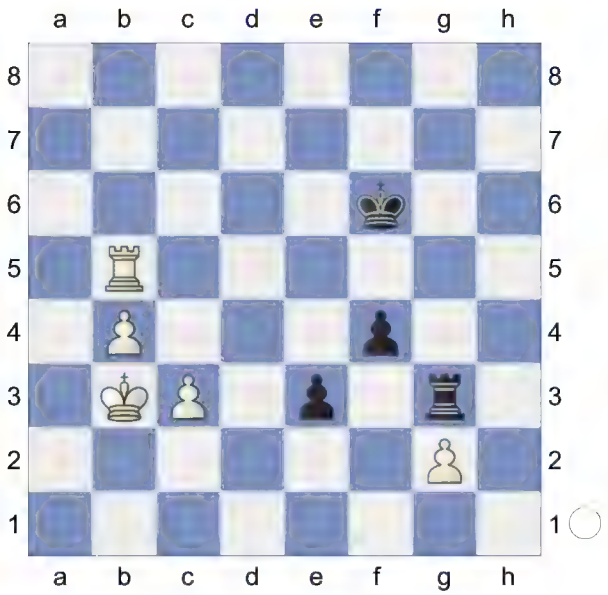
Black is clearly winning. **36.Ra2**
[Now Black is just too fast after 36.Ra5 f4 37.Kc2 Rxg2+ 38.Kd3 e5 , and if 39.Ke4? -6.12/20 *(39.Rxb5* -2.36/16 *Rg3+ 40.Kc4)* 39...Re2+ .]



36...f4! 37.Rc2 Rg3! Forcing White to go backwards. It might be three pawns each, but just compare the kings and rooks! White is completely lost. **38.Ka2 Ke5**
[Less strong is 38...e5 39.c4∓]
39.Kb2 Kd5 40.Rd2+ Ke4

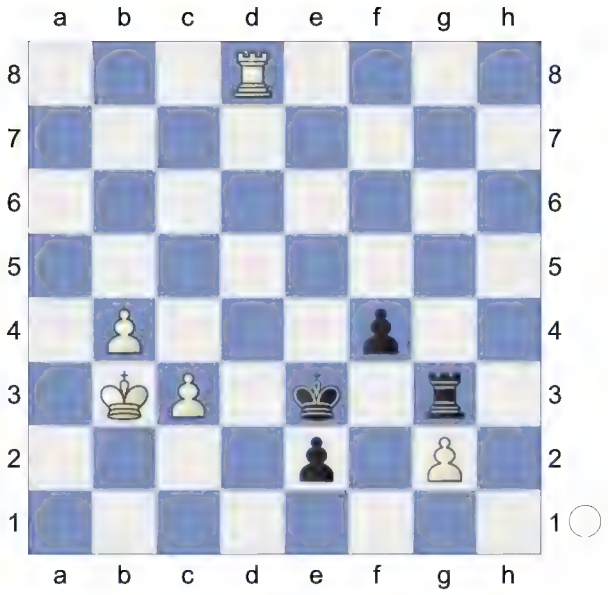


41.Kb3 e5 42.Re2+ Kf5 43.Rd2 e4!
Carlsen has it all worked out. White will be far, far too slow. **44.Rd5+ Kf6 45.Rxb5 e3**

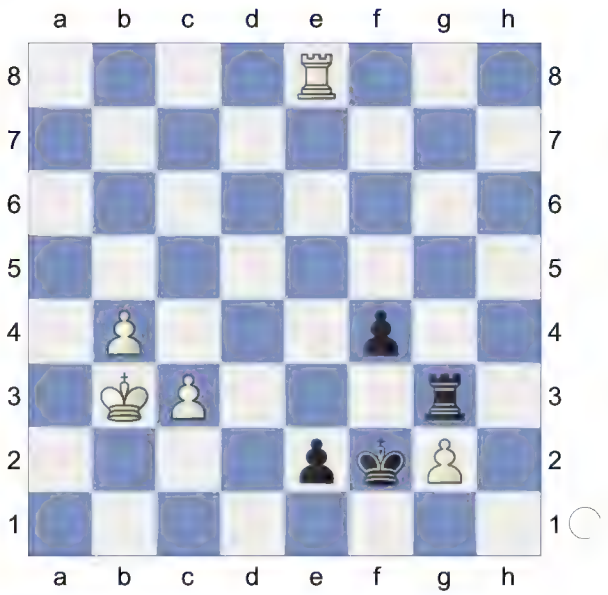


46.Rb6+ Kf5 47.Rb5+ Ke4 48.Rb8 e2 49.Re8+ Kd3 50.Rd8+ Ke3

(Diagram)



51.Re8+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.66/ Black=0.08 (flawless)
51...Kf2



is, of course, all over.
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139 **E35**
□ **Wang,Hao** **2709**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**
FIDE World Cup 2023 (5.1) 12.08.2023
[TA]

E35: Nimzo-Indian: Classical: 4...d5 5 cxd5 exd5

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5

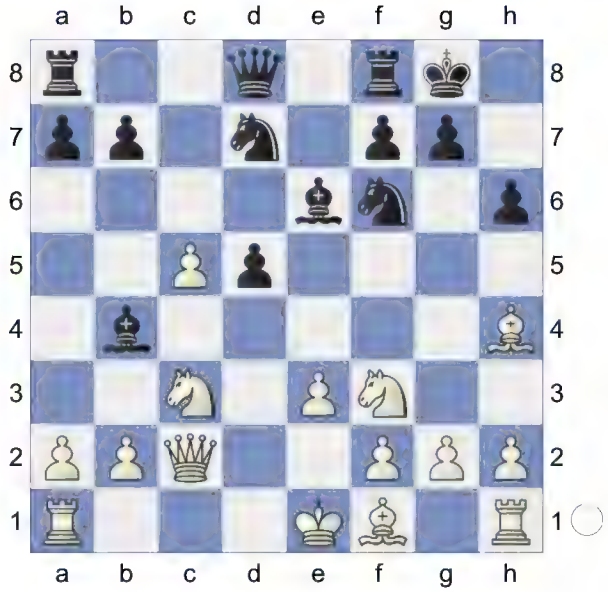
6.Bg5 h6

[6...c5 7.Nf3 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.a3 Bxc3+ 10.Qxc3 c4 11.b3 cxb3 12.Qxc8+ Ke7 13.Qc5+ Ke8 14.e3 Nd7 15.Bb5 Qf5 16.0-0 1-0 Papasimakopoulos,A (2334)-Forgacs,A (2227) Titled Tuesday intern op 31st Jan Early blitz 2023 (2)]

7.Bh4 0-0 8.e3 c5N

[8...c6 9.Bd3 Nbd7 10.Nge2 Re8 11.0-0 Nf8 *(11...Be7 12.f3 b5 13.Bf2 Bb7 14.Ng3* 10) Black plays 4...d5: 5...e-Black plays 4.. d5: 5.. exd5 *)* 12.Rae1 *(12.Rab1 Bd6 13.Bg3 Qe7 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Rfc1 Bd7 16.b4 Rac8 17.a4 Qe7 18.Ng3 Qd6 19.a5 b6 20.Na4 Rb8 21.Nf5 Qe6 22.Nc3 Ng6 23.Ng3 Ne7 24.Nce2 Qd6 25.Nf4 g6 26.h3 Rbc8* ½-½ (67) Gmuer,A (2490)-Gysi,A (2445) corr Christoffel Memorial Section Red 2002*)* 12...Bd6 13.h3 Ne6 14.f3 10) Black plays 4...d5: 5...e-Black plays 4.. d5: 5.. exd5]

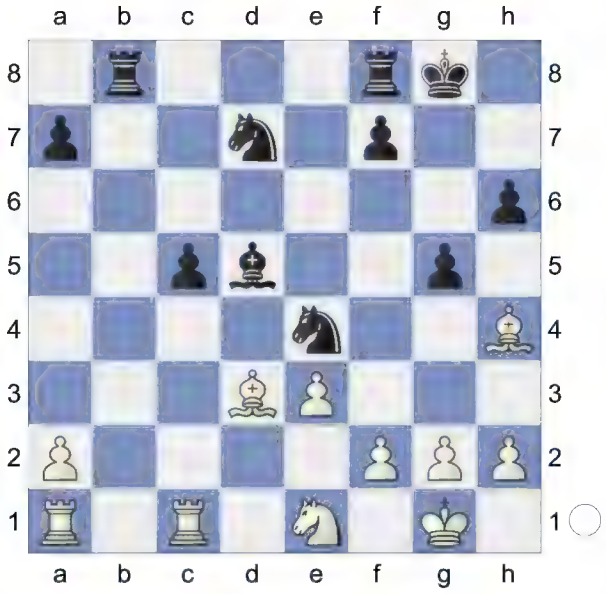
9.dxc5 Be6 10.Nf3 White is slightly better. **10...Nbd7**



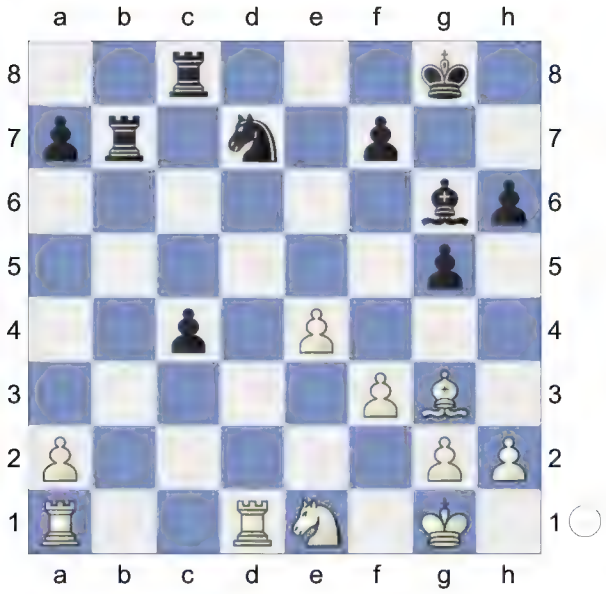
11.c6 bxc6 12.Be2 Qa5 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Ne4 15.Rfc1 c5

Against Nd4 **16.c4 Rab8 17.Ne1 Qa3**

18.cxd5 Bxd5 19.Qd3 Qxd3 20.Bxd3 g5



21.Bxe4 Bxe4 22.Bg3 Rb7 23.f3 Bg6 24.Rd1 Rc8 25.e4 c4



26.Nc2 c3 27.Rd6 Nf8 Threatening ... f5. **28.Rc1 f5! 29.Rd4** -1.46/19

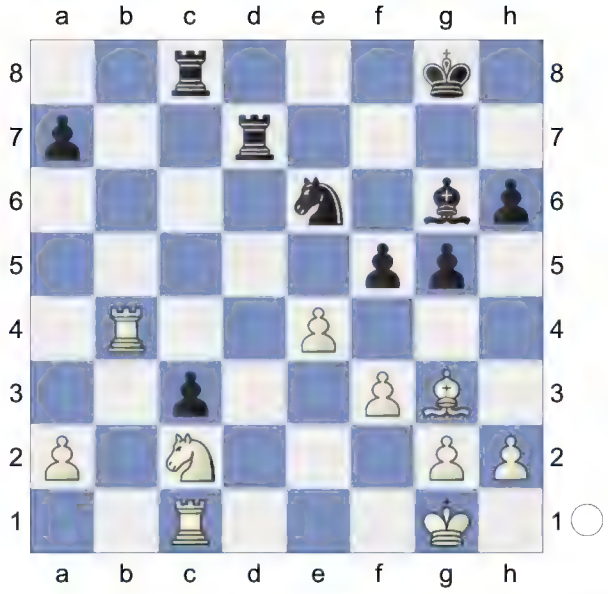
[29.Be5= -0.12/21]

29...Ne6 -0.87/19

[Black should play 29...Rb2 -1.46/19 30.exf5 Bxf5]

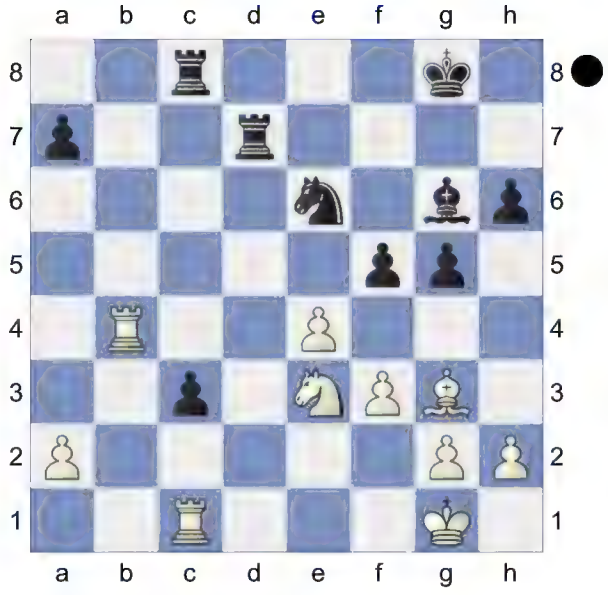
30.Rb4 Rd7

[30...Rxb4 31.Nxb4 Kf7 *(31...fxe4 32.Nd5∓)* 32.Be5]



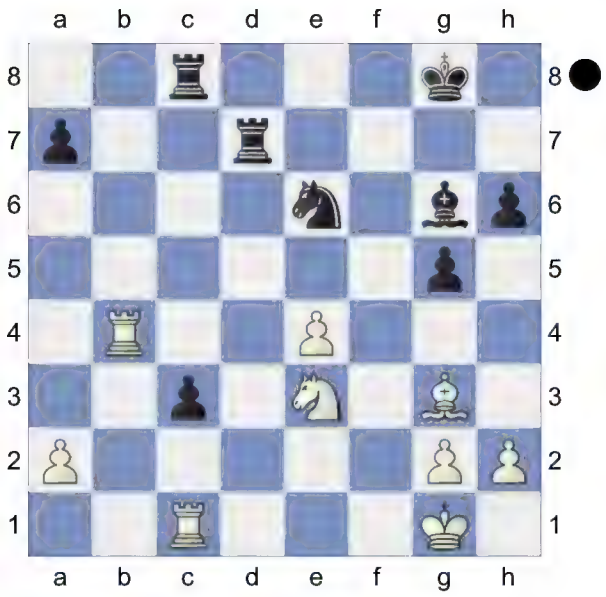
Now White is beyond hope. **31.Ne3?** -2.66/21

[31.Rb8∓ -0.99/18 Rxb8 32.Bxb8]



31...fxe4!-+ 32.fxe4

(Diagram)



Rd3

[Not 32...Nd4 33.Kf2∓]

33.Bf2 Nf4

[Don't play 33...Nd4 34.Rxd4 Rxd4 35.Nd5 Rxe4 36.Nf6+ Kf7 37.Nxe4 Bxe4 38.Bxa7-+]

34.Rc2 -3.75/21 Prevents Ne2+

[⌓34.Kf1 -2.60/17]

34...Rd2 and ...a5 would now be decisive **35.h3** -3.85/21

[⌓35.Bg3 -2.71/19]

35...Nd3

36.Rxd2? -6.17/22

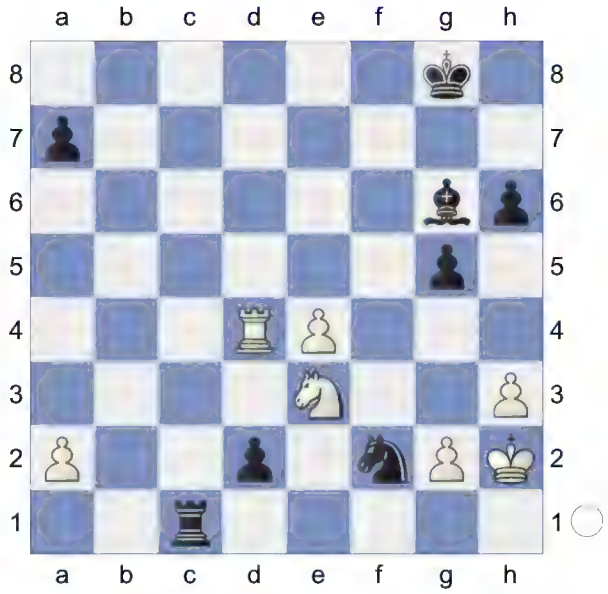
[36.Ra4 -3.32/21]

36...cxd2 Black is clearly winning.

37.Rd4 Rc1+ Deflection **38.Kh2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.09 (flawless)

38...Nxf2



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140 **B33**

□ **Iskandarov,Misratdin** **2551**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**

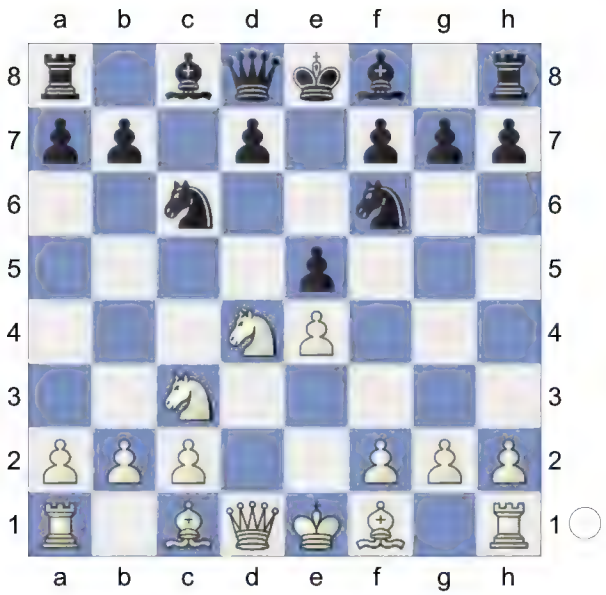
FIDE World Cup 2023 (2.2) 03.08.2023

[Kitty Kat]

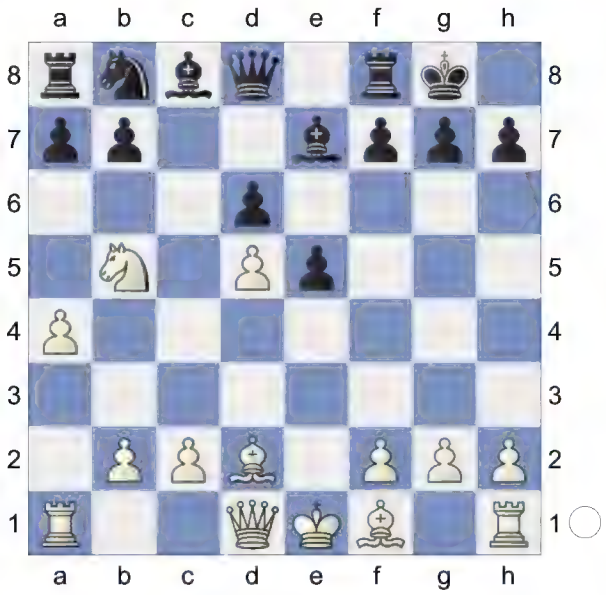
B33: Sicilian: Pelikan and Sveshnikov Variations

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5

(Diagram)



6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Be7 10.Bd2 0-0



11.a5 a6 White is slightly better.

[11...f5 12.Be3 Bd7 13.Nxa7 f4 14.Bb6 Qe8 15.Bd3 Na6 16.Qe2 Bd8 17.Bxa6 bxa6 18.Qxa6 e4 19.0-0-0 e3 20.Rhe1 Bg4 21.Rd3 Qa4 22.Ra3 Qb4 23.c3 Qe4 24.f3 Bxf3 25.gxf3 Qxf3 26.Qd3 1-0 (51) Hardaway,B (2363)-Hoy,A (1998) Foxwoods op 15th 2023 (1)]

12.Na3 Bf5

[12...Nd7 13.Nc4 f5 14.Bb4 Rf6 15.Qd2 Rg6 16.g3 e4 17.h4 b5 18.axb6 Nxb6 19.Na5 Bd7 20.0-0-0 Bf6 21.Nc6 Qe8 22.Kb1 Kh8 23.h5 Rh6 24.Qe3 Na4 25.c3 Rxh5 26.Rxh5 Qxh5 27.Be2 1-0 (50) Panov Botvinnik Attack (2775)-Deslandes,P (2819) BCCA Championship 9394 1993]

13.Nc4N

[13.Be2 Be4 14.Bf3 Bg6 15.0-0 Nd7 16.Nc4 Rc8 17.b3 f5 Sveshnikov Nd5-Sveshnikov Nd5]

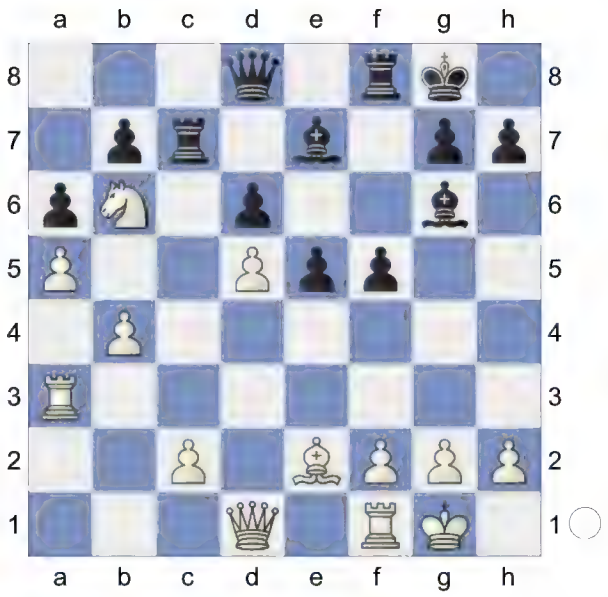
13...Nd7 Wards off Nb6 **14.Bb4 Rc8 15.Be2 Bg6**

16.0-0 Nc5!?N An interesting novelty. Eine interessante Neuerung.

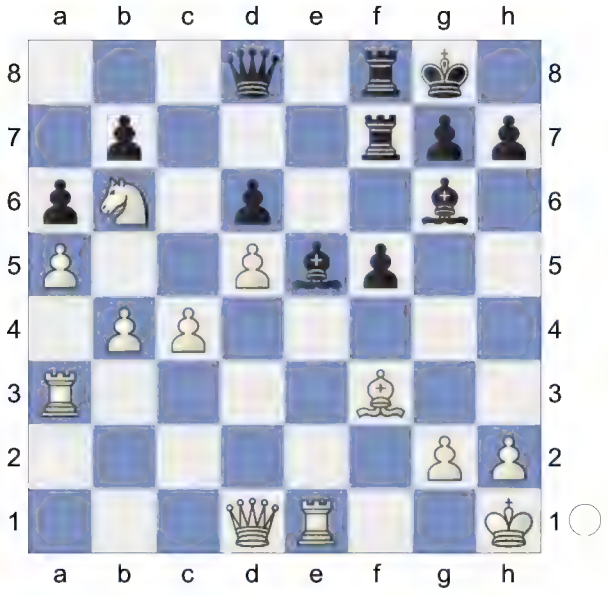
[Vorgänger: 16...Rc7 17.Ra3 f5 18.Bxd6 Bxd6 19.Nxd6 And now Rb3 would win. b5 20.Nxb5! axb5 21.d6 Ra7! and ...b4 should not be overlooked 22.Bxb5 Black should prevent c4. Nf6 1-0 Fedoseev,V (2678)-Gelfand,B (2676) PNWCC Online blitz JP 18th 2020 (9)]

17.Ra3 f5 18.Nb6 Rc7 19.Bxc5 Rxc5 20.b4 Rc7

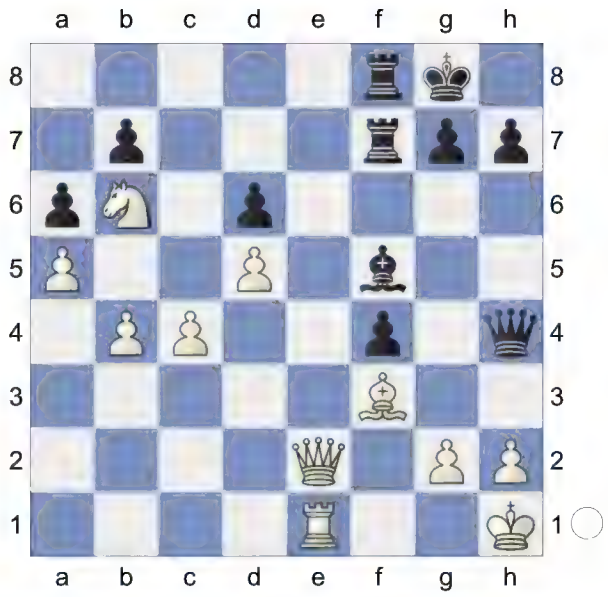
(Diagram)



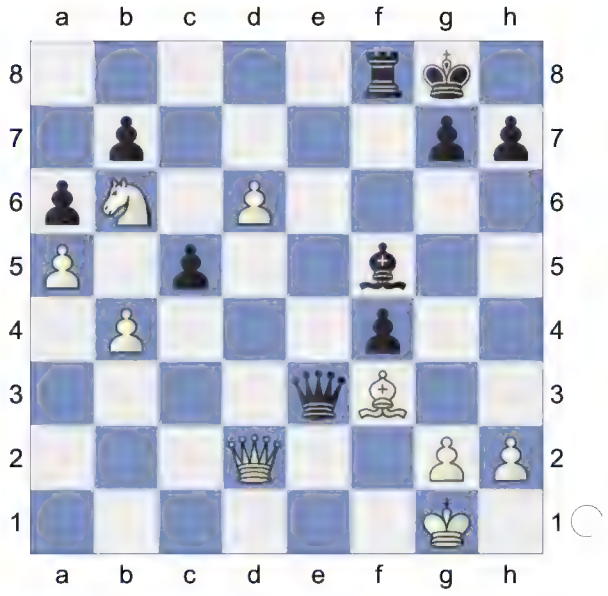
21.c4 e4 22.f4 exf3 0.27/22
[⌓22...Be8 -0.17/19]
23.Bxf3= Bf6 24.Kh1 -0.04/17
[24.c5!± 0.42/19]
24...Be5! 25.Re1 Rcf7!→
[25...Qh4 26.Rxe5 dxe5 27.d6=]



Black is up to no good. **26.Rae3 Bf4**
This pair of bishops is nice. Loses the game. **27.Qd4** -1.71/21 **Bxe3-+**
28.Qxe3 f4 29.Qe6 -2.29/20
[29.Qf2∓ -1.46/18 was worth a try.]
29...Bf5 30.Qe2 Qh4

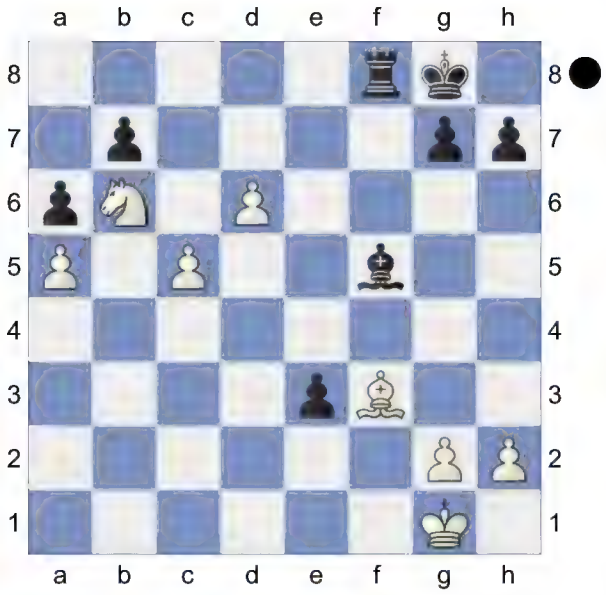


31.Kg1 Qf6 32.Qd2 Re7 33.Rxe7 -3.58/17
[⌓33.Rf1 -2.20/21]
33...Qxe7 34.c5 dxc5 35.d6 Qe3+



36.Qxe3 fxe3 37.bxc5 Endgame

(Diagram)



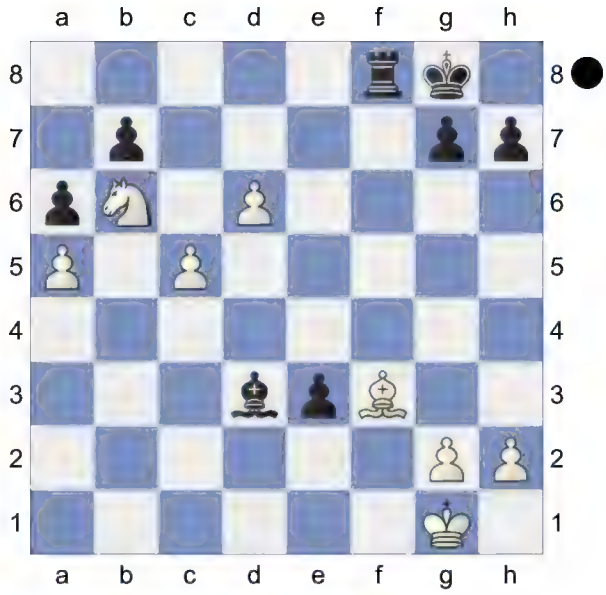
KRB-KBN **37...Be4** Deflection, Promotion **38.Bg4**

[38.Bxe4 e2 39.h4 e1Q+ *(39...e1B 40.Bd5+ Kh8 41.Nd7=)* 40.Kh2 Qxh4+ *(40...Qxe4 41.d7 Qxh4+ 42.Kg1 Rf5 43.d8Q+ Qxd8 44.Nd5 Qxd5 45.Kh2 Rh5+ 46.Kg1 Qd4+ 47.Kf1 Qd2 48.g4 Rh1#)* 41.Kg1 Rf6 *(41...Qxe4 42.Nd5 Qxd5 43.d7 Qxd7 44.Kh1 Rf1+ 45.Kh2 Qg4 46.g3 Qh5+ 47.Kg2 Qh1#)* 42.Bd5+ Kh8 43.g3 Qxg3+ 44.Bg2 Rf2 45.Kh1 Qxg2#]

[38.Be2 Bc6]

38...Bd3 Repels Nc4 **39.Bf3**

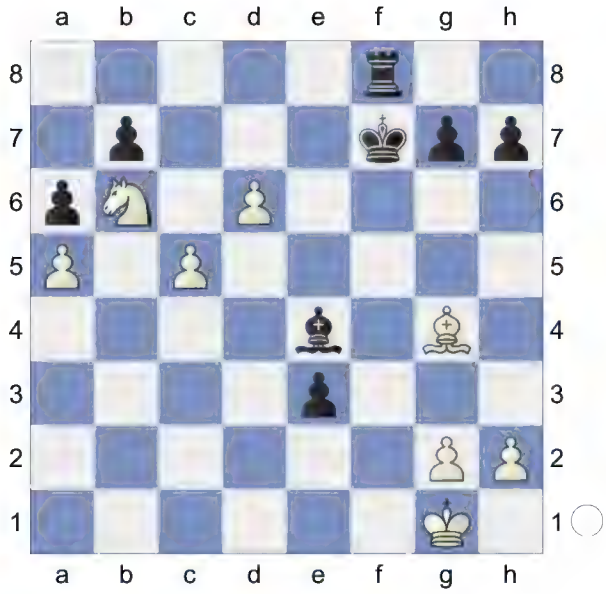
(Diagram)



Be4 Deflection, Promotion **40.Bg4**

[40.Bxe4 e2 41.h4 e1Q+ *(41...e1B 42.Bd5+ Kh8 43.Nd7∓)* 42.Kh2 Qxh4+ *(42...Qxe4 43.d7 Qxh4+ 44.Kg1 Rf4 45.d8Q+ Qxd8 46.Nd7 Qh4 47.Nf6+ gxf6 48.c6 Qf2+ 49.Kh2 Rh4#)* 43.Kg1 Rf6 *(43...Qxe4* gets mated. *44.d7 Qd4+ 45.Kh2 Rf1 46.d8Q+ Qxd8 47.Kh3 Qg5 48.g4 Qe3+ 49.Kh2 Rf2+ 50.Kh1 Qe1#)* 44.Bd5+ Kh8 45.g3 Qxg3+ 46.Bg2 Rf2 47.Kh1 Qxg2#]

40...Kf7

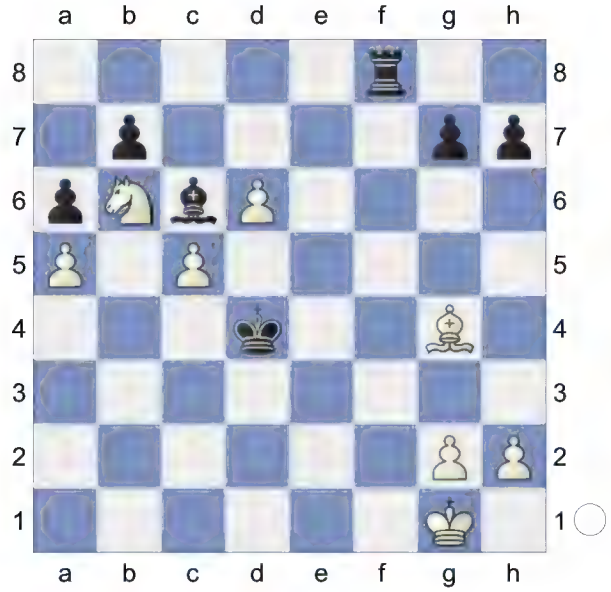


Wards off Be6+ **41.Nc4 Kf6** Black is clearly winning. **42.Nxe3 Ke5 43.Nc4+ Kd4 44.Nb6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

44...Bc6

[Not 44...Kxc5 45.Nd7+ Kxd6 46.Nxf8±]



0-1

141 **A62**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**

■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2732**

SuperUnited Blitz 2023 (16.1) 09.07.2023

[Kitty Kat]

A62: Modern Benoni: Fianchetto Variation without early ...Nbd7

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6

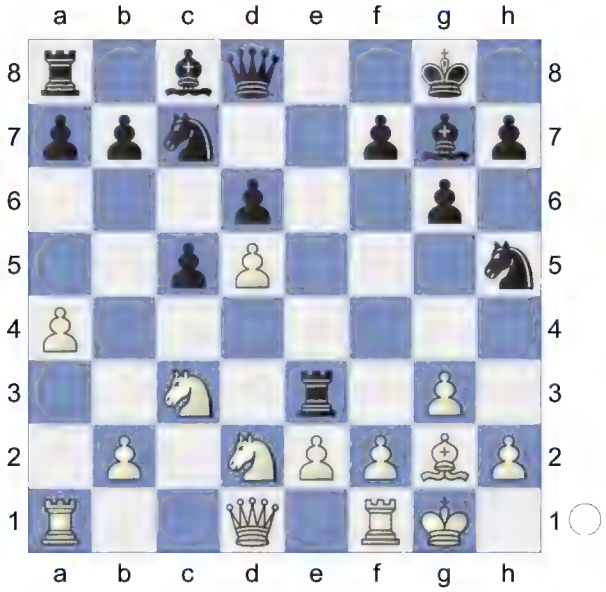
(Diagram)

6.Bg2 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.Bf4 Na6

Recently 10...h6 got a lot of attention. 10...h6 erhält neuerdings viel Aufmerksamkeit. **11.Nb5**

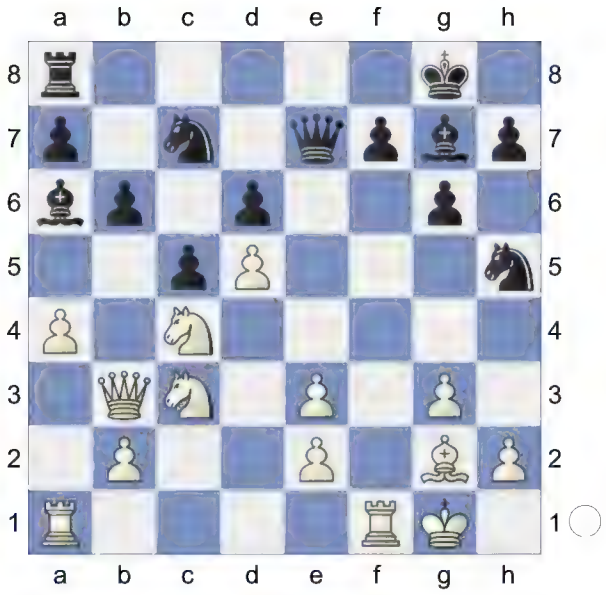
[11.Re1 Nc7 12.e4 Nh5 13.Bg5 Bf6 14.Bd2 Bg4 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Ng7 17.a4 b6 18.Qc2 a6 19.Bf4 g5 20.Bd2 h6 21.Be2 Rb8 22.Rab1 b5 23.axb5 Nxb5 24.Nxb5 axb5 25.b4 c4 0-1 (50) Reyes Zavaleta,C (1787)-Perez Gormaz,M (2391) South America-ch Rapid 1st 2023 (5)]

11...Bf8 12.Nc3N
[12.Re1 Nc7 13.Nxc7 Qxc7 14.Rc1 a5 15.b3 Bd7 16.Nd2 Nh5 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.Rxc5 Qd8 19.Rc4 Nxf4 20.gxf4 b5 21.Rd4 Bg7 22.Ng3 Bc2 23.Qxc2 Bxd4 24.Qd3 Qb6 25.e3 Rac8 26.Bf1 b4 ½-½ (38) Zienkiewicz,J (2640)-Shabalov,A (2615) Roncana op-C 8th 2014 (2)]
12...Nc7 13.a4! White is slightly better.
13...Bg7 14.Nd2 Prevents Ne4.
14...Nh5 15.Be3 Rxe3 0.73/18



16.fxe3± Nf6N
[Predecessor: 16...b6 17.Nc4 Ba6 18.Qb3 Qe7 0.90/17 *(18...Bxc4± 0.36/20 19.Qxc4 f5)*

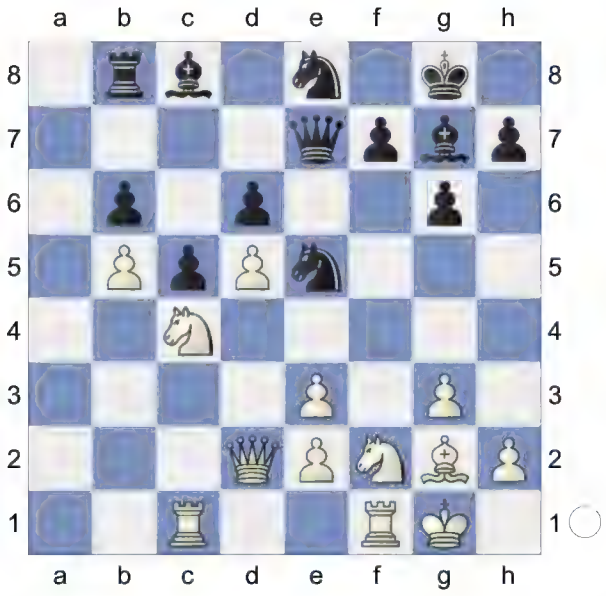
(Diagram)



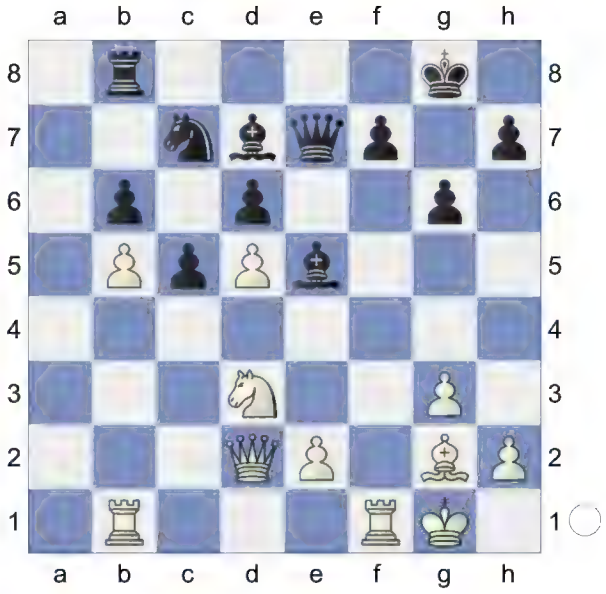
19.Nb5!± Nxb5 1.64/20 *(19...Bxb5± 0.91/18 20.axb5 Nf6)* 20.axb5+- Bb7 21.e4 Nf6 22.Nd2 0.57/20 *(22.e5+- 1.64/19 Ne8 23.Ra2)* 22...Ng4± 23.h3 0.18/18 *(23.Kh1± 0.66/19)* 23...Bd4+ 1.10/18 *(23...Ne5!= 0.18/18)* 24.Kh1± Ne3 1-0 Oganian,M (2441)-Iturrizaga Bonelli,E (2607) Chess.com Bullet op1 blitz 2020 (12)]
17.Nc4 Ng4 18.Ne4 Ne8 19.Qd2 0.09/18
[19.a5± 0.69/20]
19...b6 20.Rac1
[20.Rf4!?]
20...Qe7 0.14/19
[⌓20...Ba6! -0.22/20]

(Diagram)

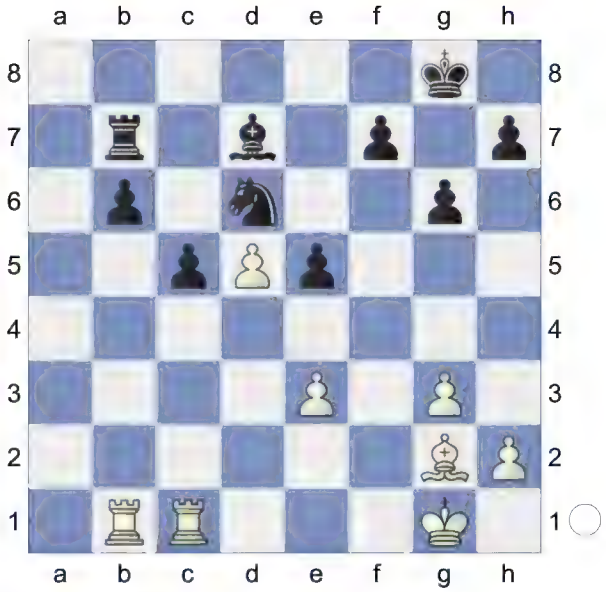
21.b4!= Ba6 1.05/21
[21...cxb4= 0.06/19 22.h3 *(22.Qxb4 Ba6±)* 22...Ne5]
22.b5 0.42/20
[22.bxc5± 1.05/21 bxc5 23.Na5]
22...Bc8± 23.a5
[23.Qd3!?]
23...Rb8 24.axb6 axb6 25.Nf2 Ne5



26.Nxe5 Bxe5 27.Nd3 Bg7 28.e4 Bd7 29.Rb1 Nc7 0.02/21
[29...Rc8∓ -0.54/19]
30.e5!= Bxe5
[30...dxe5 31.Nb4 Nxb5 *(31...cxb4? 32.d6+-)* 32.Nc6 Bxc6 33.dxc6±]



31.Nxe5 Qxe5 32.Qb2 -0.25/20
[32.Rf4 0.19/19 is superior.]
32...Nxb5
[32...Bxb5? 33.Qxe5 dxe5 34.d6 Bxe2 35.dxc7+-]
33.Qxe5 dxe5 34.Rfc1 Prevents Nc3
34...Rb7 35.e3 Nd6



36.Bf1 Bf5 37.Rb2 -0.55/23
[37.Rb3!= 0.04/23]
37...c4!↑ White is under pressure.
38.Rxc4 -0.98/18

[38.Bxc4? Rc7 39.Rxb6 *(39.Rb4? b5-+)* 39...Rxc4 *(39...Nxc4 40.Rb8+ Kg7 41.e4=)* 40.Rb8+ Kg7 41.Rxc4 Nxc4-+]

[38.g4!∓ -0.40/23 Be4 *(38...Bxg4 39.Bxc4 b5 40.Bb3=)* 39.Rxc4 *(39.Bxc4 Rc7=)* 39...Nxc4 40.Bxc4]

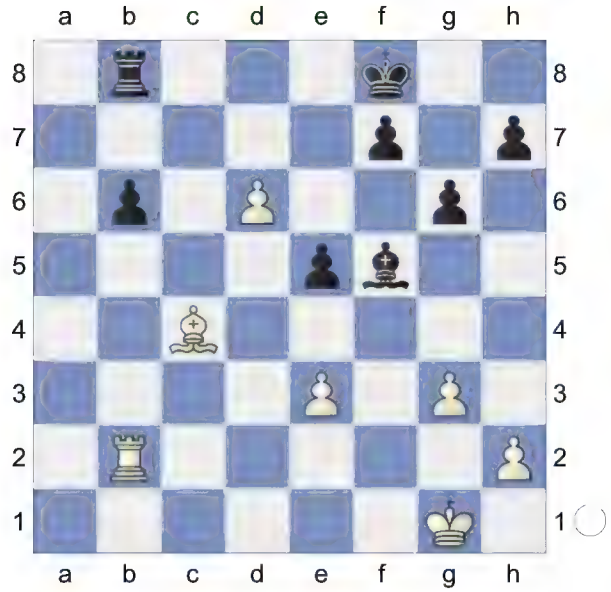
38...Nxc4∓ 39.Bxc4∓ Endgame KRB-KRB. Black is a pawn up. **39...Kf8** -0.64/20

[Better is 39...Rc7∓ -1.18/21 40.Bb5 Rc5]

40.d6? -2.26/22

[White should try 40.Bb5!∓ -0.64/20]

40...Rb8

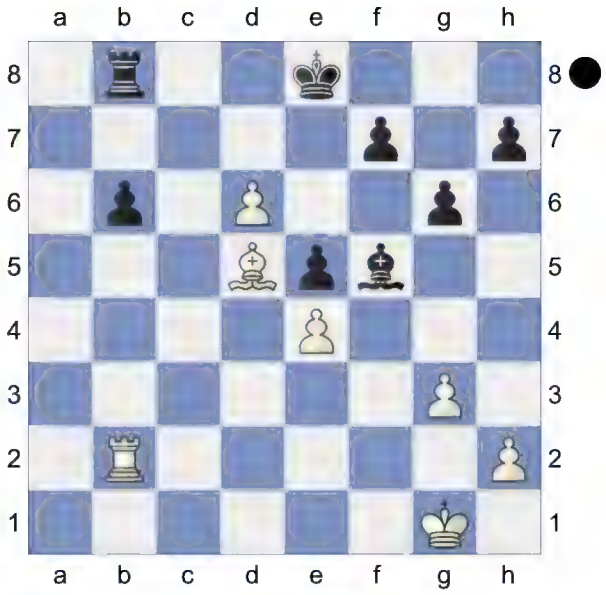


41.Bd5 -2.53/19

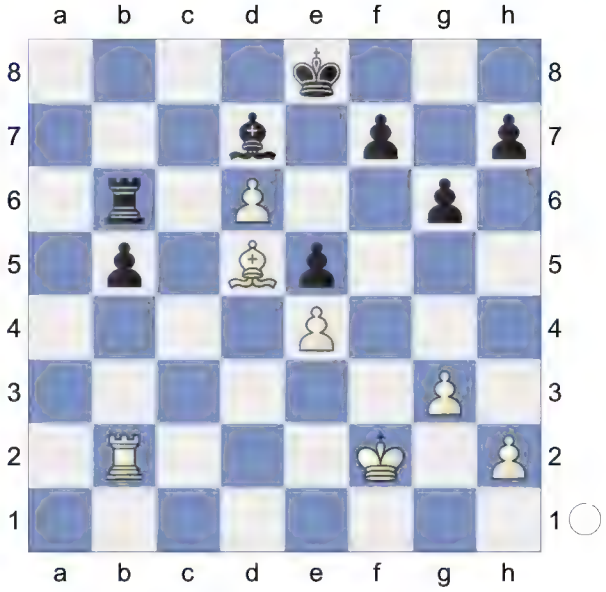
[⌓41.Kf2 -1.74/18]

41...Ke8-+ 42.e4

(Diagram)



Be6 43.Bc6+ Bd7 44.Bd5 b5 45.Kf2 Rb6



46.Rd2 Rxd6 47.Bxf7+ Ke7! 48.Bd5 Rf6+ -1.88/20

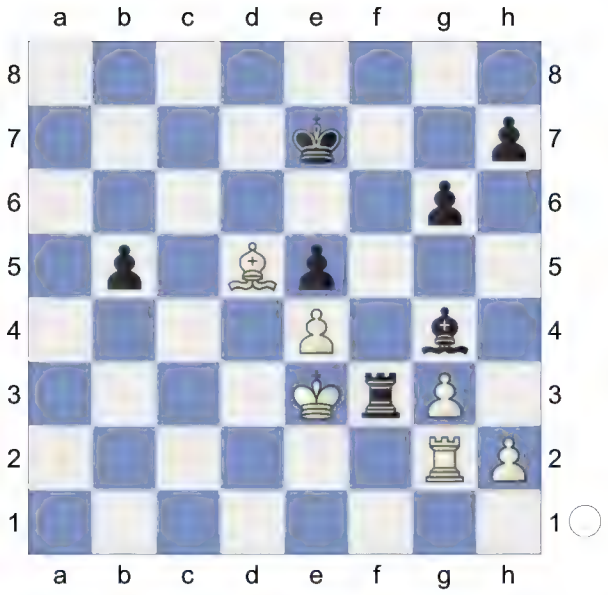
[⌓48...Be6 -4.40/25 49.Kf3 Bxd5 50.exd5 Rb6]

49.Ke3 Bg4 50.Rg2? -3.97/21

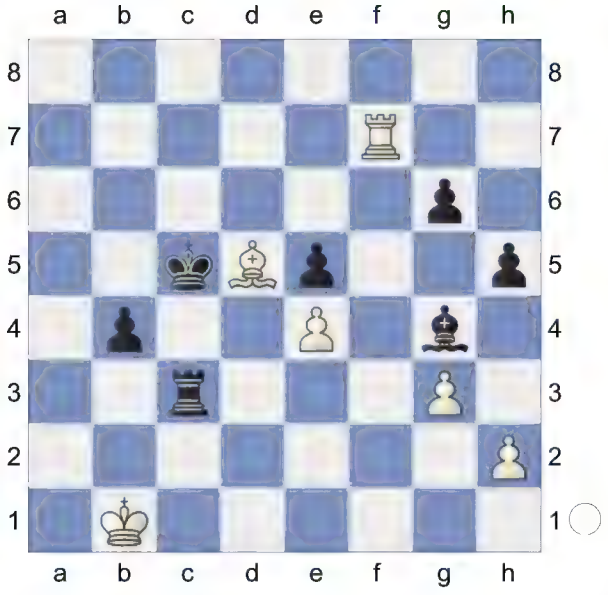
[50.h3 -1.96/19 Bd7 *(50...Bxh3 51.Rh2∓)* 51.Rc2]

50...Rf3+

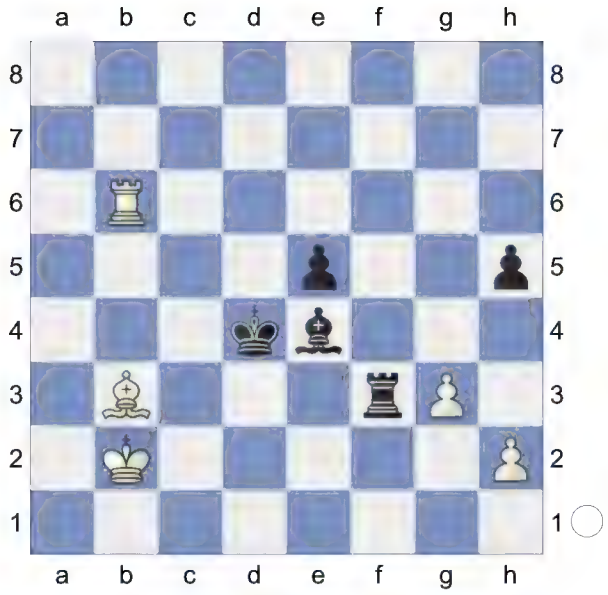
(Diagram)



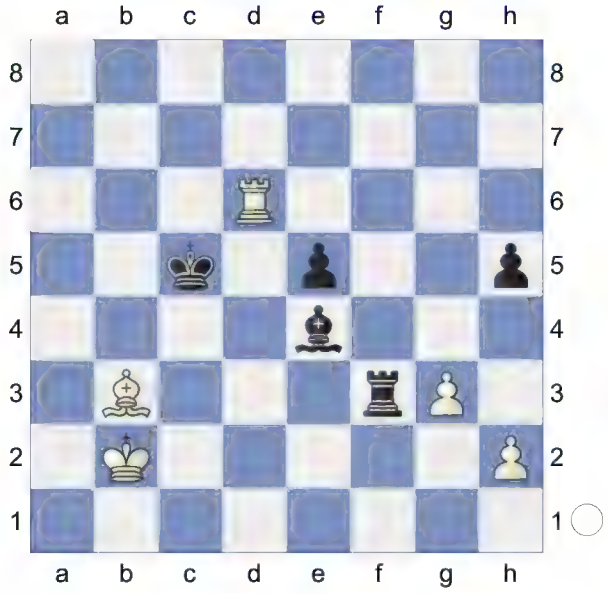
51.Kd2 b4 52.Kc2 -4.32/21
[⌓52.Rg1 -2.93/18]
52...Rc3+ 53.Kb1 Kd6 54.Rf2 -3.64/21
[54.Bg8 -2.35/20 was necessary.]
54...Kc5 55.Rf7 h5



56.Rg7 Bf3 57.Rxg6 Kd4 58.Rb6 b3 -0.97/21
[58...Bxe4+-+ -4.17/22 59.Bxe4 Kxe4 60.Rxb4+ Kf3]
59.Bxb3 Bxe4+ -0.06/18
[59...Kxe4∓ -1.18/20 aiming for ... Ke3. 60.Kb2 Rc5]
60.Kb2= Rf3



61.Rd6+ -0.42/22
[61.Rb4+= -0.01/21 Ke3 62.Rb5]
61...Ke3∓ 62.Re6 Kd4 -0.04/19
[62...Rf5!∓ -0.48/20]
63.Rd6+!=
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/Black=0.27 (precise)
63...Kc5



Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?
1-0

142 **B44**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**
■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2777**
SuperUnited Blitz 2023 (14.1) 09.07.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B44: Sicilian: Taimanov: 5 Nb5
SCHACH 1/1982 **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6**
[4...d6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.b3 Bb7 10.Bb2 Nbd7 11.Re1 a6 12.Rc1 Re8 13.Bb1 Bf8 14.Qd3 g6 15.Rcd1 Qc7 16.Qg3 Rad8 17.Qh4 Qc5 18.Na4 Qh5 19.Qxh5 0-1 (32) Pokojowczyk,J (2390)-Vogt,L (2455) Telechess ol2 8182 1981 (2.2)]
5.Nb5N
[5.g3 a6 *(5...Qb6 6.Nb3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 a6 10.Be3 Qc7 11.a4 Ne5 12.Bf4 d6 13.a5 Bd7* B 44/01 2001*)* 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 Qc7 8.b3 Bc5 9.Ne2 b5 10.Bb2 e5 11.a4 b4 12.Nd2 a5 13.Nc4 Ba6 14.Qd3 0-0 15.Rad1 d6 16.Qf3 Bxc4 17.bxc4 Rab8 18.Qb3 Qb6 19.Nc1 Bd4 0-1 (24) Rada,H-Kornprat,M corr Austria 1992 20.Bxd4 Nxd4 21.Qd3 Nd7 22.Nb3 Nc5 23.Nxc5 Qxc5 24.Rb1 Rbc8 0-1 6.d4 ♘ge7 7. ♗e3 ♘g6 616-Krstevska,M CHI-ch Vina del Mar 1997]
5...d6

(Diagram)

6.c4 Nf6 7.N5c3 Be7 8.g3 h5!?
An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante. **9.h3 h4** White is slightly better. **10.g4 Nd7**

11.Be3 g5 12.Nd2N
[Predecessor: 12.Nb5 0.00/23 12.Bg2 0.62 Nde5 13.N1c3 -0.27/22 *(13.Be2* 0.17/22 *)* 13...b6 0.24/20 *(⌓13...a6* -0.27/22 *14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 0-0)* 14.Be2= Bb7 15.Qd2 a6 16.Nd4! 0-0 17.Nxc6 Bxc6 18.f4 -1.06/19 *(18.a4!±* 0.36/23 stays ahead.*)* 18...gxf4∓ 19.Bxf4

0-1 Espineira Gonzalez,D (2360)-Lopez Martinez,J (2549) ESP-ch 79th Linares 2014 (8)]

12...Nde5 13.Be2 Bd7 14.Nb3 0.12/21

[14.0-0± 0.55/21]

14...Na5 0.61/21

[14...Ng6= 0.12/21]

15.Nxa5 Qxa5

16.Qd2 Rc8 17.b3

[17.Bxg5 Bxg5 18.f4 *(18.Qxg5? Nf3+ 19.Bxf3 Qxg5-+)* 18...Bf6 *(18...Nxc4 19.Bxc4 Bf6 20.Nb5∓; 18...Bh6 19.g5∓)* 19.fxe5 Qxe5∓ *(19...Bxe5 20.0-0∓)*]

17...a6 0.61/20

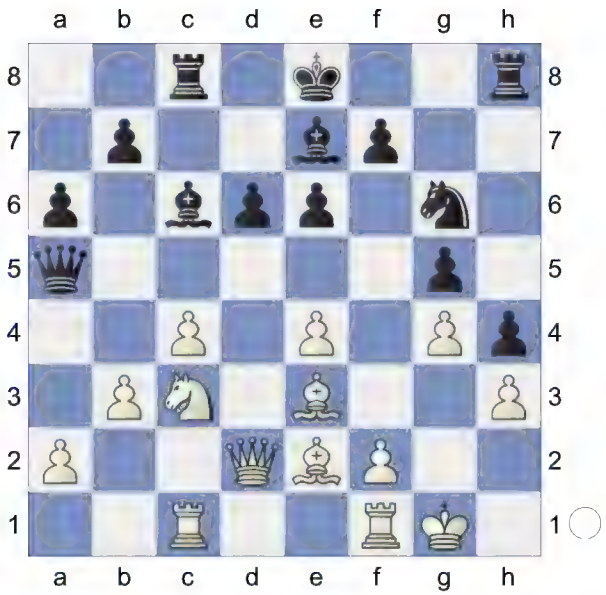
[17...Bf6= 0.16/20 18.Rc1 *(18.Bxg5? Nxc4 19.Nd5 Bxg5-+* Pin *)* 18...Bc6]

18.Rc1±

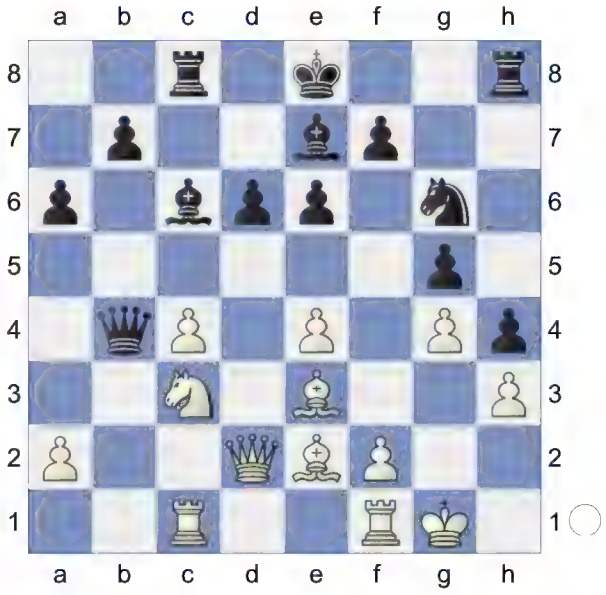
[18.Bxg5? Bxg5 19.Qc2 b5-+]

18...Ng6 19.0-0 Bc6

(Diagram)

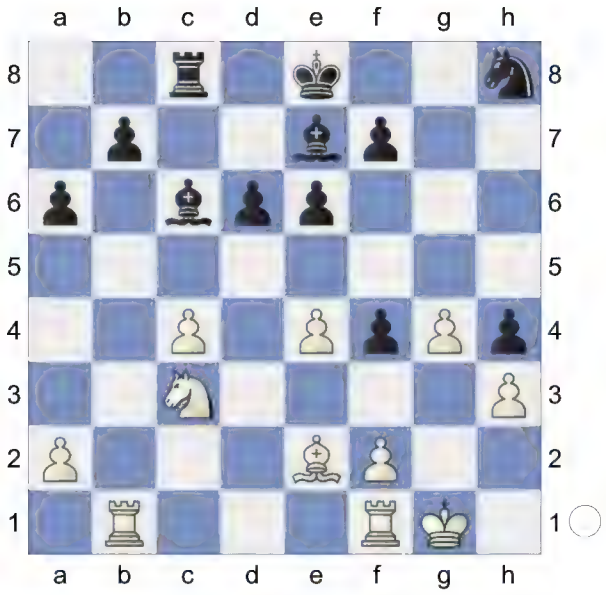


20.b4 0.00/24 **Qxb4=**

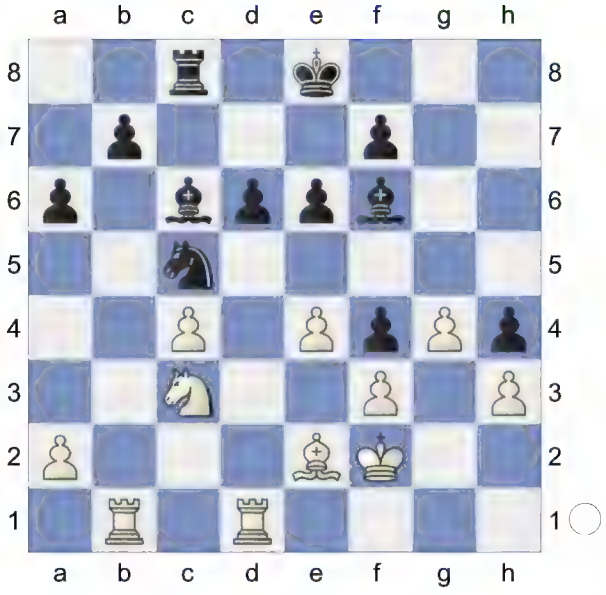


21.Rb1 Qa5 22.Bb6! Qe5 23.Bd4 Qf4 24.Qxf4 gxf4 25.Bxh8 Nxh8

(Diagram)

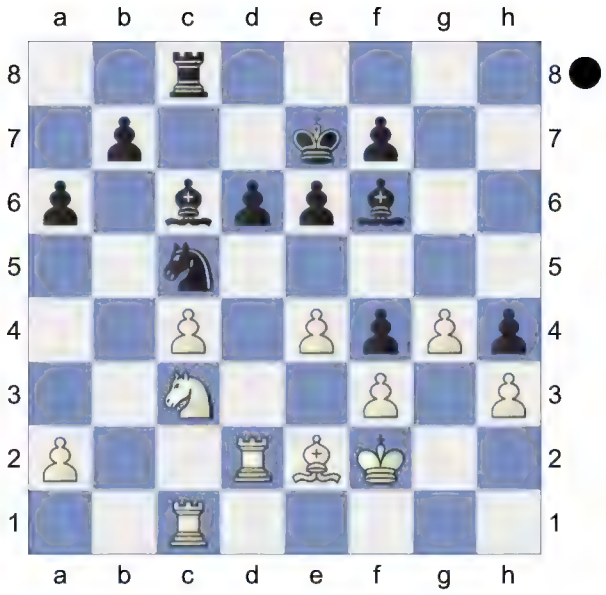


26.Rfd1 Ng6 Black has compensation. **27.Rb3 Ne5 28.f3 Nd7 29.Kf2 Nc5 30.Rbb1** -0.71/20
[30.Ra3∓ -0.33/22 is superior.]
30...Bf6∓

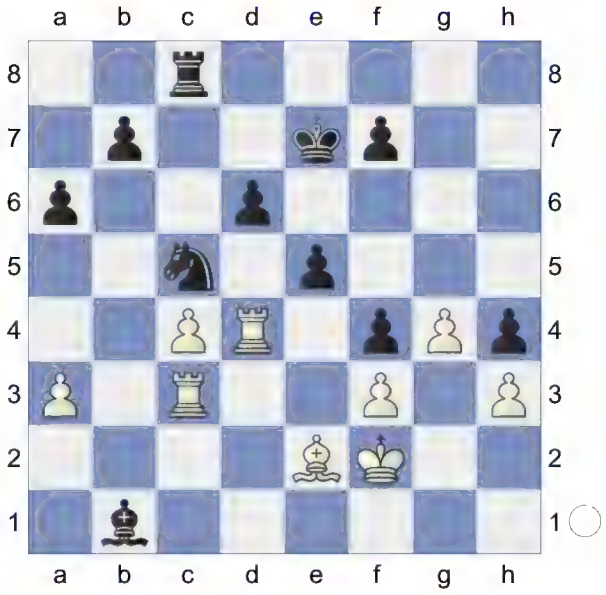


31.Rbc1 White is weak on the dark squares **31...Ke7 32.Rd2** -1.36/21
[⌓32.Kg2 -0.72/24]

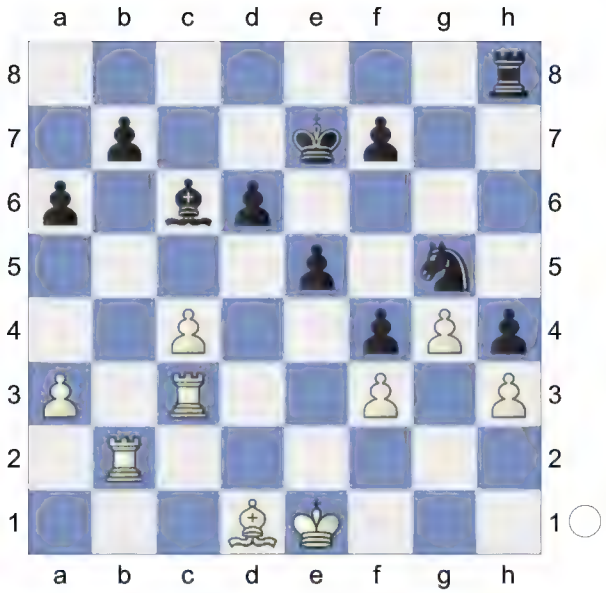
(Diagram)



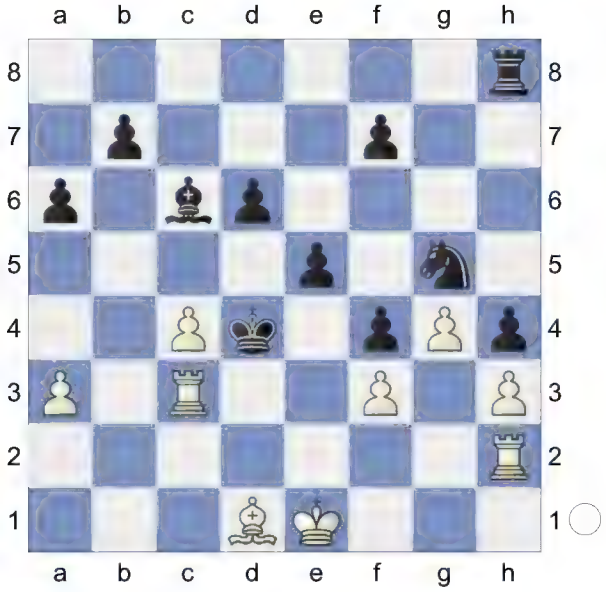
32...Bxc3! 33.Rxc3 Bxe4! 34.Rd4 -2.03/21
[34.Bd1∓ -1.42/17]
34...Bb1 35.a3 -2.43/21
[35.Rd2∓ -1.51/19]
35...e5



36.Rd1 -2.55/20
[36.Rd2 -1.88/19]
36...Be4 37.Ke1 -2.86/21
[37.Kg2 -1.78/19 might work better. Bc6 38.Bd3]
37...Bc6-+ 38.Rb1 Ne6 39.Bd1 Ng5 40.Rb2 Rh8



41.Rh2 Kd7 42.Rb3 Kc7 43.Rc3 Kb6 44.Be2 Kc5 45.Bd1 Kd4

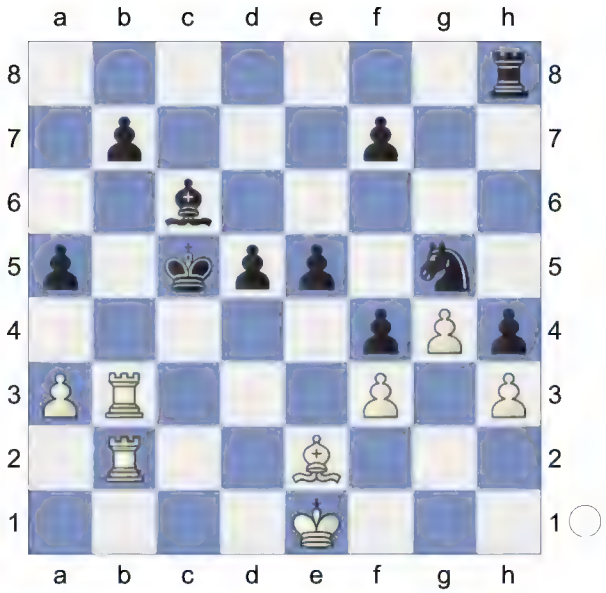


46.Rb3 a5 47.Be2 Kc5 48.Bd1 Kxc4 49.Rhb2 d5

[49...Nxh3 50.Be2+ Kd5 51.Bb5-+]

50.Be2+ Kc5

(Diagram)



51.Bf1 d4 52.Kf2 a4 53.Rc2+ Kd6 54.Rb6 Ne6? -0.72/18

[Stronger than 54...Nxf3 55.Rcxc6+ bxc6 56.Kxf3=]

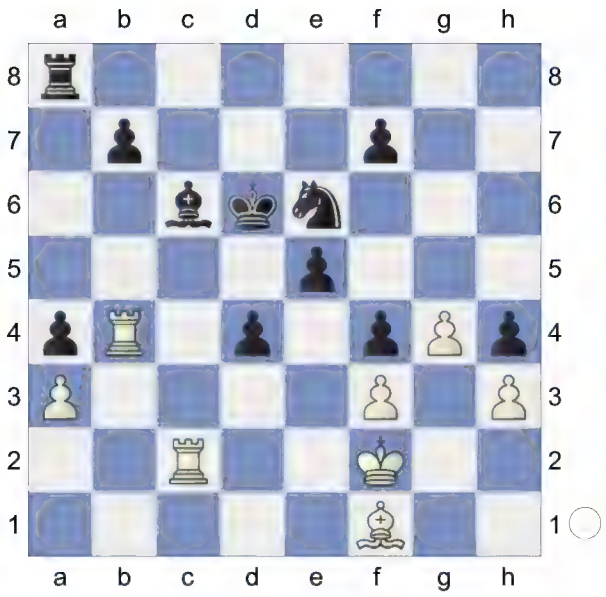
[54...Rc8-+ -4.84/21 55.Rc1 Rc7 *(55...Nxf3? 56.Rcxc6+* Remove Defender *Rxc6 57.Rxc6+ bxc6 58.Kxf3-+)*]

Loses the game. **55.Rb4?** -4.63/20

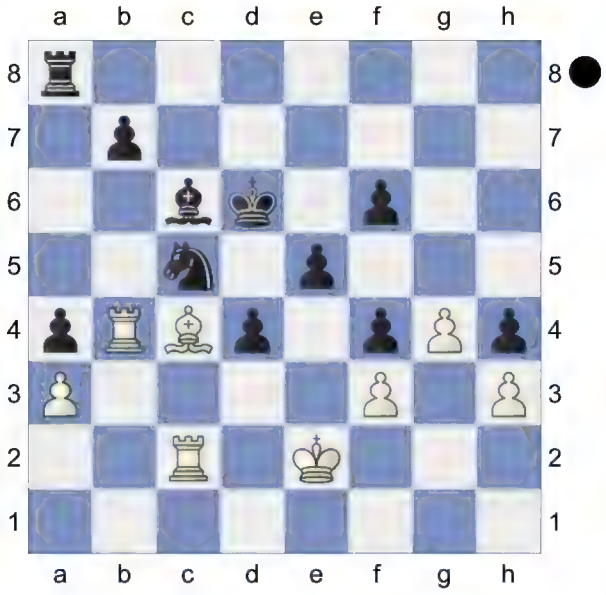
[55.Ba6∓ -0.72/18 nothing else works. bxa6 *(55...Nc5 56.Bxb7 Nxb7 57.Rcxc6+ Kd5 58.Rf6±)* 56.Rcxc6+ Ke7 *(56...Kd5 57.Rd6+ Kc4 58.Rb1=)* 57.Rb7+ Kf6 58.Ke2]

55...Ra8

(Diagram)

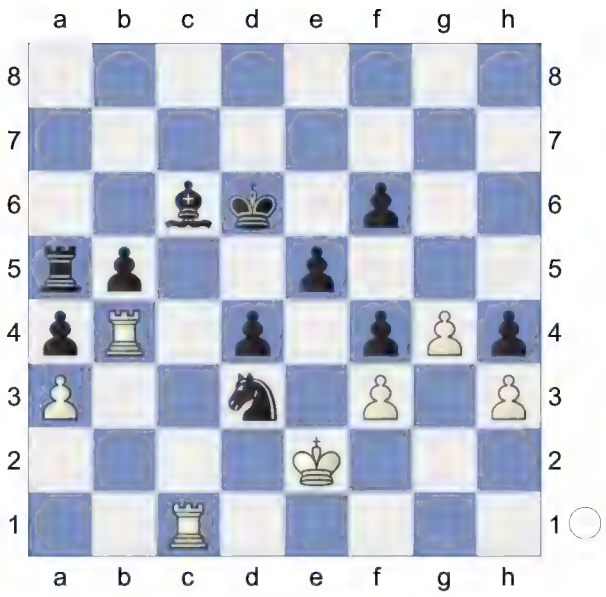


56.Bb5 Nc5 57.Bc4 f6 58.Ke2

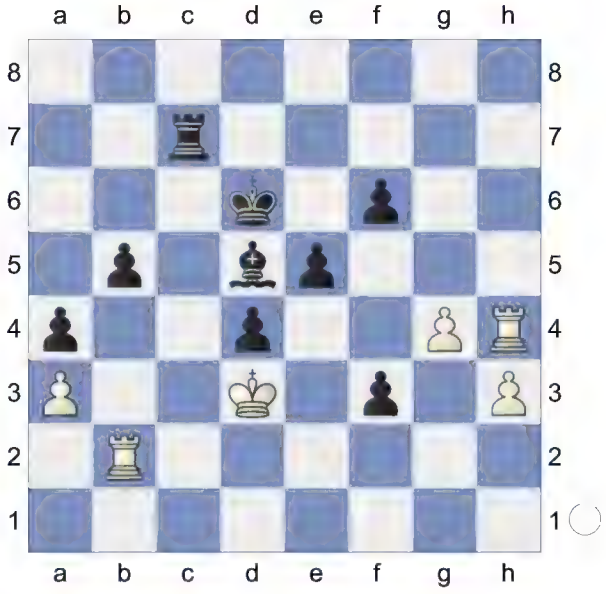


b5! 59.Bd3 Ra5 60.Rc1 -6.78/16
[⌓60.Bg6 -4.43/18]
60...Nxd3

(Diagram)



61.Kxd3 Bxf3 Endgame KRR-KRB
62.Rb2 Bd5 63.Rc8 f3 64.Rh8 Ra7 65.Rxh4 Rc7



66.Rh6 Rc3+ 67.Kd2 e4 (-> ...e3+)
68.Rxf6+ Kc5 And now ...e3+ would win. **69.Rc2 e3+ 70.Kc1**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.29 (precise)
70...e2

(Diagram)

0-1

143 **B15**
□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2754**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**
SuperUnited Blitz 2023 (13.2) 09.07.2023
[Kitty Kat]

B15: Caro-Kann: 3 Nc3: 3...g6 and 3...dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 5 Nxf6+ exf6

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6

(Diagram)

6.Nf3 Bd6 7.Bd3 The main line 7.Bd3 scores better than 7.Be2. Die Hauptvariante 7.Ld3 punktet besser als 7.Le2. **7...0-0 8.0-0 Re8 9.Re1**

[9.h3 Nd7 10.c4 Nf8 11.a4 Be6 12.Re1 Bc7 13.Bd2 Qd7 14.a5 Rad8 15.Qb3 Ng6 16.Re4 Ne5 17.dxe5 Qxd3 18.Qxd3 Rxd3 19.exf6 gxf6 20.Bc3 f5 21.Ree1 Red8 22.Be5 Bxe5 23.Nxe5 Rb3 0-1 (51) Shomoev,A (2555)-Iljushenok,I (2558) Khanty-Mansiysk Governor Cup Rapid 18th 2022 (5)]

[9.c3 Nd7 10.Be3 Nf8 11.Qc2 Bg4 12.Nd2 Qc7 13.h3 Be6 14.Ne4 Bf4 15.Rae1 Ng6 16.Nc5 Rad8 17.Nxe6 Rxe6 18.Bc4 Re7 19.Qf5 Rde8 20.Bxf4 Nxf4 21.Rxe7 Rxe7 22.g3 Ng6 23.h4 Nf8 ½-½ (56) Trifonov,D (2163)-Cupid,K (2189) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Jan Early blitz 2025 (7)]

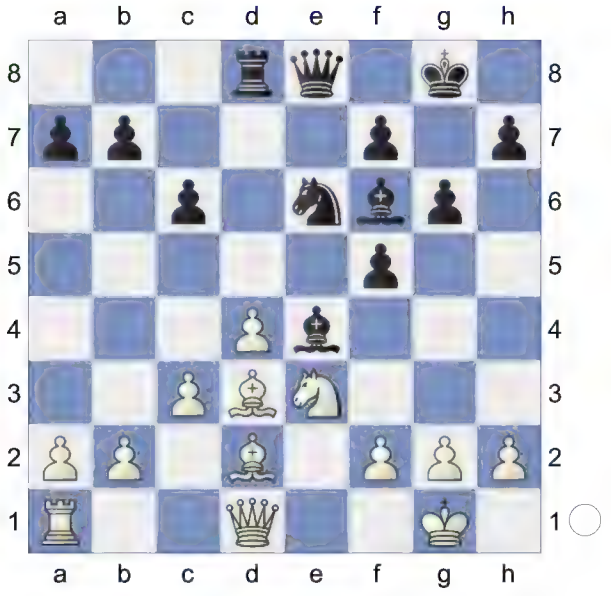
9...Be6 10.c3 Nd7

(Diagram)

11.Nd2N The position is equal.
[Predecessor: 11.Bc2 Nf8 12.Qd3 Qd7 13.Bd2 Bc7 14.b3 -0.27/20 *(14.c4* 0.09/19 feels stronger.) 14...Qd6 15.g3 Qd7 16.Nh4 g6 17.Re3 0-1 Varholakova,N (2134)-Mikes,J (2337) SVK-chT 2122 2021 (8.4)]
[11.Bd2 Nf8 12.Nh4 Qc7 13.h3 Rad8 14.Nf5 Bxf5 15.Bxf5 c5 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Rxe8 Rxe8 18.Qf3 g6 19.Bc2 f5 20.Rd1 Rd8 21.Bf4 Rxd1+ 22.Bxd1 Qd7 23.Bb3 Ne6 24.Be3 Bxe3 25.Qxe3 b6 ½-½ (38) Shaashvat,G (1428)-Rupesh,B (1649) Asia-ch Rapid U20 2023 (8) 26.Bxe6 fxe6 27.f4 Qd5 28.a3 Kf7 29.Kf2 e5 30.fxe5 Ke6 31.Qh6 Qxe5 32.Qxh7 Qf4+ 33.Kg1 Qe3+ 34.Kh2 Qf4+ 35.Kg1 Qc1+ 36.Kh2 Qf4+ 37.Kh1 Qf1+ 38.Kh2 Ke5 \ -\ 9...g6 10. ♘f3 79000 (1428)-9. ♘b3 ♗e6 10.f4 70314 (1649) 134 Linz 2014 (8)]
11...Nf8 12.Ne4 Be7 13.Ng3 g6 14.Bf4 f5 15.Nf1 Bf6

(Diagram)

16.Nd2 Bd5 17.Rxe8 Qxe8 18.Nf1 Ne6 0.19/20
[⌓18...h5 -0.25/21]
19.Bd2 -0.33/19
[19.Bh6= 0.19/20]
19...Rd8 With the idea ...c5. **20.Ne3 Be4**

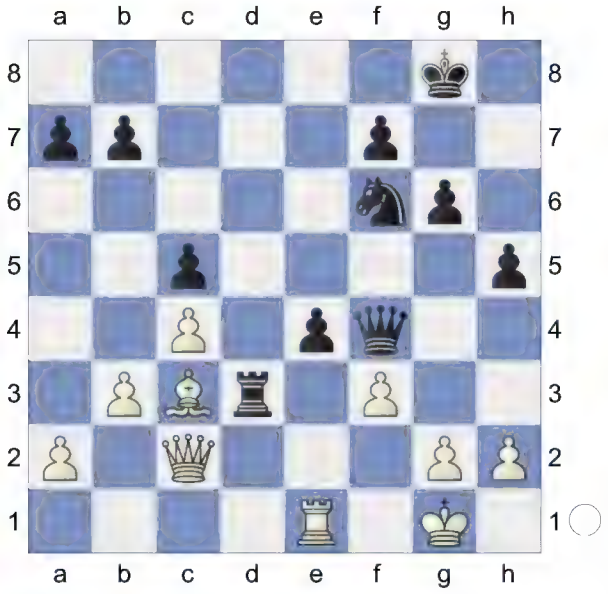


21.Bxe4 fxe4 22.Qc2
[22.Qg4!?]
22...c5! 23.d5 Nf4 24.Ng4! Discovered Attack **24...Nxd5 25.c4 h5!**

(Diagram)

26.Nxf6+ Nxf6 27.Re1 White is weak on the light squares **27...Qe6 28.b3 Qf5 29.Bc3 Rd3 30.f3** Wards off Ng4. and fxe4 would now be decisive **30...Qf4↑**

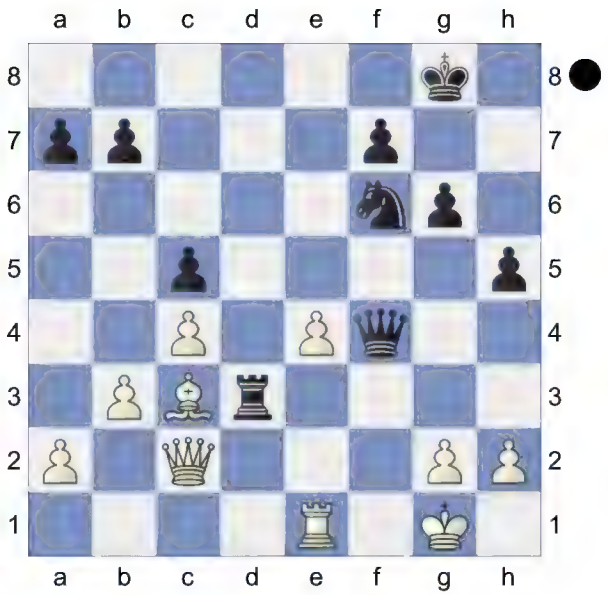
[30...exf3? 31.Bxf6 f2+ *(31...Qxf6? 32.Re8+ Kg7 33.Qxd3+-)* 32.Qxf2+-]



White is under pressure. **31.fxe4?** -4.80/22

[31.Qb2!= 0.00/24 and White stays safe. Re3 32.Rd1]

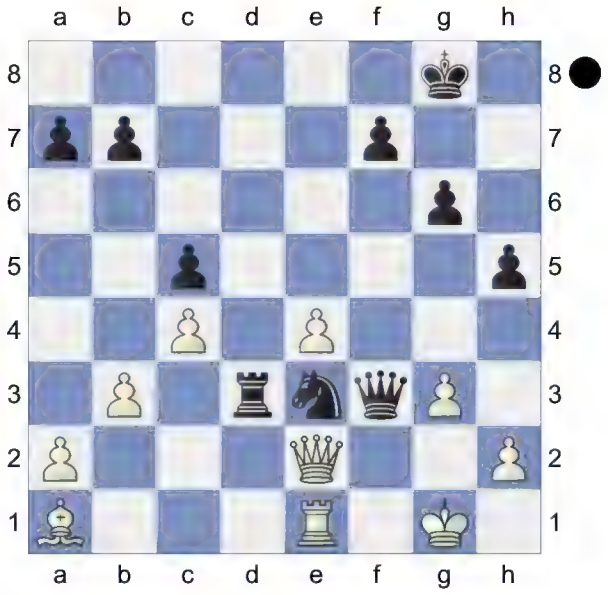
(Diagram)



31...Ng4!-+ 32.g3

[Don't play 32.Qxd3 Qxh2+ 33.Kf1 Qh1+ 34.Ke2 Qxg2+ 35.Kd1 Nf2+ *(35...Qxa2 36.Qd8+ Kh7 37.Qh8#)* 36.Ke2 Nxd3+]

32...Qf3 33.Ba1 Ne3 34.Qe2

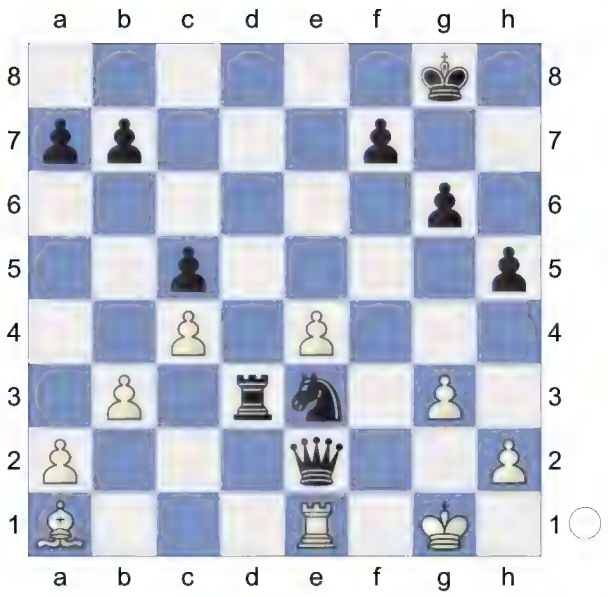


Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.20 (precise)

34...Qxe2!

[34...Qxe4 35.Bf6 Qf5 36.Ba1=]

(Diagram)



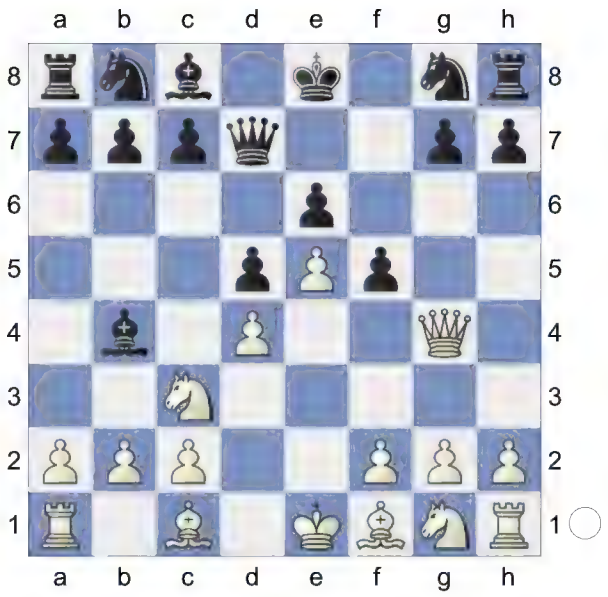
0-1

144 **C16**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2782**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**
Zagreb SuperUnited Rapid (7) 07.07.23
[Kitty Kat]

C16: French: 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5: Lines without ...c5

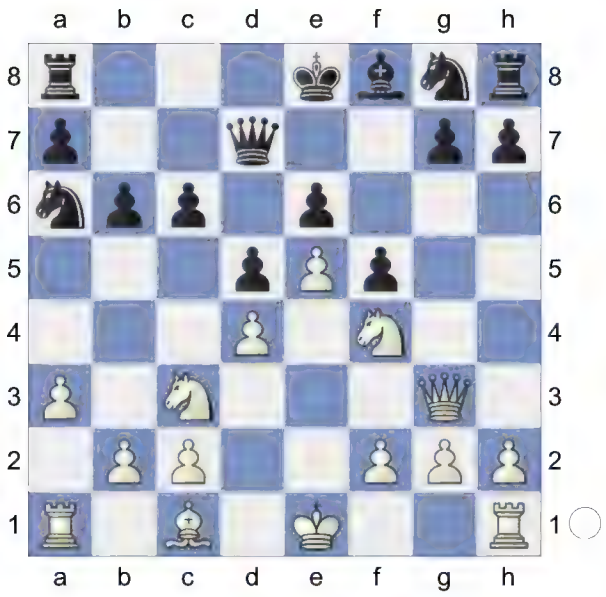
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Qd7 5.Qg4
[5.a3 Bf8 *(5...Bxc3+* ½-½ Liang,J (2530)-Chandra,A (2468) Saint Louis Spring-B 2023 (7) *6.bxc3 b6 7.Qg4 f5 8.Qg3)* 6.Nf3 b6 7.Bb5 c6 8.Ba4]
5...f5

(Diagram)

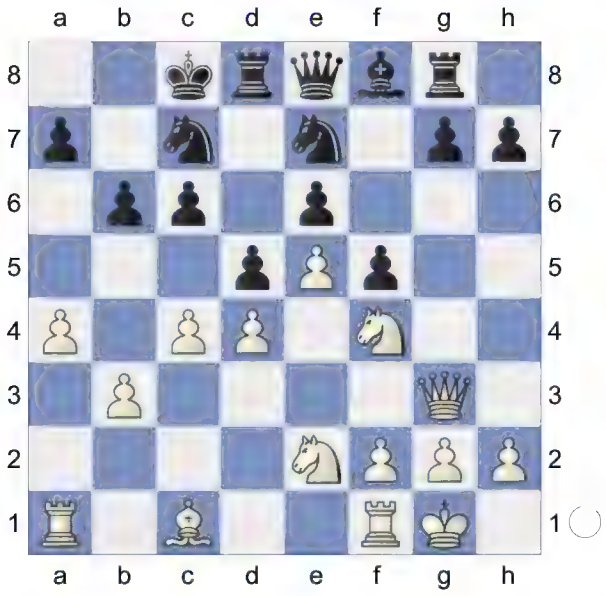


6.Qg3
[6.exf6 Nxf6]
6...b6 **7.Nh3!** outshines the older 7.Bb3. erfolgreicher als das alte 7.Lb3. **7...Ba6**
8.Bxa6 Nxa6 9.Nf4 Bf8
[9...0-0-0 10.h4 g6 11.Bd2 Ne7 12.0-0-0 c5 13.Nce2 Bxd2+ 14.Rxd2 c4 15.h5 Kb7 16.Rdd1 Nc7 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Qg5 Nc6 19.Rxh8 Rxh8 20.Qxg6 b5 21.Qf6 Qe8 22.Kd2 b4 23.Ke3 Rh7 24.g3 1-0 Uyanga,B (2640)-2...a6 (2525) (ch) 48/807 United States 1989]
10.a3N
[10.Bd2 Nh6 11.a3 c6 12.Nce2 g6 13.Qd3 Nc7 14.Rc1 Nf7 15.0-0 Be7 16.c4 Rc8 17.cxd5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 cxd5 19.Rxc8+ Qxc8 20.Rc1 Qd7 21.Qc2 Qb7 22.Qc7 Qa8 23.Nf4 Bg5 24.Nxg6 Bd8 1-0 Bujan,H-Ruhle,E EU-Cup 18th Chalkidiki 2002]
10...c6 1.42/22
[Black should play 10...c5 1.04/19]

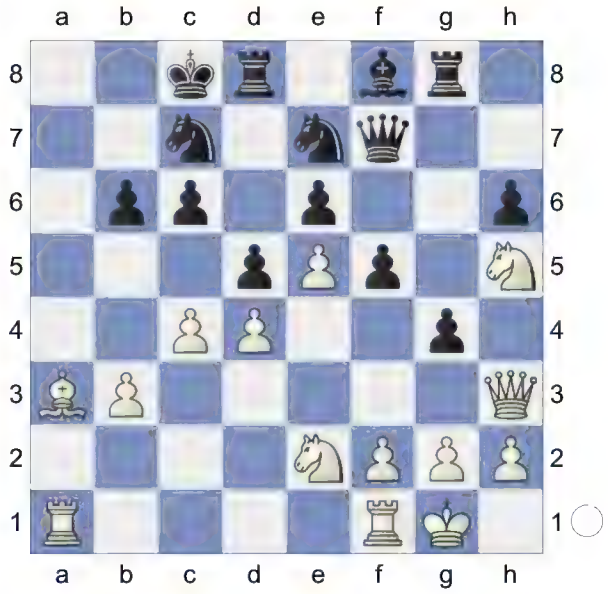
(Diagram)



11.Nce2± White is clearly better.
11...Nc7 12.b3 0-0-0 1.74/18
[12...c5± 1.31/20 13.dxc5 bxc5]
13.c4 1.15/22
[13.Nd3+- 1.74/18]
13...Ne7 14.0-0 Rg8 15.a4 1.04/20
[⌓15.c5 1.56/21]
15...Qe8

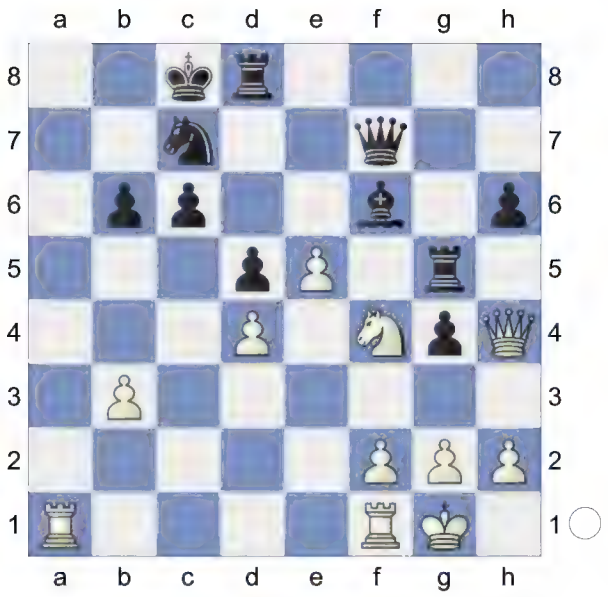


16.Qh3 White is much more active.
16...h6N 2.03/23
[16...g5± 0.90/21 was necessary.]
17.a5+- Qf7? 3.78/19 Black is weak on the dark squares
[17...g5 1.91/20 was called for.]
18.axb6 axb6 19.Ba3
[19.c5 bxc5 20.Bd2 *(20.dxc5 g5±; 20.Nd3 f4+-)* 20...g5+-]
19...g5 20.Nh5 g4



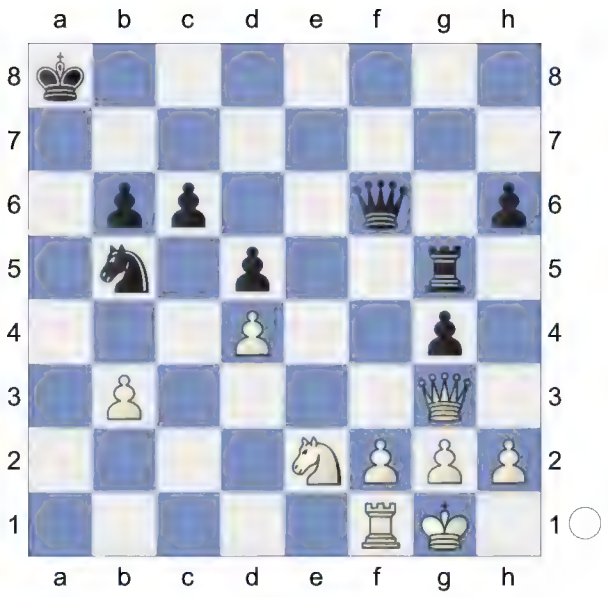
21.Qh4 1.00/20
[21.Qc3+- 3.80/20]
21...f4± 22.Nexf4 Strongly threatening Ba3-d6. **22...Rg5 23.Bxe7** 0.63/21
[23.Bd6+- 1.89/22 Nf5 24.Bxc7 Remove Defender Qxc7 *(24...Nxh4 25.Bxd8 Qb7 26.Nxe6+- Pin)* 25.Nxe6 *(25.Ra8+? Kb7-+)* 25...Nxh4 26.Nxc7 Kxc7 *(26...Rxh5? 27.Ne6+-)* 27.Nf4]
23...Bxe7± 24.cxd5! exd5 25.Nf6 Bxf6

(Diagram)



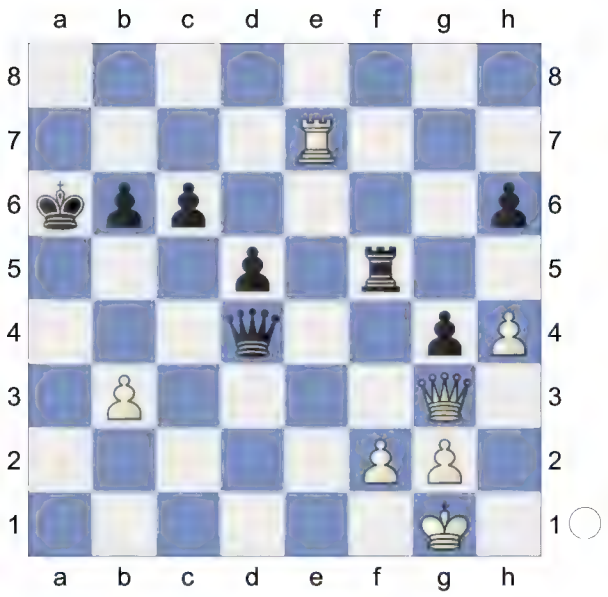
26.exf6 Qxf6 27.Ne2 -0.76/22
[27.Nd3!± 0.38/20]
27...Kb7 -0.33/24
[27...Rf8!∓ -0.76/22]
28.Qg3 Nb5 0.84/22 Prevents Ra1-a7+
[28...Rg7∓ -0.57/20 keeps the upper hand.]
29.Ra2 -0.36/22
[29.Nc3!± 0.84/22 Black must now prevent Nc3xb5. Nxc3 *(29...Qxd4 30.Nxb5 cxb5 31.Rfd1± Decoy; 29...Nxd4 30.Ra7+ Decoy Kxa7 31.Qc7+ Ka8 32.Ra1#)* 30.Qxc3]
29...Ra8 0.00/25
[29...Nxd4? 30.Nxd4 Qxd4 31.Rfa1+-]
[29...h5∓ -0.36/22]
30.Rxa8= Kxa8

(Diagram)

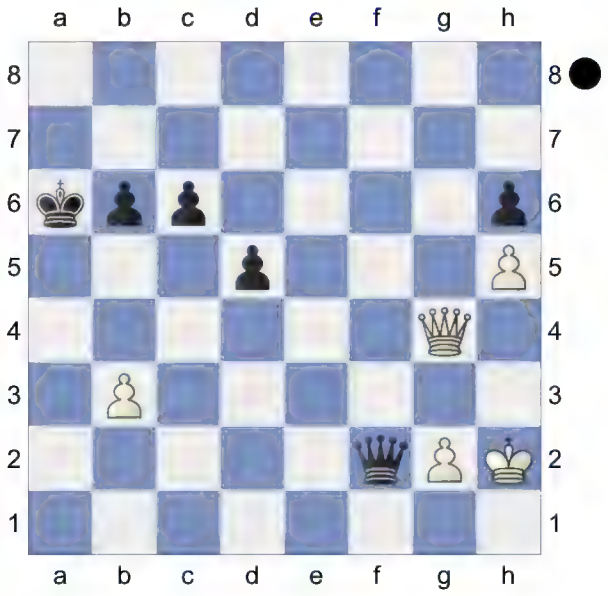


31.Re1 -0.66/25
[Better is 31.Nc3= 0.00/25 Nxd4 32.Qd3]
31...Kb7!↑ Black has strong initiative.
[31...Nxd4? 32.Nxd4 Qxd4 33.Qc7+-]
32.h3 Nxd4 -0.29/23
[32...gxh3!∓ -1.02/23 33.Qxh3 Rg7]
33.Nxd4= Qxd4∓ Endgame. KQR-KQR
34.Re7+? -2.96/21 This costs White the game.
[34.hxg4!∓ -0.40/20 Rxg4 *(34...Qxg4 35.Re7+ Ka8 36.Qxg4±)* 35.Qd6]
34...Ka6-+ 35.h4 Rf5

(Diagram)

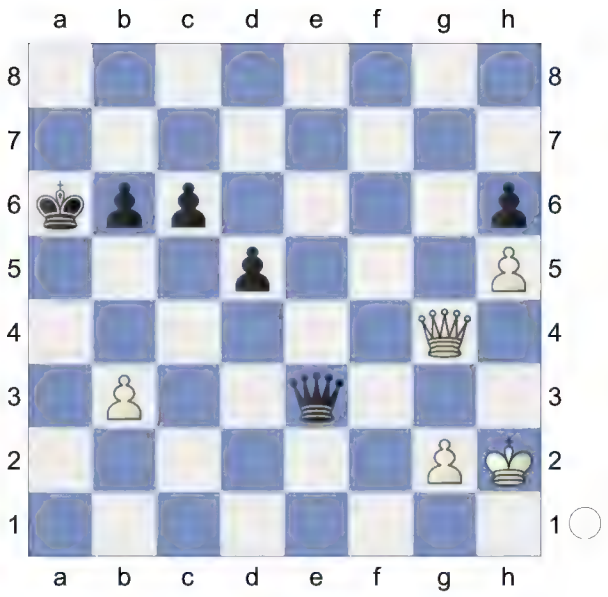


36.Re6 Rf6 37.Rxf6 Qa1+
[37...Qxf6 38.Qxg4 Qc3 39.Qa4+ Kb7 40.Qf4=]
38.Kh2 Qxf6 39.Qxg4 Qxf2
And now ...d5-d4 would win. KQ-KQ
40.h5 -4.15/21
[⌓40.Qa4+ -2.89/19 Kb7 41.Qg4]



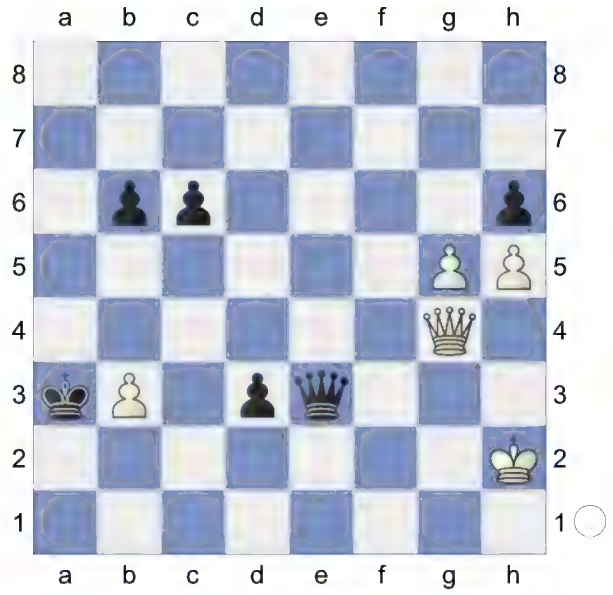
40...Qe3 -1.80/22
[⌓40...d4! -4.15/21 41.Qe4 Qf6]

(Diagram)

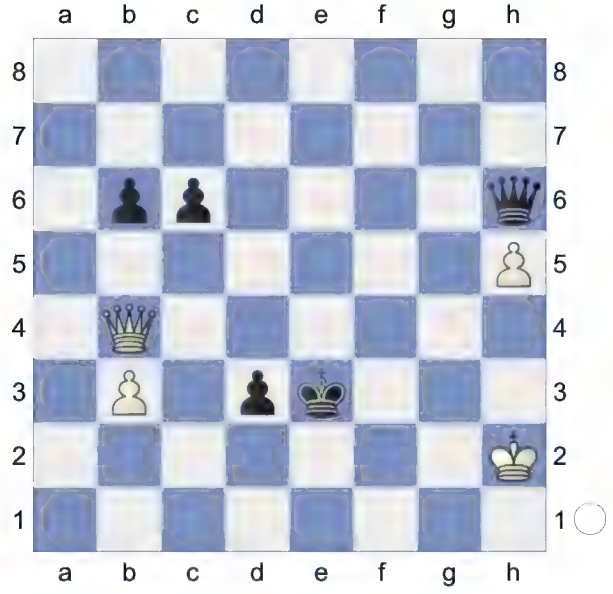


41.Qg6? -4.25/21
[41.Qa4+ -1.80/22 was the only chance. Kb7 42.Qg4]
41...Kb5 Threatens to win with ...d5-d4!
[41...Qxb3 42.Qxc6 d4 43.Qc8+ *(43.Qxh6 d3=)* 43...Ka5 44.Qa8+ Kb5 45.Qe8+ Kb4 46.Qe7+ Kc3 47.Qe1+ Kc2 48.Qf2+ Kc3 49.Qe1+ Kd3 50.Qg3+ Kc2 51.Qf2+ Kc3 52.Qe1+=]
42.g4 -6.61/22
[⌓42.Qf7 -4.01/19]
42...d4 ...d4-d3! is the strong threat. Black is clearly winning.
[42...Qxb3 43.Qxh6 d4 44.Qd6∓]
43.g5 d3 44.Qf5+ Kb4 45.Qg4+ Ka3
[45...Kxb3 46.g6 Qf2+ 47.Kh3=]

(Diagram)

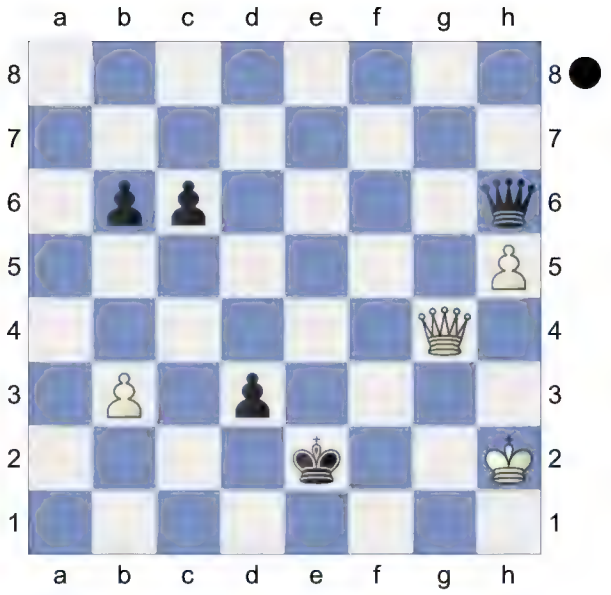


46.gxh6 Qxh6
[46...Kxb3 47.h7 Qe2+ 48.Qxe2 dxe2 49.h8Q=]
47.Qa4+ Kb2 48.Qd4+ Kc2
[48...Kxb3 49.Qxd3+ Kb4 50.Qg6 Qd2+ 51.Kh3=]
49.Qc4+ Kd2 50.Qb4+ Ke3
[50...Kd1 51.Qg4+ Kc2 52.Qg6 Qd2+ 53.Kg3-+]

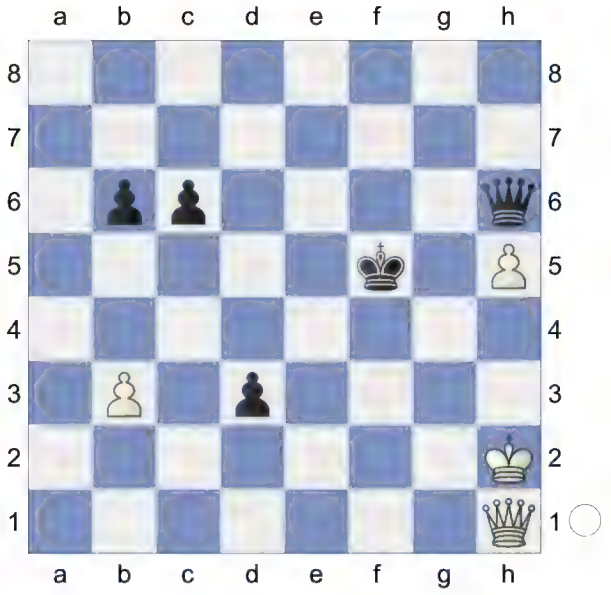


51.Qe1+ Kf3 52.Qg3+ Ke2 53.Qg4+

(Diagram)



Ke3! 54.Qg1+ Ke4 55.Qh1+ Kf5

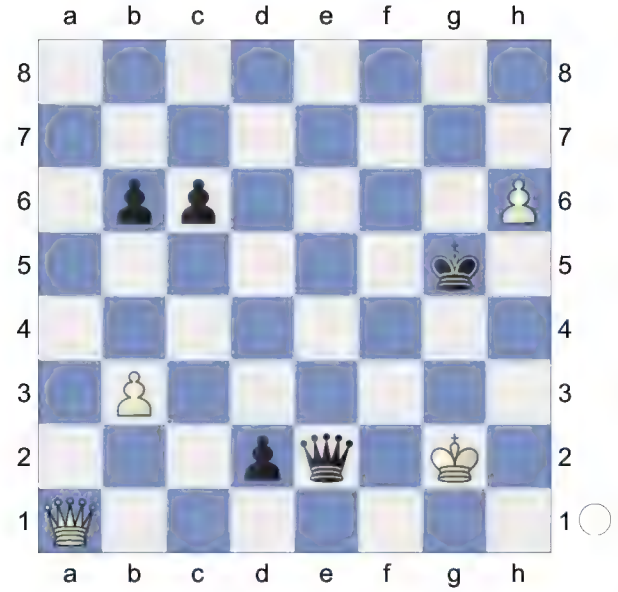


56.Qd1 Qe3 57.Kg2 d2 58.h6 Kf4 (-> ...Qe3-g3+) **59.Qf1+** Predecessor: **59...Kg5** ...Qe3-e4+ would now be deadly.
[59...Ke5 60.h7 Qe4+ *(60...Qxb3 61.h8Q+ Kd5 62.Qf7+* Skewer *Kc5 63.Qxb3 Kd6 64.Qf6+ Kc7 65.Qbf7+ Kc8 66.Qh8#)* 61.Kg3 Qg6+ *(61...Qxh7 62.Qf4+ Ke6 63.Qe3+ Kd7 64.Qxd2+ Kc7 65.Qc3=)* 62.Kf3 Qxh7 63.Qe2+ Kf6 64.Qxd2 Qh5+ 65.Kg3 Qg5+ 66.Qxg5+ Kxg5

67.Kf3]

60.Qa1 Qe2+

[60...Qxb3 61.Qg7+ Kf5 62.Qh7+ Ke5 *(62...Kf4 63.Qc7+ Ke4 64.Qxc6+ Kd3 65.Qg6+ Kc3 66.h7∓)* 63.Qg7+ Ke4 64.Qg6+ Kd4 65.Qf6+ Kd3 66.Qg6+ Kc3 67.Qxc6+ Qc4 68.Qxc4+ Kxc4 69.h7∓]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.67/ Black=0.37. Loss on time!?

1-0

145 **B31**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2744**

■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2835**

SuperUnited Rapid 2023 (1.1) 05.07.23

[Kitty Kat]

B31: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5 g6

Vasiukov,E: 'Inf 20/370' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5**

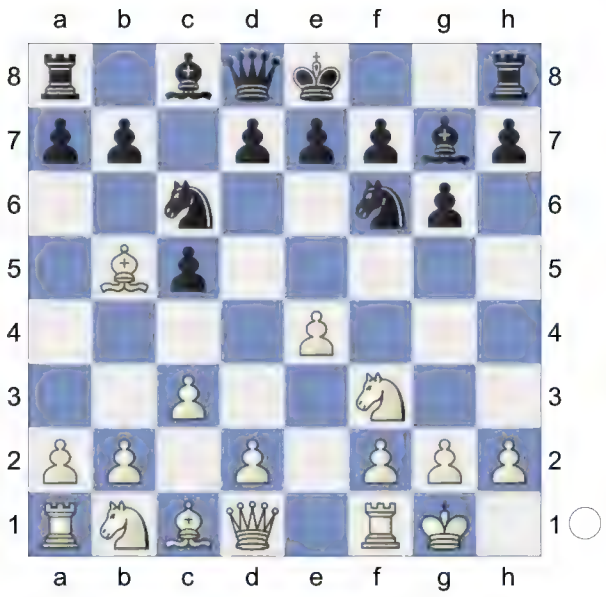
[3.c4 e5 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 f5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Ne1 Rb8 12.f4 exf4 13.gxf4 b5 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.Rb1 Bb7 17.b3 Qa8 0-1 (43) Buksa,J (2081)-Jun,R (2200) CZE-ch Amateur 2023 (8)]

3...g6N

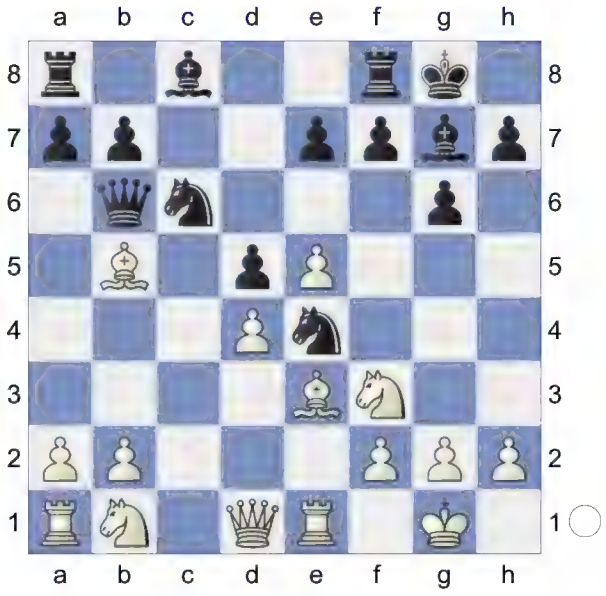
[3...e6 4.d4 Nge7 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.a3 *(11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Qb3 Nb4 13.Rxe7 Qxe7 14.Bxd7 Nxa2 15.Bf5 Nxc1 16.Rxc1 g6 17.Bh3 Rad8 18.g3 Rfe8 19.Ne5 Rd6 20.Rc5 Rb6 21.Qc3 f6 22.Rc7 Qd6 23.Rd7 Qf8 24.Nd3 Rd8 25.Nc5 Qe8* 1-0 (30) Vasiukov,E-Timoscenko,G USSR 20/370 1975) 11...Rc8 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Be4 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Qc7 17.c4 Red8 18.Rad1 1-0 (72) Grischuk,A (2709)-Radjabov,T (2728) World Blitz Rishon Le Zion ISR 2006 (2) Na5 19.c5 Bc6 20.h4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Rd5 22.Bf4 Qd8 23.Bd6 Nc4 24.Bg3 Rcxc5 25.dxc5 Rxd1 26.Qxc4 Rxe1+ 27.Nxe1 Qd1 28.Qf1 Qc1 29.a4 Qxc5 30.Nf3 Kg7 31.Qb5 Qxb5 32.axb5 a6 33.b6 1-0 (72) Hanke,L (2709)-10. ♗c2 c5 11.♘bd2 15267 (2728) NAICCC VIII 9600 1996 (2)]

4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 Nf6

(Diagram)



6.Re1 0-0 7.d4 d5 8.e5 Ne4 9.Be3 cxd4! 9...cxd4 is better than 9...Qb6. 9...cxd4 ist besser als 9...Db6. **10.cxd4 Qb6**



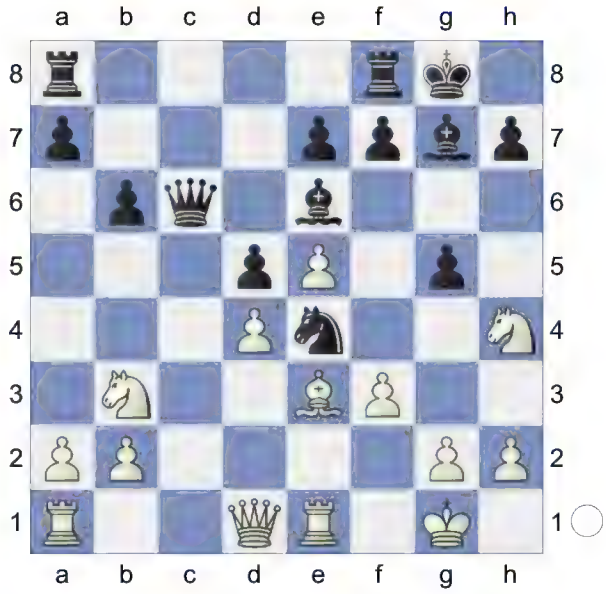
11.Bxc6 White is slightly better.
11...Qxc6 12.Nbd2 Bf5!?N
New and interesting.Theoretisch interessant.

[Predecessor: 12...Be6 13.Rc1 Qd7 14.Qb3 Rac8 15.Qa3 b6 16.Ng5 Nxg5 17.Bxg5 f6 18.Bf4 fxe5 ...Rxc1 would now be deadly. 19.Bxe5 Bxe5 20.dxe5 ½-½ Yoo,C (2532)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2624) Junior Speed Qual blitz 2022 (1.27)]

13.Nb3 b6 14.Nh4 -0.16/19

[14.Nc1 0.29/17]

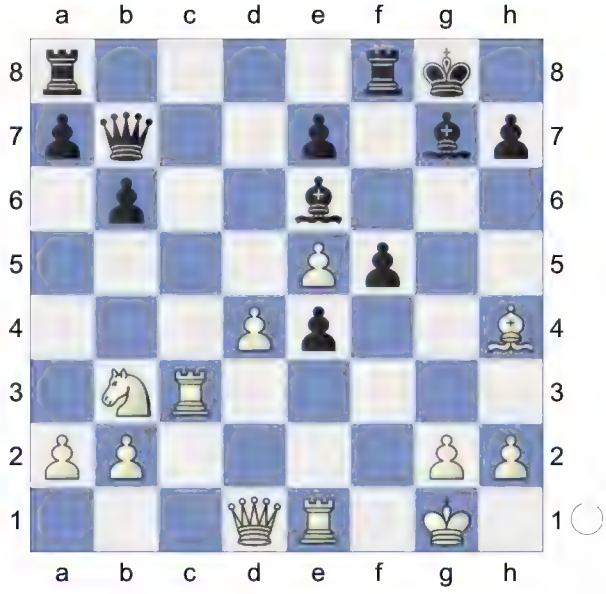
14...Be6= 15.f3 g5!



Wards off g3 **16.fxe4 gxh4 17.Bg5** -0.54/18

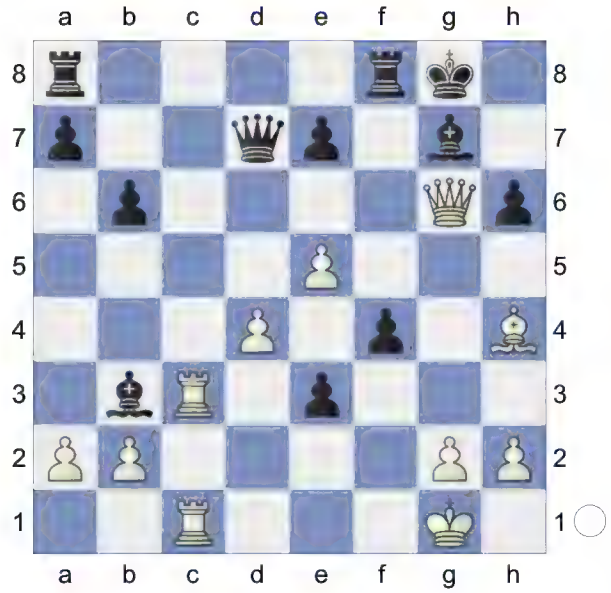
[17.Rc1= -0.11/21 should be considered. Qd7 18.h3]

17...f6!∓ 18.Rc1 Qb7 19.Bxh4 dxe4 20.Rc3 f5

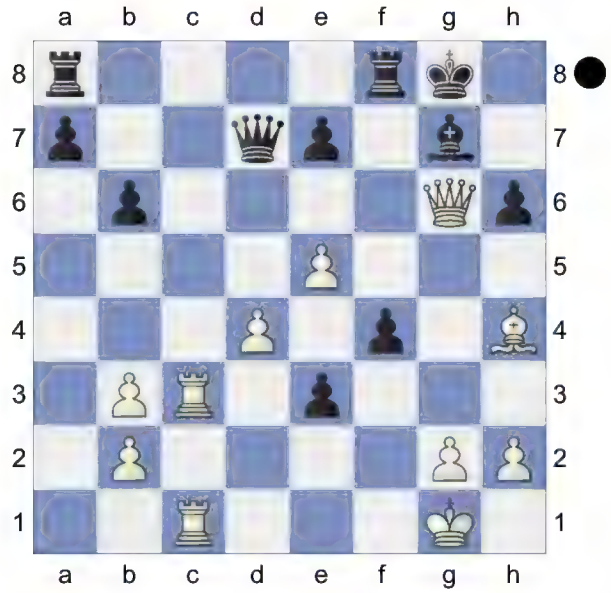


21.Bg5 f4! Black keeps a firm grip on the game. **22.Qc2** -1.62/20

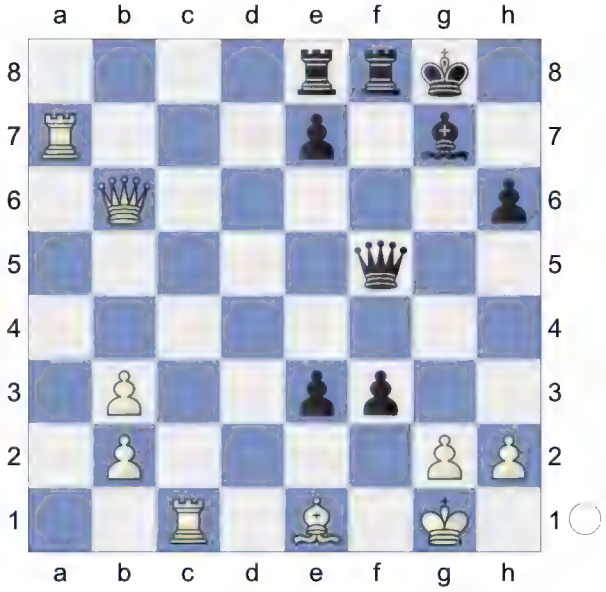
[22.Rf1∓ -0.49/18]
22...h6-+ 23.Bh4 e3 24.Qg6 Qd7
25.Rec1 -2.47/20
[25.h3∓ -1.59/16]
25...Bxb3



26.axb3

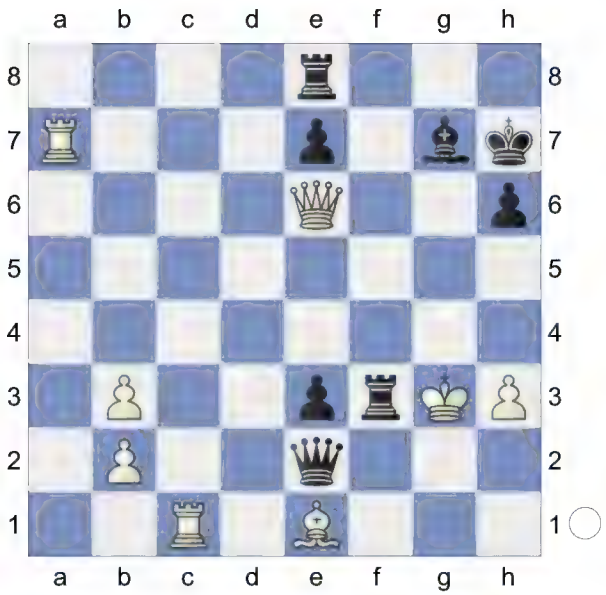


Bxe7! is the strong threat. **26...Qxd4**
27.Rc7 Rae8
[27...Qxe5 28.Rxe7 Qxb2 29.Rd1∓]
28.Be1 Qxe5
[28...Qxb2 29.e6-+]
29.Rxa7 Qf5
[Don't play 29...Qxb2 30.Rac7-+]
30.Qxb6 -6.00/17
[30.Qxf5 -2.65/18 Rxf5 31.Bc3]
30...f3
[30...Bxb2 31.Ra5 Qf6 32.Qxf6 Rxf6 *(32...Bxf6 33.Kf1∓)* 33.Rc2∓]



(-> ...f2+) **31.gxf3 Qxf3**
[31...Bxb2? 32.Ra5 Qxf3 33.Qg6+ Bg7 34.Qg2∓]
32.Qe6+ Kh7 33.h3 Qf1+
Black mates. **34.Kh2 Qe2+**
[Not 34...Bxb2 35.Rxe7+ Rxe7 36.Qxe7+ Rf7 37.Qe4+ Qf5 38.Qxf5+ Rxf5 39.Rc2=]
35.Kg3 Rf3+
[35...Bxb2 36.Rxe7+ Rxe7 37.Qxe7+ Bg7 38.Qe4+ Kh8 39.h4-+]

(Diagram)

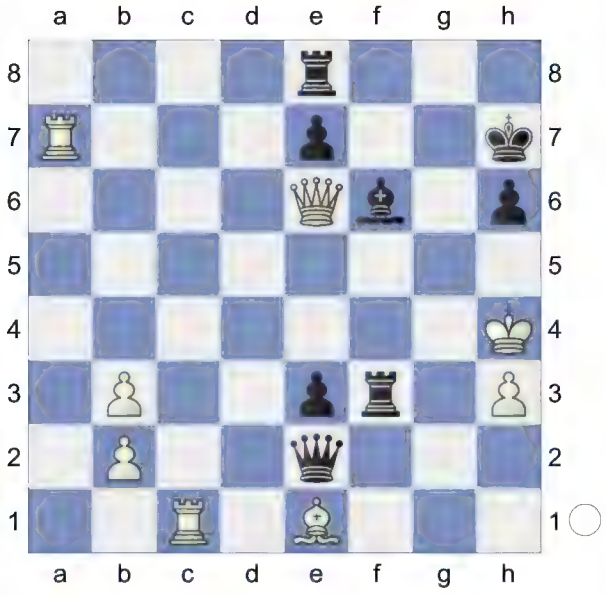


36.Kh4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.71/ Black=0.08 (flawless)

36...Bf6+

[36...Bxb2 37.Rxe7+ Rxe7 38.Qxe7+ Bg7 39.Qe4+ Kg8 40.Rc8+ Rf8 41.Rxf8+ Kxf8 42.Bb4+ Kf7 43.Qc4+ Qxc4+ 44.bxc4±]



0-1

146 **D41**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**

■ **Grischuk,A** **2736**

Global Chess League 2023 rapid (10.2)

[TA]

D50: Queen's Gambit Declined: Dutch-Peruvian Gambit

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 cxd4

6.Qxd4 exd5N

[6...Nxd5 7.e4 Nxc3 8.Qxc3 Nc6

A) 9.a3 Bd7 10.Be2 Rc8 11.0-0 Na5 12.Qd3 Ba4 13.Qxd8+ Rxd8 14.Be3 Nb3 15.Bd1 b5 *(15...a6 16.Bxb3 Bxb3 17.Rac1 Bd6 18.Bb6 Ra8 19.Nd4 Ba4 20.Rc4 Bd7 21.Rd1 0-0 22.e5 Bb5 23.Nxb5 axb5 24.Re4 Be7 25.Rd7 Rfc8 26.g3 Bf8 27.Rxb7* 7.♗d3 ♕h5 8.00-Ilivitzki,G Abu Dhabi Masters op 2001*)* 16.Bxb3 Bxb3 17.Rfc1 e5 18.Nxe5 a6 19.Nc6 1-0 Buchicchio,G (2795)-Baklan,N (2625) corr MN/75 ICCF 1999 (8);

B) 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.0-0 Qb6 11.a4

Qc5 12.Qd3 Qd6 13.Qe2 a6 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Bg5 h6 17.Be3 Bd6 18.a5 Qe7 19.Bb6 0-0 20.Nd4 Rfc8 21.Nxc6 (28) 7.Bd3 Qh5 8. 00-Rodriguez,L Abu Dhabi Masters op 2001 Rxc6 22.Rac1 Rac8 23.Rxc6 Rxc6 24.g3 Bc7 25.Bxc7 Qxc7 26.Qd2 Qe5 27.Qb4 Qc7 28.Qd2 Qe5 7.♗d3 ♕h5 8. 00-Rodriguez,L Abu Dhabi Masters op 2001]

7.Bg5 Be7 8.e3 0-0 9.Rd1 Be6 10.Qa4 Qb6

The position is equal. **11.Qb5 Nbd7!?N**
An interesting novelty.Eine interessante Neuerung.

[Predecessor: 11...h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Rxd5 Bxb2 15.Bc4 Qc7 1.09/18 *(15...Qxb5=* 0.16/19 keeps the balance. *16.Bxb5 Rc8)* 16.0-0± Bf6 17.Rfd1 a6 1.50/18 1-0 Gukesh,D (2736)-Sadhwani,R (2603) Chess.com U20 Speed blitz 2023 (3.13) *(⌓17...Qb6* 1.10/17 *18.Qxb6 axb6)*]

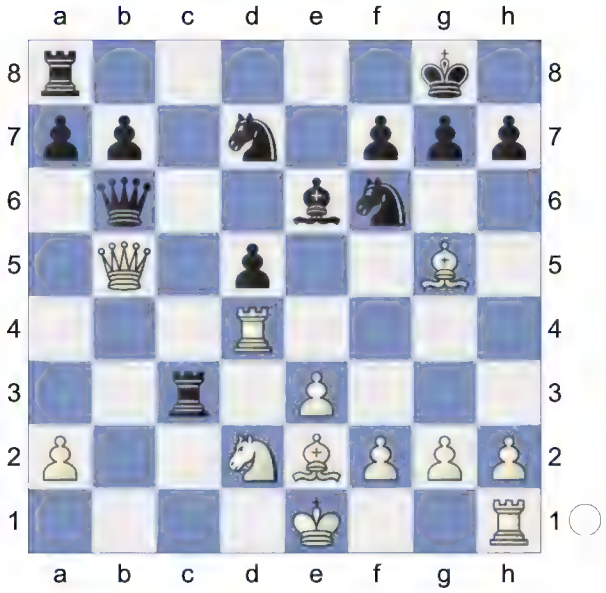
12.Be2 -0.68/21

[12.Qxb6= 0.00/21 Nxb6 13.Be2]

12...Bb4!∓ 13.Rd4 -1.44/19

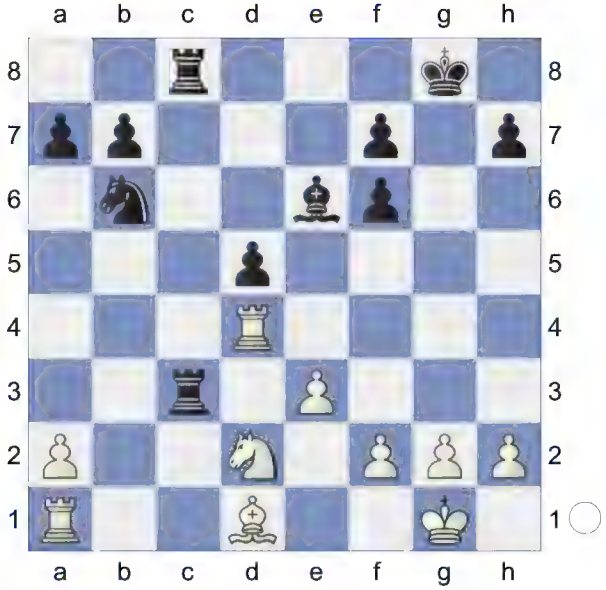
[13.Bxf6∓ -0.70/18 Nxf6 14.Qd3]

13...Bxc3+∓ 14.bxc3 Rfc8 15.Nd2
Against Ne4 **15...Rxc3**



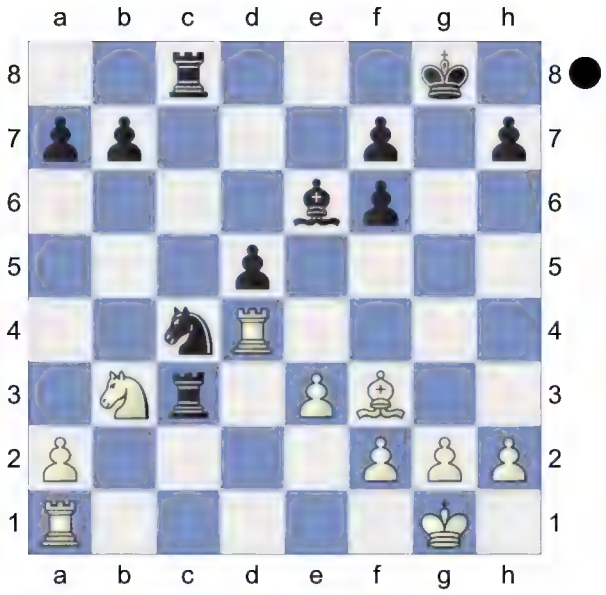
16.0-0 Ra3 17.Ra1 Rc8 18.Qxb6 Nxb6 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Bd1
Repels Rc2 **20...Rac3** -0.67/19

[20...Nc4∓ -1.16/19 21.Nf1 Rc5]

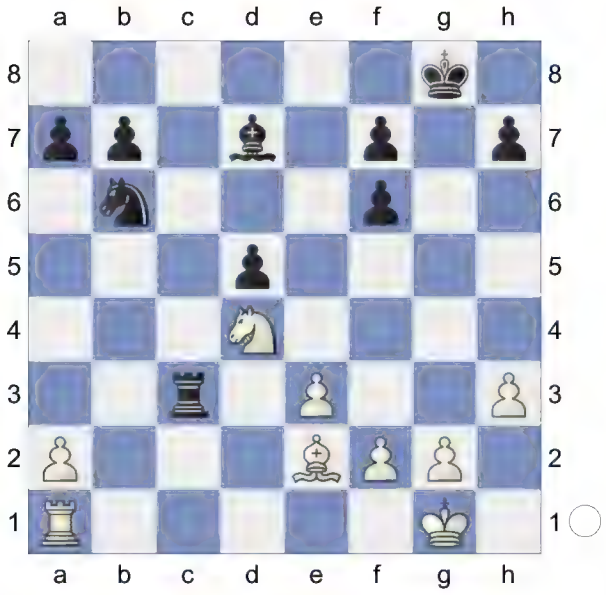


Black is more active. **21.Nb3 Nc4 22.Bf3**

(Diagram)

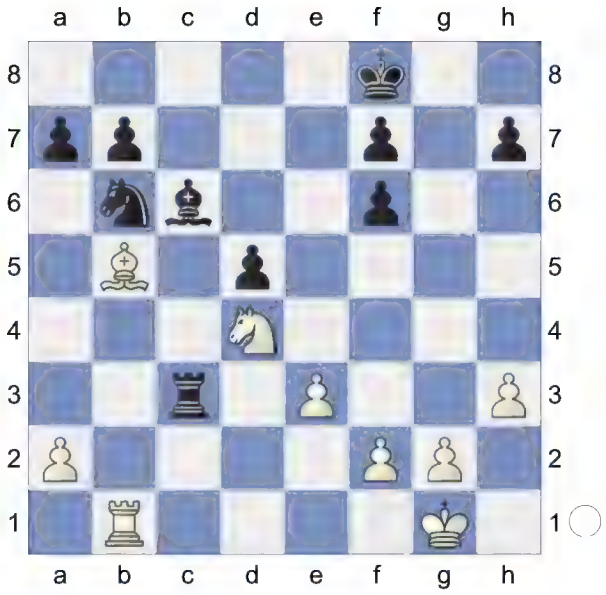


Nb6 -0.41/19
[22...a5!∓ -1.04/21 Strongly threatening ...a4. 23.Bxd5 a4 24.Bxe6 fxe6]
23.h3∓ R8c4 24.Be2 Rxd4 25.Nxd4 Bd7

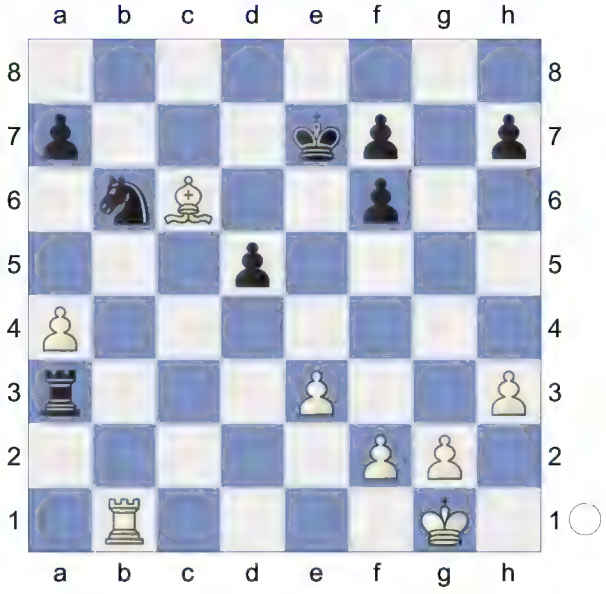


26.Rb1 Kf8 27.Bb5 Bc6

(Diagram)

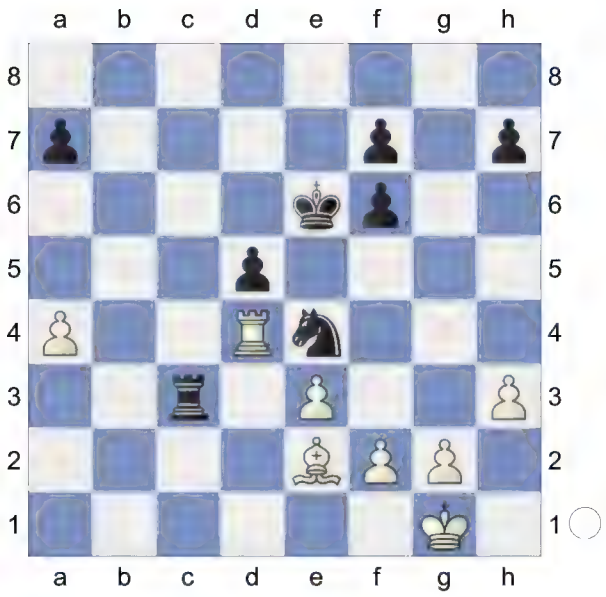


28.a4! Ra3 29.Nxc6 bxc6 30.Bxc6=
Endgame KRB-KRN **30...Ke7**

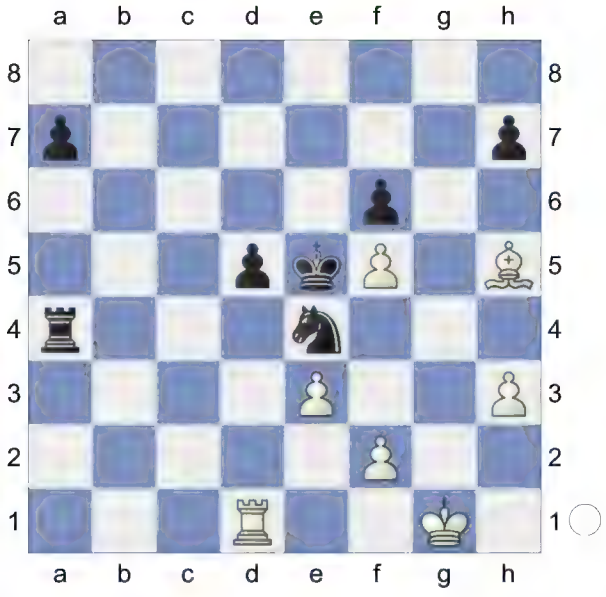


31.Rb4 Rc3 32.Bb5 Nc4 33.Ba6 Nd6
Prevents Rb7+. **34.Rd4 Ke6 35.Be2 Ne4**

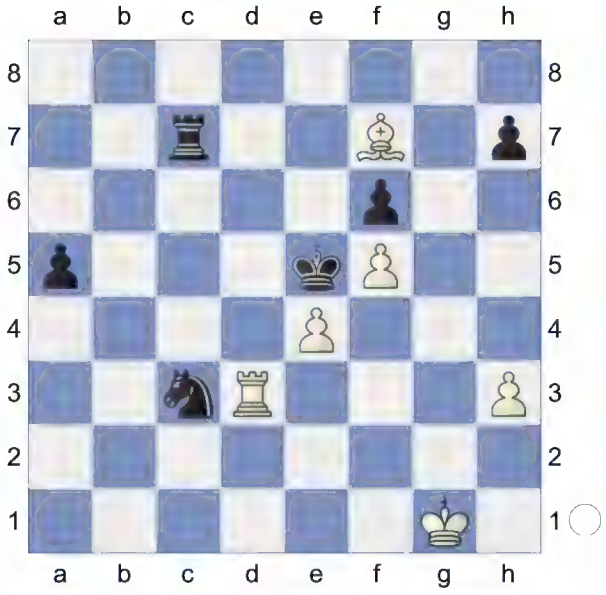
(Diagram)



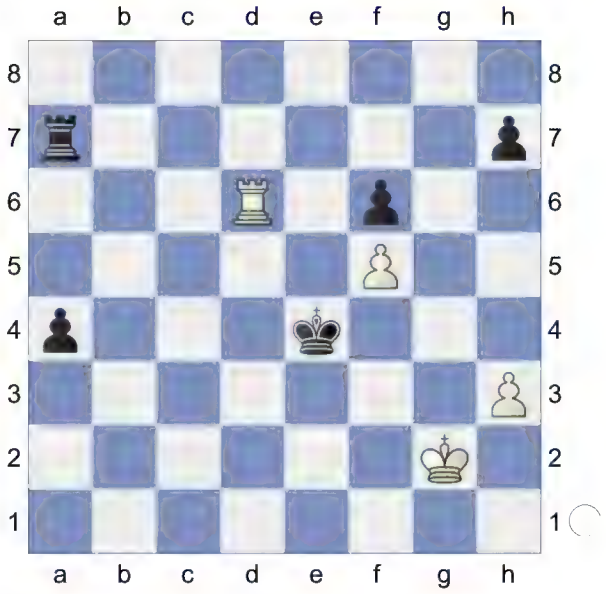
36.Bf3 f5 37.g4 Hoping for gxf5+.
37...Rc4 38.gxf5+ Ke5! 39.Rd1 Rxa4
40.Bh5 -0.41/22
[40.Rc1= -0.04/21 should be considered.]
40...f6∓
[Much weaker is 40...Kxf5 41.Bxf7 d4 42.Bb3±]



This move loses the game for White.
41.Bf7? -3.12/19
[41.Rc1∓ -0.46/20]
41...Nc3-+
[Inferior is 41...Kxf5 42.Rxd5#]
42.Rd3 Rc4 43.f3 a5
[43...Kxf5 44.Bxd5 Rc7 45.Kg2±]
44.e4 dxe4 45.fxe4 Rc7



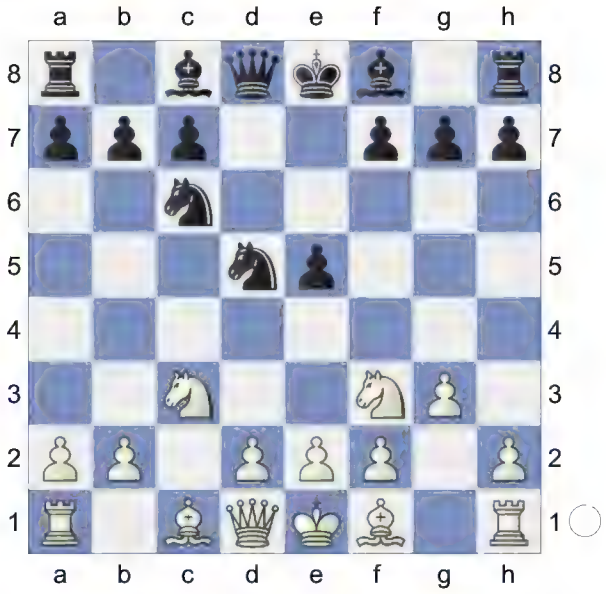
46.Bd5 -4.83/20
[⌓46.Be6 -3.32/19]
46...a4 Black is clearly winning.
[46...Nxe4? 47.Be6-+]
47.Kg2 Nxe4 48.Bxe4 Kxe4 49.Rd6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.09 (flawless)
49...Ra7



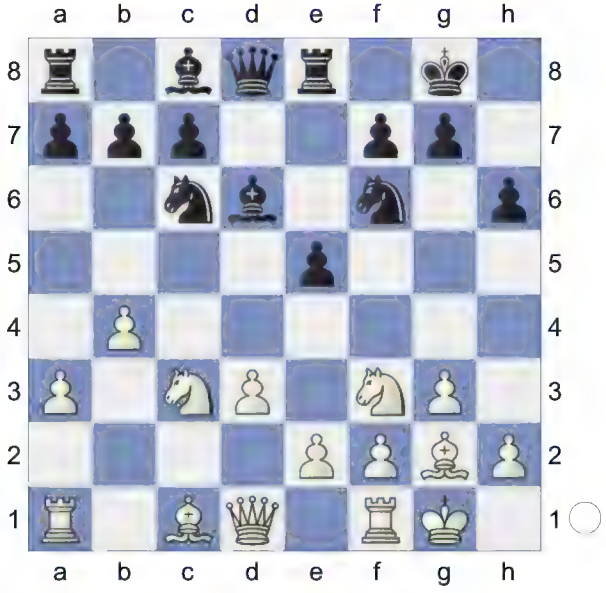
Prevents Ra6.
0-1

147 **A29**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2740**
Global Chess League 2023 rapid (9.2)
[Kitty Kat]

A29: English Opening: Four Knights Variation with 4 g3
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 d5N
[4...Bb4 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Re8 8.Ne1 e4 9.f3 d5 10.cxd5 Qxd5 11.fxe4 Nxe4 12.Nd3 *(12.Qb3 Qxb3 13.axb3 Nc5 14.Ra3 Be6 15.b4 Nb3 16.Nd3 Rad8 17.b5 Nca5 18.Nf4 b6 19.d3 Bg4 20.e4 Nxc1 21.Rxc1 Bd7 22.c4 c6 23.bxc6 Bxc6 24.Nd5 Rc8 25.Bh3 Rb8 26.Kf2 f6* 1-0 (29) Korobov,A (2629)-Grigoriants,S (2542) EU-ch Rapid Skopje 2024 (9)*)* 12...Qd6 13.Qa4 Ng5 14.Ba3 Qh6 15.h4 Nh3+ 16.Kh2 Rxe2 17.Rae1 Rxe1 18.Nxe1 Qxd2 19.Qc2 (30) Ahnert (2692)-Lopez,J (2602) FSGM Budapest HUN 2002]
[4...g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 h6 8.b4 d6 9.Rb1 a6 10.a4 Ne7 11.Ba3 c6 12.c5 Re8 13.e4 Bg4 14.Qb3 Nd7 15.Nd2 Nc8 16.Qc2 Bf8 17.cxd6 Nxd6 18.Nb3 b5 19.h3 0-1 (56) 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4 (2742)-C 06/32 (2795) W-ch19 sf03 corr9095 1990 (4) Be6 20.Rfd1 bxa4 21.Nxa4 Nb5 22.Bb2 Bxb3 23.Qxb3 c5 24.Rbc1 Rb8 25.Qa2 cxb4 26.Rc6 Kg7 27.d4 b3 28.Qb1 exd4 29.Bxd4+ Nxd4 30.Rxd4 Qa5 31.Rxd7 Qxa4 32.e5 Re7 33.Rdd6 Qa2 34.Rxg6+ 0-1 (56) 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 (2742)-C 06/32 (2795) W-ch19 sf03 corr9095 1990 (4)]
5.cxd5 Nxd5



6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 h6! is more profitable than 7...Be7 at the moment. scheint profitabler als 7...Le7. **8.d3 Bd6 9.a3 0-0** White has an edge. **10.b4 Re8**



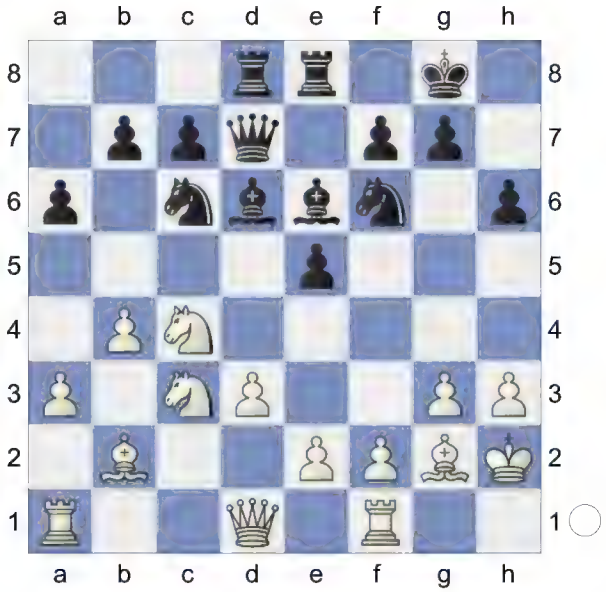
11.Bb2 Bg4 12.h3N
[Predecessor: 12.Nd2 Qd7 13.Rc1 -0.06/19 *(⌓13.Re1 0.30/19)* 13...Nd4 14.Nc4 c6 15.h3 -0.24/20 *(⌓15.f3*

0.24/20 *Be6 16.e3)* 15...Bxh3= 16.Nxd6 Bxg2 17.Nxe8 Qh3 18.f3? -4.59/17 *(18.Nxf6+!±* 0.55/19 is the one way to stay ahead. *gxf6 19.f3)* 18...Rxe8-+ 19.g4 -7.05/18 *(⌓19.Qe1* -4.73/16 *)* 19...Re6-+ Strongly threatening ...Nxg4. 20.Rb1 Nxg4 0-1 Moreira,C (1738)-Gomez Galan Arense,J (1602) CP-2014-P-00054]

12...Be6 13.Nd2 0.18/20

[13.e3± 0.54/19]

13...Qd7= 14.Kh2 Rad8 15.Nc4 a6

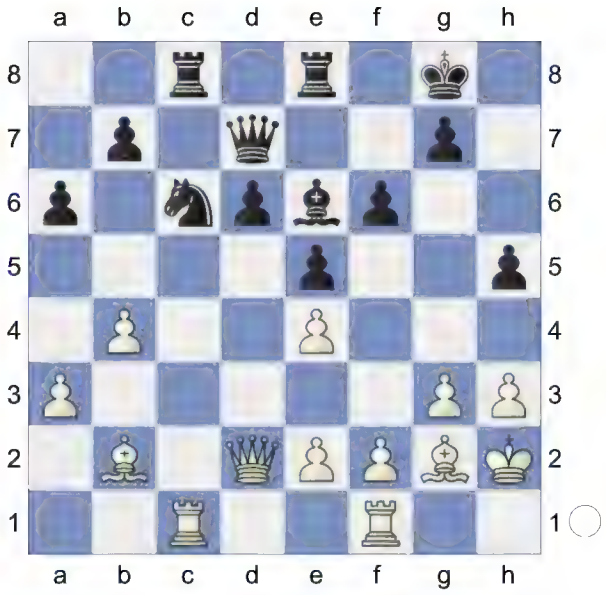


16.Rc1 h5 17.Nxd6 cxd6 18.Qd2 Rc8 0.58/19

[18...Nd4= 0.00/17]

19.Ne4 Nxe4 20.dxe4 f6

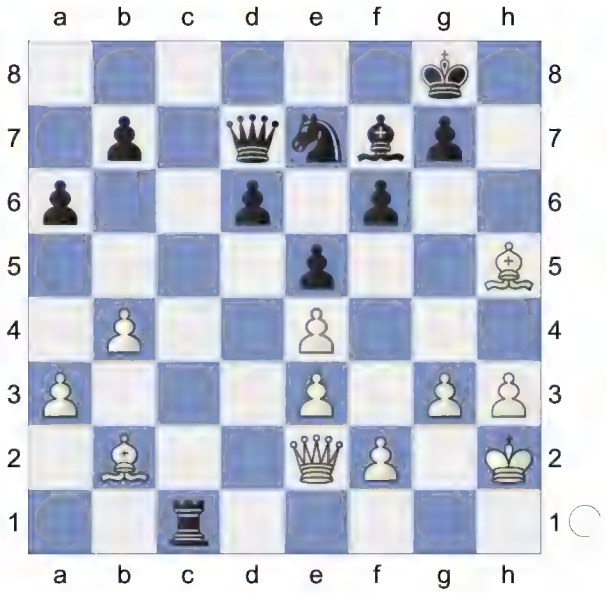
(Diagram)



21.e3 -0.20/21

[21.f4± 0.35/19]

21...Ne7 22.Qe2 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Bf7 24.Bf3 Rc8 25.Bxh5 Rxc1

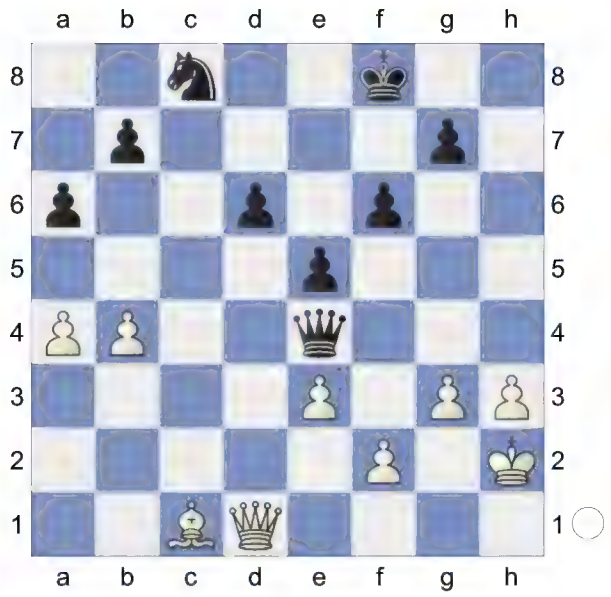


26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.Bxc1 Endgame KQB-KQN. White is a pawn up. **27...Qc6 28.Qh5+ Kf8 29.Qd1 Nc8 30.a4** -0.45/23

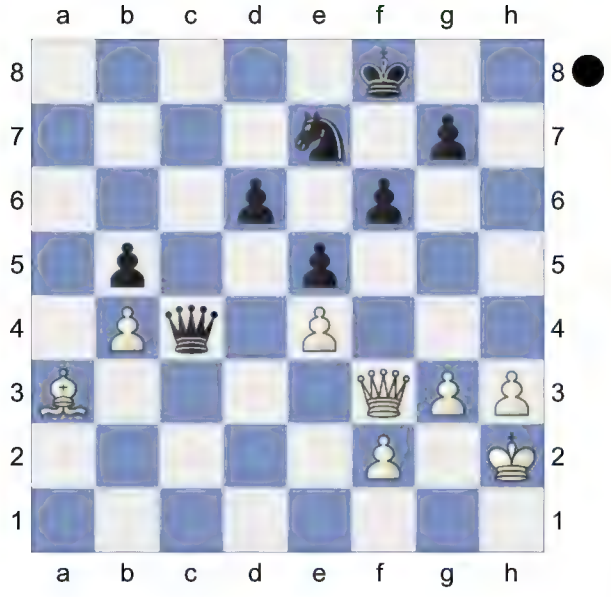
[White should play 30.f3= 0.09/20]

30...Qxe4∓

(Diagram)

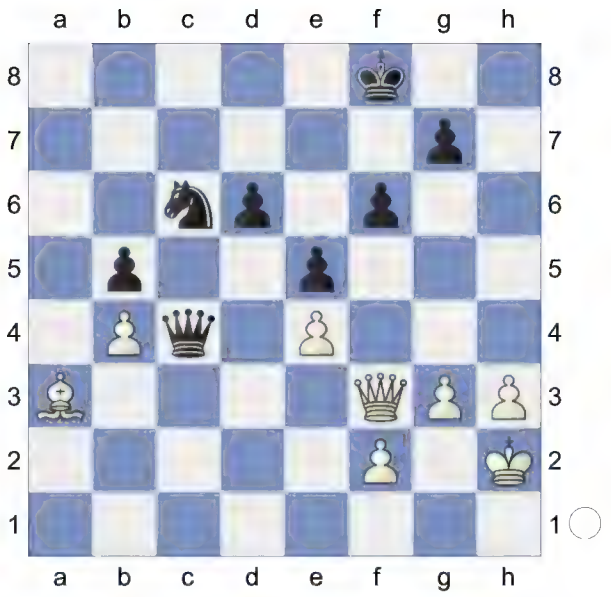


31.Ba3 b5 32.axb5 axb5 33.Qe2 Qc4
Black is more active. **34.Qf3** -2.11/22
[White has to play 34.Qxc4!∓ -0.57/18 bxc4 35.Kg2]
34...Ne7 35.e4

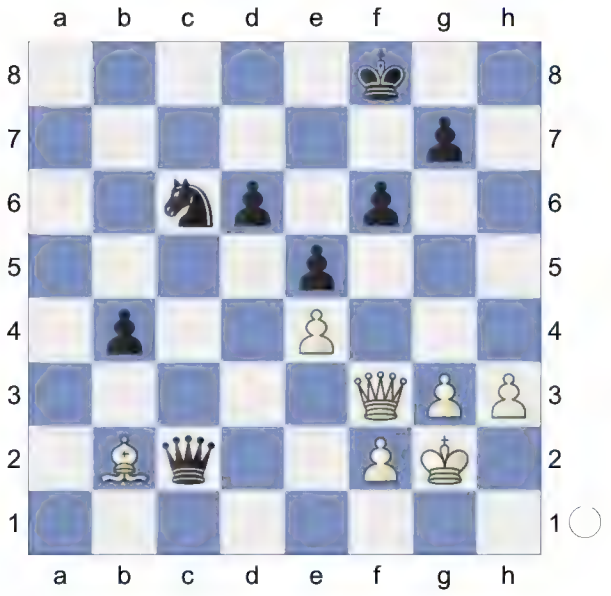


Nc6!

(Diagram)

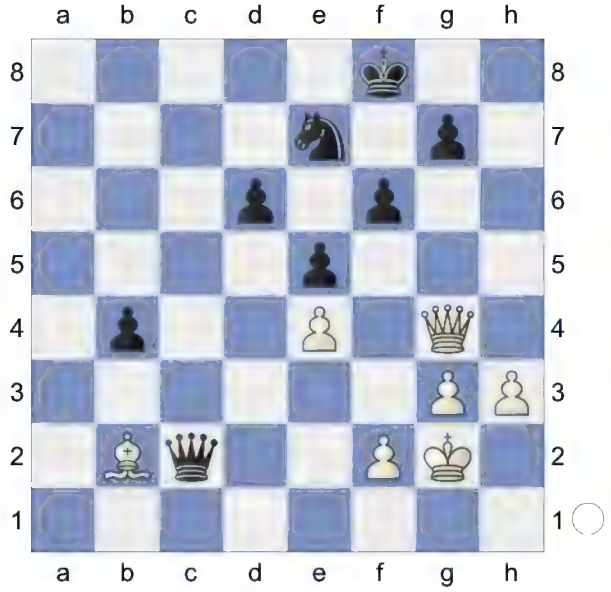


36.Bb2? -3.63/23 Prevents Nd4.
[36.Qg4∓ -0.94/18 keeps fighting.]
36...Qxb4 37.Ba3 -4.09/21
[37.Bc1 -2.44/20]
37...Qd4 38.Kg2? -4.79/22
[38.Bc1 -2.94/22]
38...b4-+ Black is clearly winning.
39.Bc1 Qc4 40.Bb2 Qc2



41.Qg4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/ Black=0.17 (very precise)
41...Ne7
[Weaker is 41...Qxb2 42.Qc8+ Ke7

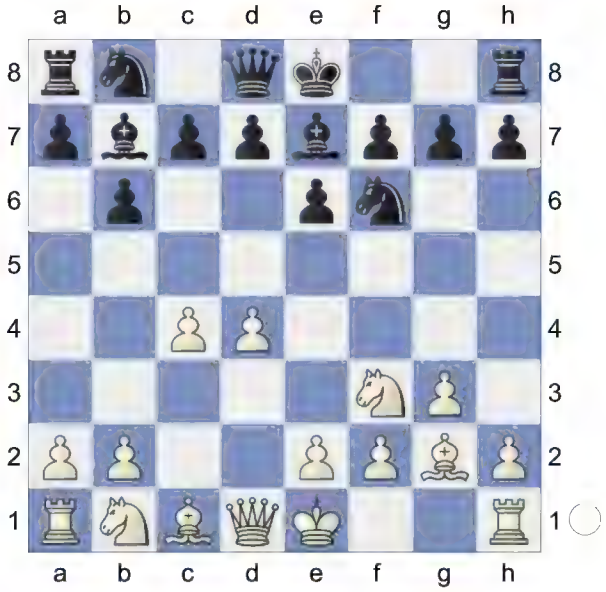
43.Qc7+ Ke8 44.Qxc6+ Kf7
45.Qd7+ Kg8 46.Qe6+ Kh8
47.Qe8+ Kh7 48.Qh5+ Kg8
49.Qe8+ Kh7 50.Qh5+ Kg8
51.Qe8+ Kh7=]



Prevents Qc8+
0-1

148 **E17**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**
■ **Rapport,Richard** **2752**
Global Chess League 2023 rapid (2.2)
[TA]

E17: Queen's Indian: 4 g3 Bb7 5 Bg2 Be7
Rapport,Richard: '2018 GIBRALTAR CHESS FESTIVAL The 2018 edition of Tradewise Chess Festival was an excellently organized tournament with a great number of fighting games and a lot of side events which enriched the event as a whole. Eventually, it was Levon Aronian who won the Masters tournament after a really thrilling final day. First, he managed to draw with the defending champion Hikaru Nakamura, before beating Richard Rapport and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in tiebreak matches. 54 year old chess legend Pia Cramling was the most deserved winner of women's top prize with an impressive unbeaten score throughout the tournament. You will find many fully annotated games from Gibraltar in our GAMES section. Here, we present you two games exclusively annotated by one of the brightest young stars - Richard Rapport, and a very special review of the most entertaining games featuring ladies by our on-the-site reporter WGM Aleksandra Dimitrijevic.' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7**



6.0-0 0-0 7.Re1 a5 8.h4
[8.a3 Na6 9.Nc3 Ne4 10.Qc2 Nxc3 11.Qxc3 f5 12.Bf4 Bf6 13.Rad1 Nc5 14.Be5 Ne4 15.Qc2 d6 16.Nd2 Bg5 17.Bf4 Bxf4 18.gxf4 Qh4 19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.Bxe4 fxe4 21.Qxe4 Rae8 22.e3 e5 ½-½ (37) Hantel,T (2790)-Warlick,J (2734) Chapter 1 Game 22]
[8.Nc3 Ne4 9.Qc2 Nxc3 10.bxc3 d6 11.h4 Qc8 12.e4 Nd7 13.Rb1 Re8

14.Nh2 Bf8 15.Ng4 a4 16.Ne3 Ra5 17.Rb5 Qa8 18.Ba3 Rxb5 19.cxb5 Nf6 20.Nd1 Qa5 21.Qe2 c5 22.bxc6 Bxc6 ½-½ (72) Gokerkan,C (2490)-Zielonka,A (2352) Sant Boi de Llobregat op 5th 2024 (8)]

[8.Bf4 Na6 9.Nc3 Ne4 10.Nd2 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bxg2 12.Kxg2 Nb8 13.e4 d6 14.Nf3 a4 15.e5 Ra5 16.Qe2 Nc6 17.Rad1 dxe5 18.Bxe5 Nxe5 19.Nxe5 Qa8+ 20.Qe4 Qxe4+ 21.Rxe4 Bd6 22.Nc6 Raa8 ½-½ (33) Nakamura,H (2781)-Rapport,R (2700) Gibraltar 2018]

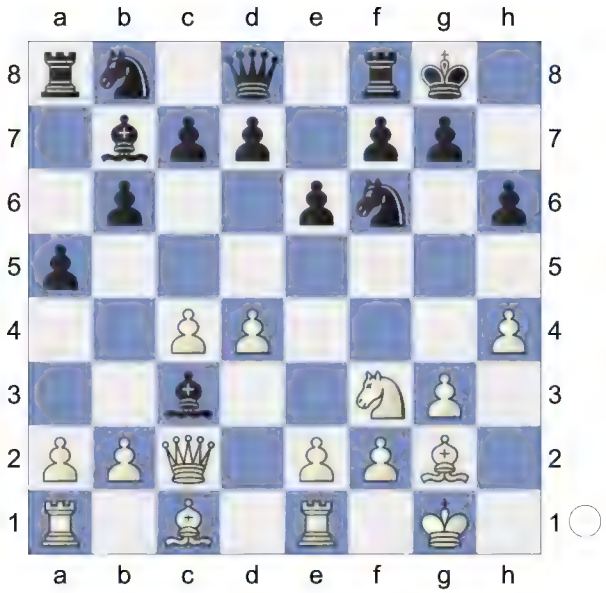
8...h6N

[8...d6 9.Nc3 Ne4 10.Qc2 Nxc3 11.Ng5 Bxg5 12.Bxb7 Ra7 13.Bxg5 f6 14.Bd2 Rxb7 15.Bxc3 Nc6 16.d5 exd5 17.cxd5 Ne5 18.Qf5 Qd7 19.Qxd7 Nxd7 20.Kg2 Nc5 21.Bd4 Kf7 22.Kf3 Re8 23.g4 ½-½ (56) Kistrup,N (2339)-Storme,I (2448) Copenhagen Obro CXU op 2023 (2) c6 24.dxc6 Rc7 25.Rac1 Rxc6 26.Red1 Rec8 27.Be3 Ke6 28.Rc4 Nd7 29.Rcd4 Ke7 30.Kg3 Ne5 31.Re4 Rc4 32.Rxc4 Rxc4 33.Bxb6 Rxg4+ 34.Kh3 Rb4 35.Bxa5 Rxb2 36.Rd2 Rb7 37.Rc2 Ke6 38.Bd2 ½-½ (56) Koralek (2339)-Mouradian,K (2448) 2nd President's Cup 2007 (2)]

9.Nc3 Bb4 White is slightly better.

10.Qc2 Bxc3!

(Diagram)



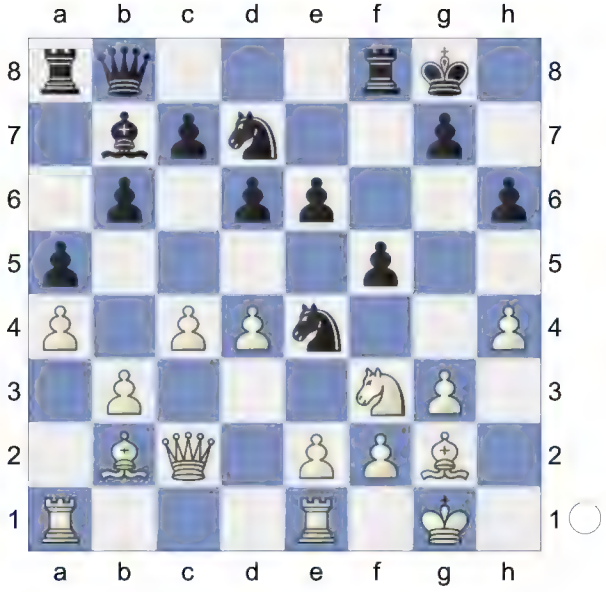
11.Qxc3 d6 12.b3 Nbd7 13.Bb2 Qb8 0.72/18

[13...Ne4∓ -0.37/20 keeps the upper hand. 14.Qe3 Ndf6]

14.a4 -0.44/18

[14.d5!± 0.72/18]

14...Ne4!∓ 15.Qc2 f5



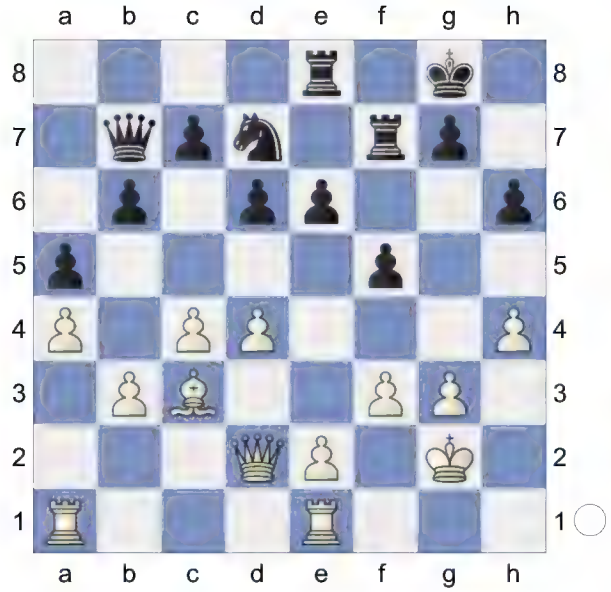
16.Nd2 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qb7+ 19.f3 Rae8 0.03/18

[19...Rf7∓ -0.33/19]

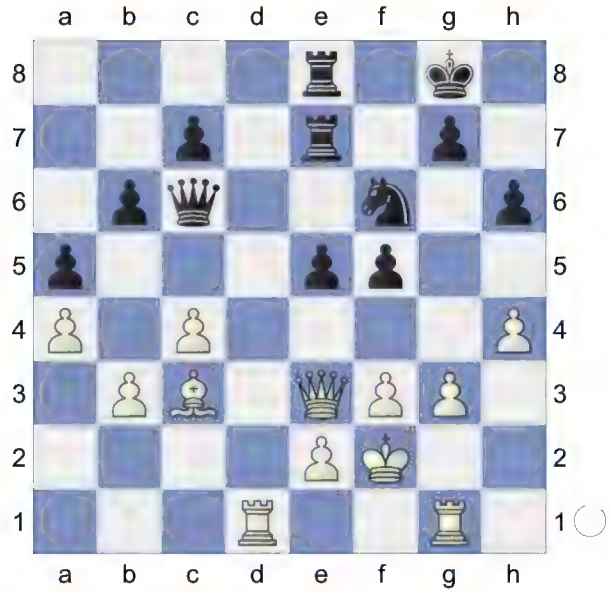
20.Bc3 -0.39/19

[20.e4= 0.03/18 should be considered.]

20...Rf7

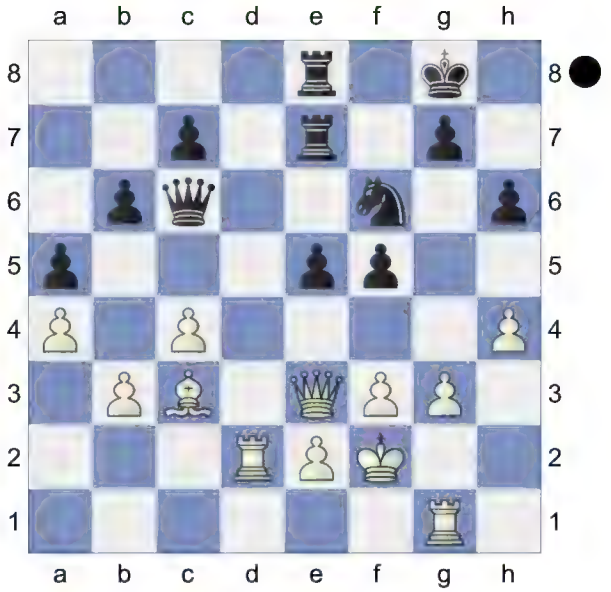


21.Kf2 -0.88/20
[21.Rad1∓ -0.31/18]
21...e5∓ 22.dxe5 dxe5 23.Rad1 Qc6
24.Qe3 -0.91/21
[24.Qd5∓ -0.52/19 Qg6 25.c5]
24...Nf6 25.Rg1
[25.Bxe5? Rfe7 26.Rd4 Rxe5-+]
25...Rfe7
[25...Nh5 with more complications. 26.Qc1 Qc5+ 27.Kg2 f4]

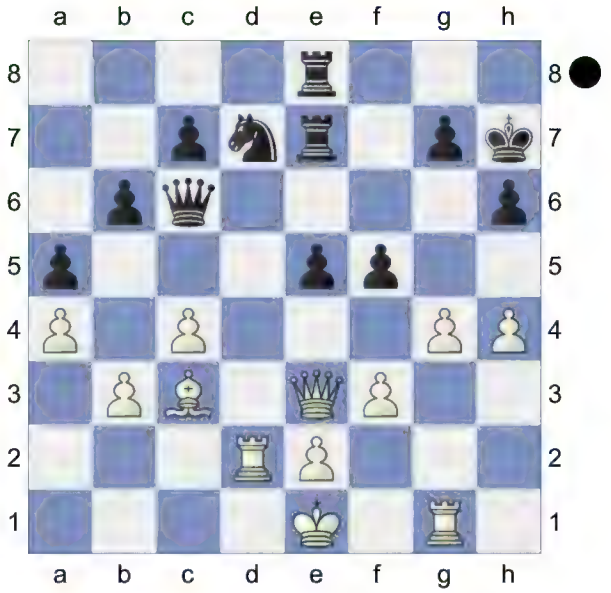


26.Rd2 -1.20/18

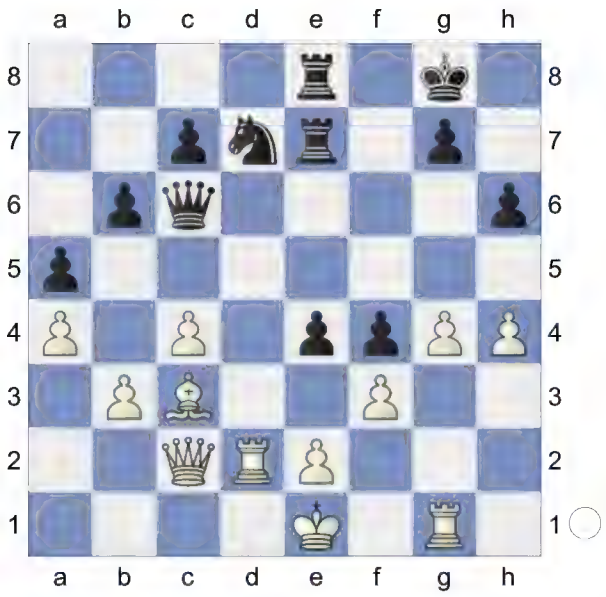
[White should play 26.Rg2∓ -0.66/20]



26...Kh7 -0.43/19
[26...Nh5!∓ -1.20/18 Strongly threatening ...Qf6. 27.g4 f4 *(27...Nf4 28.Ke1=)*]
27.Ke1∓ Nd7 0.07/18
[27...Rf7∓ -0.33/19]
Loses the game. **28.g4?** -2.71/19
[28.Kd1= 0.07/18 and White has nothing to worry.]



28...f4!-+ 29.Qd3+ e4 30.Qc2 Kg8



31.Kd1? -4.23/20

[31.fxe4 -1.99/19 is the only way for White. Rxe4 32.g5]

31...exf3 32.exf3 Qxf3+ 33.Kc1 Nc5

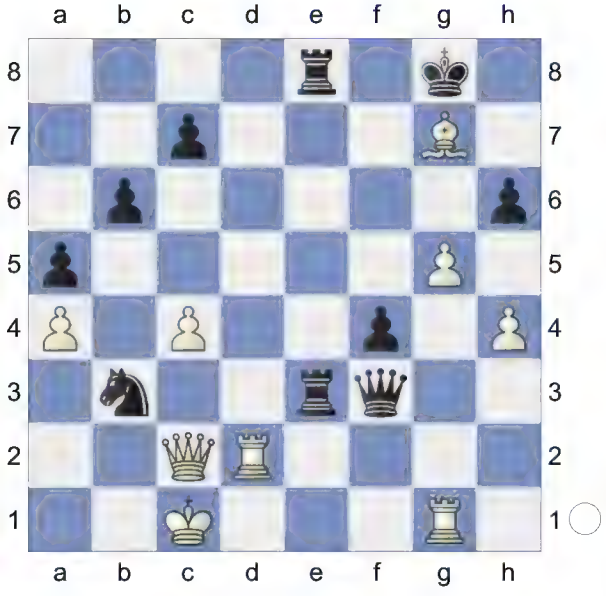
[Weaker is 33...Re1+ 34.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 35.Kb2=]

34.g5 -5.42/17

[34.Kb2 -3.61/16 keeps fighting.]

34...Re3 Black is clearly winning.

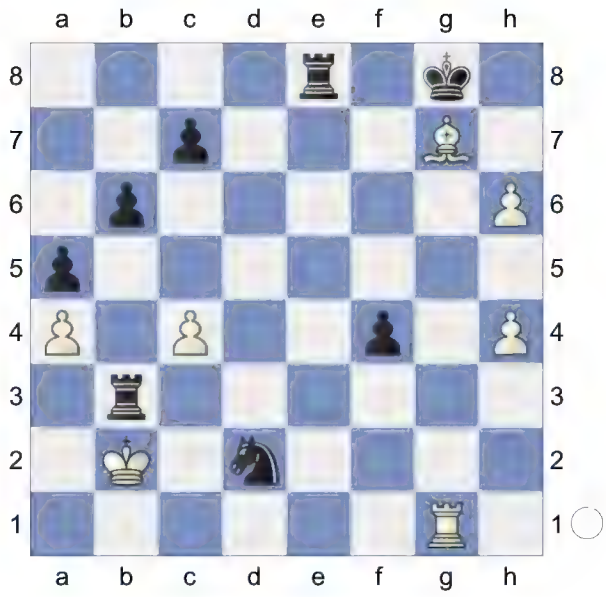
35.Bxg7 Nxb3+



36.Kb2 Nxd2

[36...Kxg7 37.gxh6+ Kh8 38.Qg6]

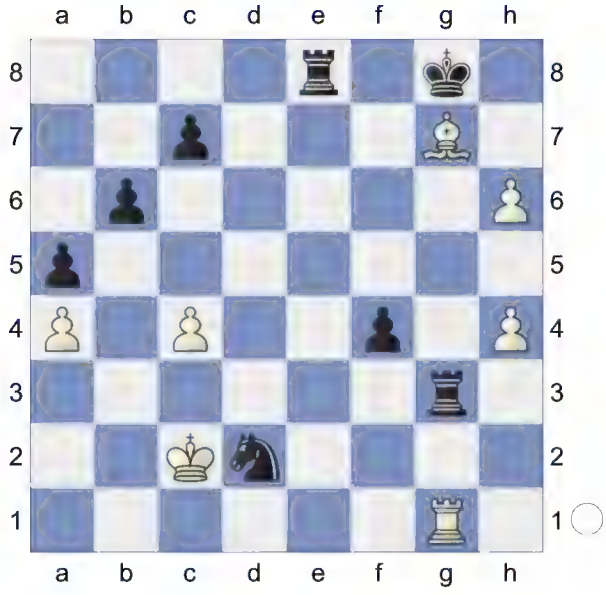
37.gxh6 Rb3+ 38.Ka2 Ra3+ 39.Kb2 Qb3+ 40.Qxb3 Rxb3+



41.Kc2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.12 (very precise)

41...Rg3



0-1

149 **A36**
□ **Sadhwani,Raunak** **2603**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**
chess.com Junior Speed blitz (3.12)
[Kitty Kat]

A36: Symmetrical English vs ...g6: 4 Bg2 Bg7

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3

[5.Nf3 e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nb5 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.0-0 Nge7 10.Nfxd4 0-0 11.Be3 Nf5 12.Nxf5 Bxf5 13.Qxd5 Qxd5 14.Bxd5 Bxb2 15.Rad1 Chapter 5C-Fischer Critical position 3 1.c4 c5 for White 2024]

5...Nf6N

[5...d6 6.e4 f5 7.Nge2 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Rb1 Bd7 10.Bg5 Ng4 11.h3 Nge5 12.f4 Nf7 13.exf5 Nxg5 14.fxg5 Bxf5 15.g4 Bd7 16.Ne4 Rb8 17.Qd2 Nd4 18.Nf4 Bc6 19.Nd5 a5 20.Rxf8+ 0-1 (48) Duchamp,M-Le Lionnais,F Paris offhand 1932 Qxf8 21.Rf1 Qd8 22.Kh1 Be5 23.Qe3 b5 24.Nxc5 bxc4 25.dxc4 Rxb2 26.Ne4 Bxd5 27.cxd5 Rxa2 28.Nd2 a4 29.Nc4 Re2 30.Qd3 Bg7 31.h4 Qc8 32.Rf4 Re1+ 33.Kh2 Nb3 34.h5 Qc5 35.Bf1 0-1 (48) Duchamp,M-Schroeder,M New York Metropolitan Team-ch 1922 (1) gxh5 36.gxh5 Re5 37.Rf5 Rxf5 38.Qxf5 Nd4 39.Qe4 a3 40.Bd3 Nf3+ 41.Qxf3 a2 42.g6 hxg6 43.Bxg6 Bf6 44.Qg2 a1Q 45.Bh7+ Kxh7 46.Qg6+ Kh8 47.Qe8+ Kg7 48.Qg6+ Kf8 0-1 Wunderlich,F-QUEEN'S GAMBIT WITH h6 56/570 Tilburg 1992]

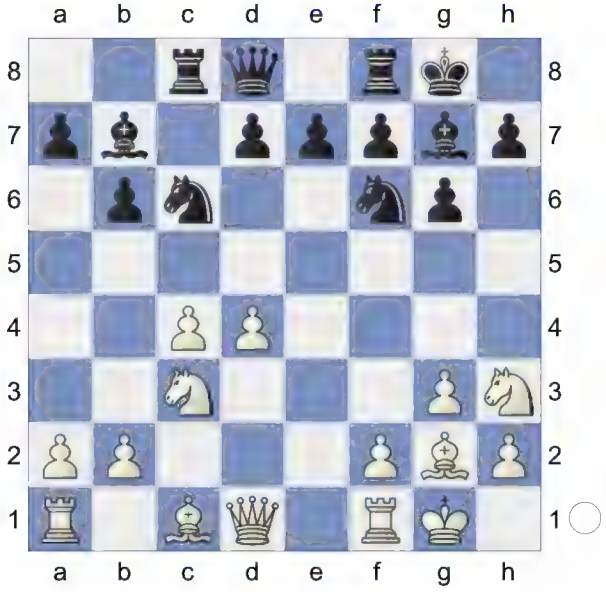
(Diagram)

6.Nh3 0-0 7.0-0 b6 8.e3 Bb7 9.d4 -0.39/21

[9.Rb1= 0.01/20 should be considered.]

9...cxd4∓ 10.exd4 Rc8 0.04/21

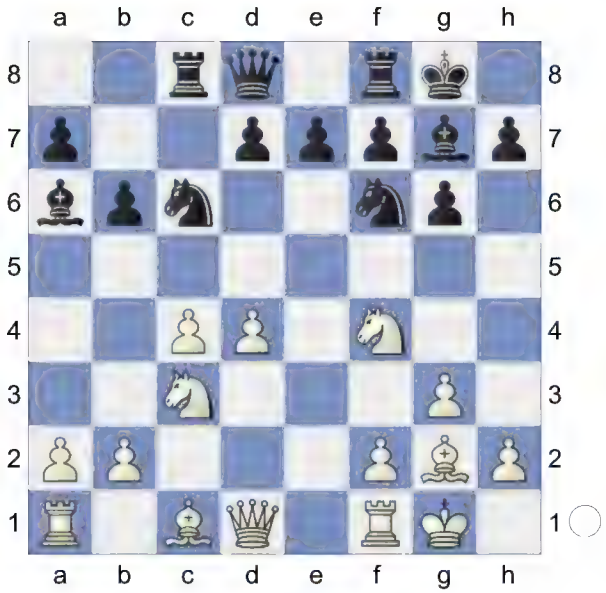
[10...Ne8∓ -0.39/20]



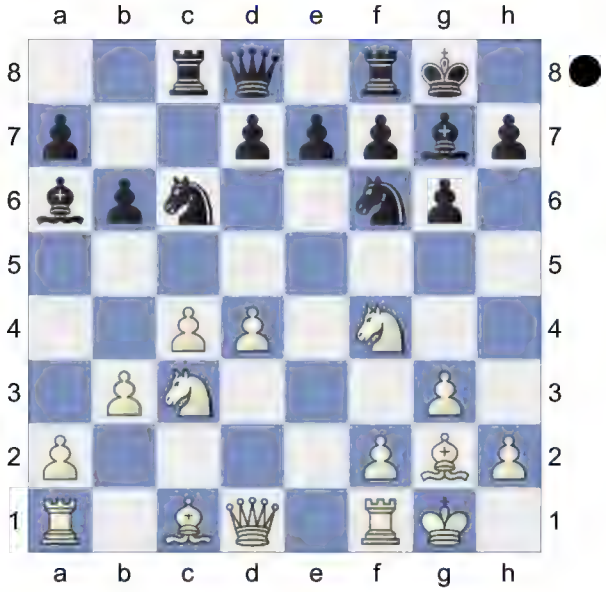
11.Nf4= Ba6 0.79/19

[11...e6= -0.01/20]

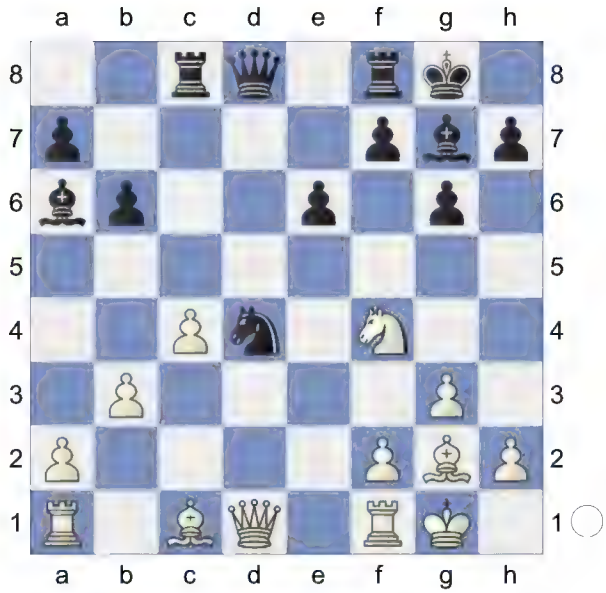
(Diagram)



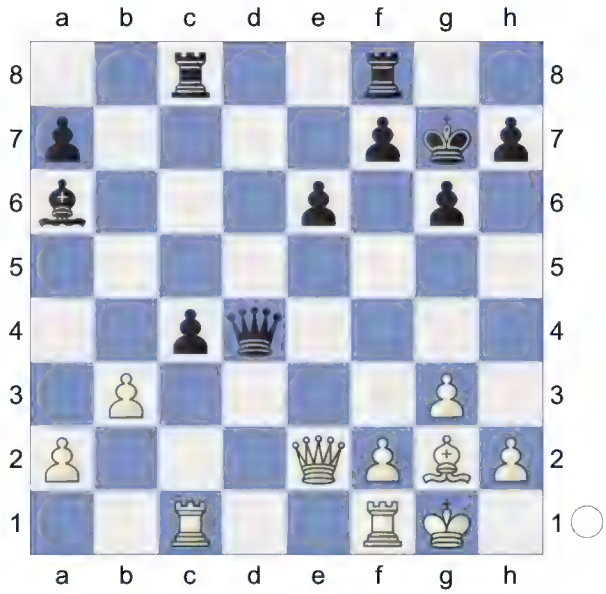
12.b3 -0.19/19
[12.d5!± 0.79/19]



12...d5 Deflection **13.Nfxd5**
[13.Ncxd5 is interesting. Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Nxd4 15.Bb2]
13...Nxd5 14.Nxd5 e6
[14...Bxd4 15.Ba3=]
[14...Nxd4 15.Bb2 Nc6 16.Qc2±]
15.Nf4 -0.91/21
[White should play 15.Nc3∓ -0.31/21]
15...Nxd4∓
(Diagram)



16.Bb2 -1.65/17
[16.Ba3∓ -0.76/18]
16...b5-+ 17.Ne2 Nxe2+ -0.66/18
[Black should play 17...Nf3+-+ -1.64/19 18.Bxf3 Bxb2]
18.Qxe2∓ bxc4 19.Bxg7 Kxg7
20.Rac1 Qd4 -0.14/19
[20...Qb6∓ -0.58/20 21.bxc4 Rc5 *(21...Qd4 22.Rfd1∓)*]



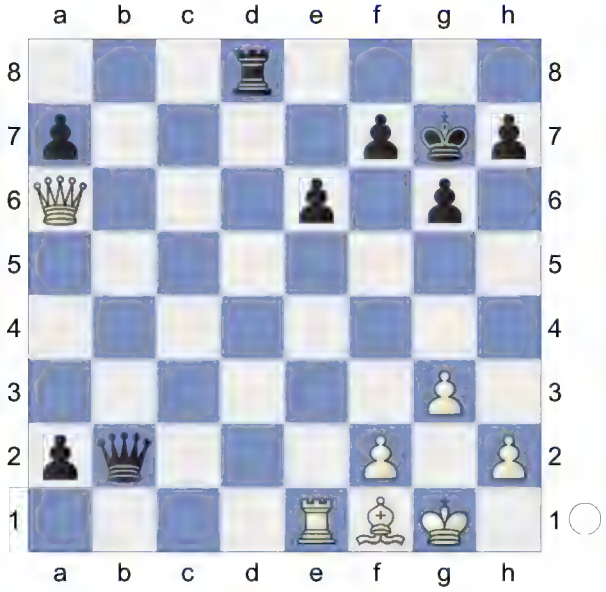
21.Rfd1= cxb3 22.Qxa6 Rxc1
23.Rxc1 Qb2 Now White is beyond hope. **24.Re1** -2.46/22

[24.Rc7= -0.04/25 and White has nothing to worry. bxa2 25.Rxa7 *(25.Qxe6? a1Q+ 26.Bf1 Qb6-+)*]

24...bxa2-+ 25.Bf1 -4.21/21

[⌓25.Qa5 -2.68/20]

25...Rd8



and ...Qc3 should not be overlooked

26.Bc4 -4.59/22

[⌓26.Bg2 -3.17/20]

26...Rd2 27.Qxa7 -5.35/22

[27.Qxa2 -3.78/18 was called for. Qxa2 *(27...Rxf2 28.Qxb2+ Rxb2 29.Bf1=)* 28.Bxa2 Rxa2 29.Rb1]

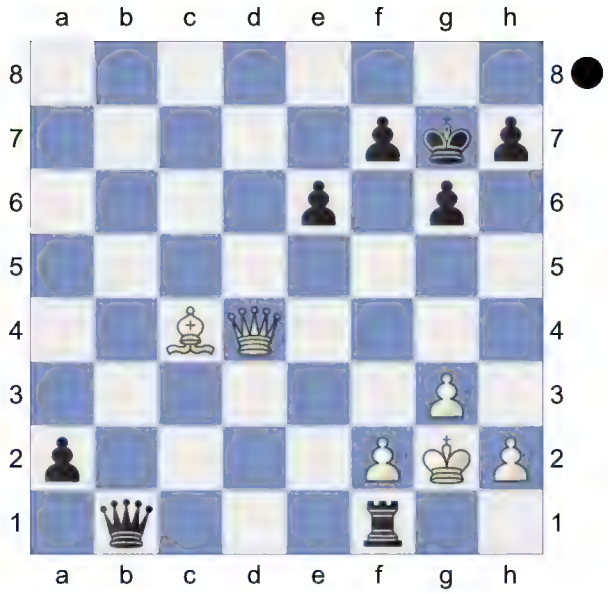
27...Qb1 28.Rf1 Rd1 29.Kg2 and Rxd1 would now be decisive

29...Rxf1

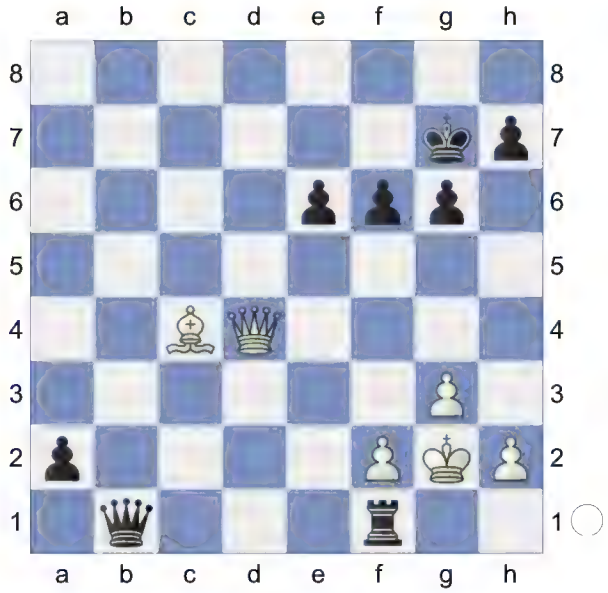
[29...a1B 30.Rxd1 Qxd1 31.Bxe6±]

30.Qd4+

(Diagram)



f6!



31.Qd7+ Kh6 (-> ...Qe4+) **32.Qd2+ g5** (-> ...Rg1+) **33.Qd8 Rg1+**

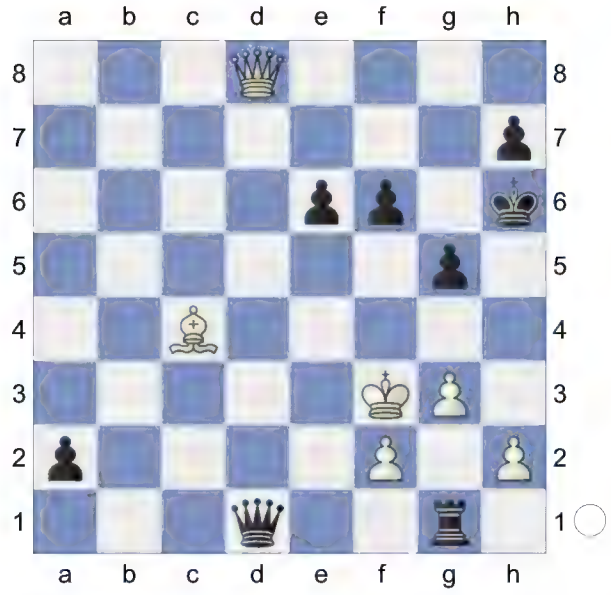
[Not 33...a1R 34.Qf8+ Kg6 35.Qe8+ Kh6 36.Qf8+ Kh5 37.g4+ Decoy Kxg4 38.Bxe6+ f5 39.h3+ Kf4 40.Qd6+ Ke4 41.Qd5+ *(41.Bd5+ Kd3=)* 41...Kf4 42.Qd6+ Ke4 43.Qd5+ Kf4 44.Qd6+=]

34.Kf3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.80/ Black=0.27 (precise)

34...Qd1+ -6.51/19

[⌓34...Qf5+ -#8/15 35.Ke3 Re1+ *(35...a1B? 36.Qf8+ Kh5 37.Be2+ g4 38.Qe8+ Qg6 39.Qxe6-+)* 36.Be2 Qe5+ *(36...a1B 37.Qf8+ Kg6 38.Qg8+ Kh6 39.Qf8+ Kg6 40.Qe8+ Kh6 41.Qf8+=)* 37.Kf3 Qxe2+ *(37...a1B 38.Qf8+ Kh5 39.g4+ Kg6 40.Qe8+ Kh6 41.Qf8+ Kg6 42.Qg8+ Kh6 43.Qf8+ Kg6=)* 38.Kg2 Rg1+ Decoy, Promotion *(38...a1B? 39.Qf8+ Kg6 40.Qg8+ Kf5 41.Qxh7+ Ke5 42.Kh3-+)* 39.Kxg1 a1Q+ *(39...a1B? 40.Qf8+ Kh5 41.Qf7+ Kg4 42.Qxh7-+)* 40.Qd1 Qaxd1+ 41.Kg2 Qef1#]



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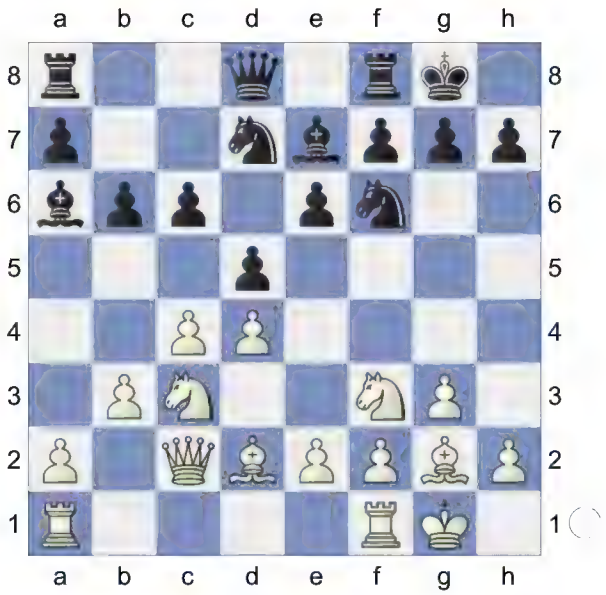
150 **E01**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**
■ **Sadhwani,Raunak** **2603**
chess.com Junior Speed blitz (3.11)
[Kitty Kat]

E11: Bogo-Indian
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7

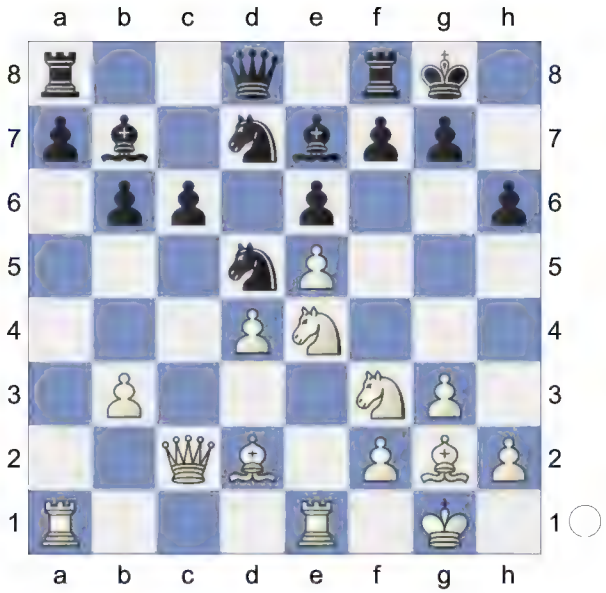
6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Qc2 c6 9.b3 b6 10.Nc3
[10.Rd1 Bb7 11.Nc3 Rc8 12.e4 c5 13.exd5 exd5 14.Bf4 Re8 15.dxc5 dxc4 16.b4 bxc5 17.b5 Qa5 18.a4 h6 19.Rab1 g5 20.Nxg5 Bxg2 21.Nxf7 Kxf7 22.Kxg2 Nf8 23.Nd5 Nxd5 24.Rxd5 Qb6 ½-½ (80) Djuric,S (2615)-Alekhine,A (2625) USSR 25/484 1977]
10...Ba6



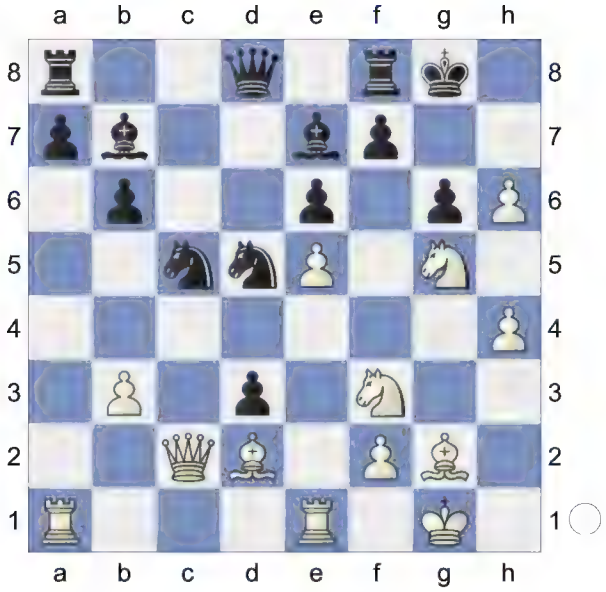
11.e4 is now debated instead of 11.cxd5.

wird nun anstelle von 11.cxd5 disktutiert.
11...dxc4 12.Rfe1 The position is equal.
12...cxb3N 0.10/18
[12...h6∓ -0.38/17]
[12...e5 13.Ne2 cxb3 14.axb3 Bxe2 15.Rxe2 exd4 16.Nxd4 Ne5 17.Nf5 Re8 18.Rd1 Qd3 19.Bc3 Qxc2 20.Rxc2 Bc5 21.b4 Bf8 22.Bxe5 Rxe5 23.f4 Ree8 24.e5 Nd5 25.b5 g6 26.bxc6 Nb4 27.c7 1-0 (44) Nesterov,A (2575)-Deuer,M (2462) Budapest Vezerkepzo Fall GM 2023 (9)]
[12...Rc8 13.h4 Re8 14.e5 Nd5 15.Ng5 Nf8 16.Nce4 c3 17.Bxc3 c5 18.dxc5 h6 19.Nf3 Bxc5 20.Qb2 Nxc3 21.Nxc3 Bb4 22.Re3 Bb7 23.Rc1 Bc5 24.Ree1 Qd3 25.Red1 Qf5 26.Nd4 Bxd4 27.Bxb7 0-1 (53) Petkov,M (2540)-Kozak,A (2609) ROM-chT Mamaia 2024 (9.1)]
13.axb3= Bb7 14.e5N White has compensation.
[Predecessor: 14.h4 h6 15.e5 Nd5 16.Nxd5 cxd5 17.g4 a5 18.g5! h5 19.g6 Qe8 20.Bh3 ½-½ Gelfand,B (2674)-Lupulescu,C (2580) EU-ch 23rd Vrnjacka Banja 2023 (10)]
14...Nd5 15.Ne4 -0.25/18
[⌓15.Nxd5 0.17/21 cxd5 16.Rec1]
15...h6
[15...c5 16.Neg5 g6 17.h4 Nb4]

(Diagram)



16.g4 c5 17.g5 cxd4 0.32/17
[Black should play 17...h5!= -0.30/19]
18.gxh6± g6 19.Neg5 -0.90/19
[19.Nd6= 0.25/18 Bxd6 20.exd6]
19...Nc5∓ 20.h4 d3



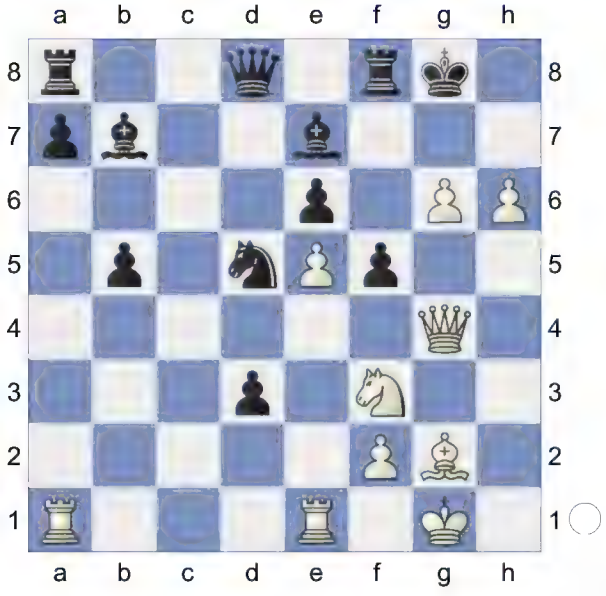
Chess con chili. **21.Qc4** aiming for b4.
21...b5 0.38/19
[21...a5∓ -0.93/17]
22.Qg4 -0.16/18
[22.Qxb5± 0.38/19 a6 23.Qc4]
22...Nxb3 0.56/21
[22...Kh8!= -0.16/18]

23.h5! -0.01/18 **Nxd2= 24.hxg6 Nxf3+** -0.45/16

[24...fxg6 25.Qxe6+ Kh8 26.Qxg6 Nxf3+ 27.Bxf3 Bxg5 28.Qg7#]

[24...Nf4= -0.01/20 is more appropriate. 25.g7 *(25.Qxf4? Nxf3+ 26.Nxf3 fxg6∓; 25.gxf7+ Kh8=)* 25...Nxf3+ 26.Bxf3 Bxg5 27.gxf8Q+ Kxf8]

25.Nxf3∓ White wants to mate with gxf7+. **25...f5**



26.exf6 Rxf6 Strongly threatening ... Nf4. **27.Ne5?** -2.45/19

[27.h7+= 0.00/17 and White is okay. Kg7 *(27...Kh8 28.g7+ Kxh7 29.Ng5+ Kh6 30.Nxe6+-)* 28.Ng5]

27...d2 28.Red1 Qd6? -0.33/18

[28...Rf5-+ -2.27/19 29.Nf7 Qb6 *(29...Nf6 30.Qh3±)* 30.Rxd2 *(30.h7+? Kg7-+)* 30...Nf6]

29.Nf7 -2.98/18

[29.Rxa7!∓ -0.33/18 Rd8 *(29...Rxa7 30.h7+ Kg7 31.h8Q+* Decoy, Back Rank *Kxh8 32.Qh5+ Kg8 33.Qh7+ Kf8 34.Qh8#; 29...Qxe5 30.Rxa8+ Rf8 31.Rxf8+ Bxf8 32.g7±)* 30.Nf7]

29...Qf4? -0.05/21

[29...Qc5-+ -2.98/18 30.Qg5 Qxf2+ *(30...Rxf2 31.h7+ Kg7 32.Qh6+ Kf6 33.Qg5+ Kg7 34.Qh6+ Kf6 35.Qg5+ Kg7=)* 31.Kh1 Rxg6 32.Qxg6+ Kf8]

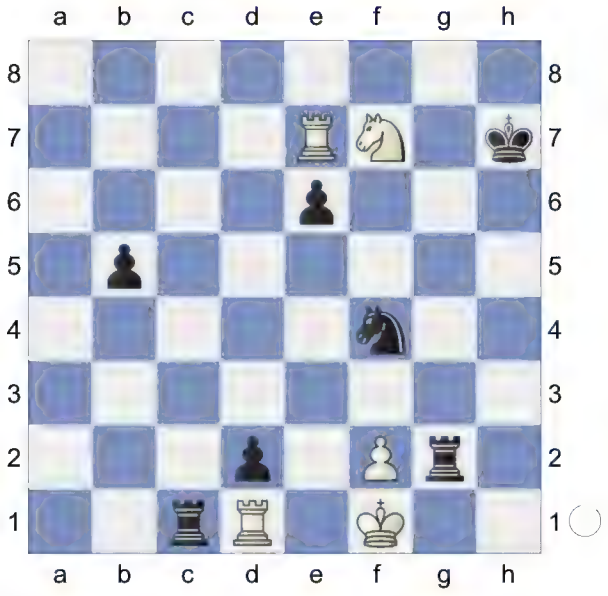
30.Rxa7? -5.47/22 **Rc8?** 0.01/22

[30...Qxg4? too greedy. 31.Rxa8+ Bxa8 32.h7+ Kg7 33.h8Q+ *(33.h8R* leads to mate. *Rxf2 34.Rh7+ Kf6 35.Rh2 Qxd1+ 36.Kxf2 Qe1+ 37.Kf3 d1Q#)* 33...Kxg6 34.Ne5+ *(34.Rxd2? Kxf7 35.Qh7+ Ke8-+)* 34...Kf5 35.Nxg4 Kxg4 36.Rxd2+- *(36.Qxa8 Bb4+-)*]

[30...Qxf2+-+ -5.47/22 31.Kh1 Qxa7]

(Diagram)

31.Qxf4=
[31.h7+ looks sharper. Kg7 32.Qxf4 Nxf4 33.Bxb7 Rf8 34.Be4]
31...Nxf4 32.Rxb7? -7.84/21
[32.h7+± 0.55/19 Kg7 33.Bxb7 Rxg6+ 34.Kh2 *(34.Kf1 Kxf7 35.Bxc8 Rh6±)*]
32...Rxg6-+ Black is clearly winning.
33.Rxe7 Rxg2+ 34.Kf1 Rc1 35.h7+
Weighted Error Value: White=1.26/ Black=0.62
35...Kxh7



0-1

151 **A36**
□ **Sadhwani,Raunak** **2603**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**
chess.com Junior Speed blitz (3.4)
[TA]

A36: Symmetrical English vs ...g6: 4 Bg2 Bg7
1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3
[5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Nxc6 Bxc6 10.e4 0-0 11.Qe2 Nd7 12.Bd2 a6 13.Rab1 b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15.a3 Rb8 16.Rfc1 Ne5 17.Nd5 Qd7 18.Bc3 Rfc8 19.b3 Ba8 Camilleri,S (2524)-Babarovic,F (2494) Wijk aan Zee 2011 Telechess CBM 89 [Aiken] 1-0 (62)]
5...d6

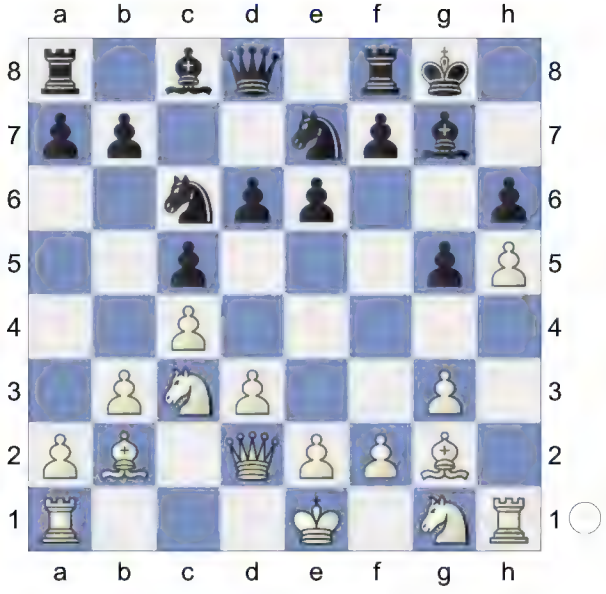
6.Qd2N
[6.e4 f5 7.Nge2 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Rb1 Bd7 10.Bg5 Ng4 11.h3 Nge5 12.f4 Nf7 13.exf5 Nxg5 14.fxg5 Bxf5 15.g4 Bd7 16.Ne4 Rb8 17.Qd2 Nd4 18.Nf4 Bc6 19.Nd5 a5 20.Rxf8+ Qxf8 Wunderlich,F-

QUEEN'S GAMBIT WITH h6 Tilburg 1932 CBM 117 ext [Dragan Solak] 0-1 (48) 21.Rf1 Qd8 22.Kh1 Be5 23.Qe3 b5 24.Nxc5 bxc4 25.dxc4 Rxb2 26.Ne4 Bxd5 27.cxd5 Rxa2 28.Nd2 a4 29.Nc4 Re2 30.Qd3 Bg7 31.h4 Qc8 32.Rf4 Re1+ 33.Kh2 Nb3 34.h5 Qc5 35.Bf1 gxh5 Duchamp,M-Le Lionnais,F Paris 1932 EXT 2021 [ChessBase II] 0-1 (48) 36.gxh5 Re5 37.Rf5 Rxf5 38.Qxf5 Nd4 39.Qe4 a3 40.Bd3 Nf3+ 41.Qxf3 a2 42.g6 hxg6 43.Bxg6 Bf6 44.Qg2 a1Q 45.Bh7+ Kxh7 46.Qg6+ Kh8 47.Qe8+ Kg7 48.Qg6+ Kf8 0-1 (48) Duchamp,M-Schroeder,M New York 1922 EXT 2003 [ChessBase II]]

6...e6 7.b3 Nge7 8.Bb2 The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.h4 h6 10.h5** -0.30/18

[⌓10.Nf3 0.04/19]

10...g5!=

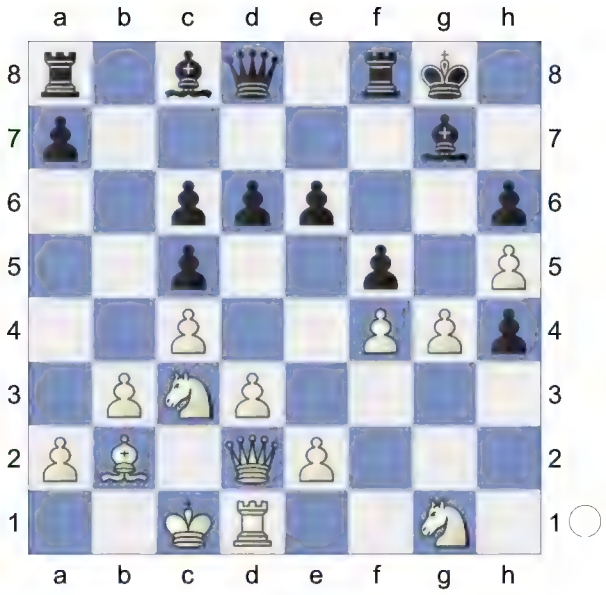


11.f4 Nf5? 1.22/22

[11...g4!∓ -0.44/21]

12.g4± Nh4 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.0-0-0 Hoping for fxg5. **14...f5 15.Rxh4** -0.67/22 **gxh4∓**

(Diagram)



16.g5 Qe8! 17.g6 -1.12/24

[17.Nf3∓ -0.64/22 is superior.]

17...e5∓ 18.fxe5? -2.72/24

[18.Nf3∓ -0.91/21]

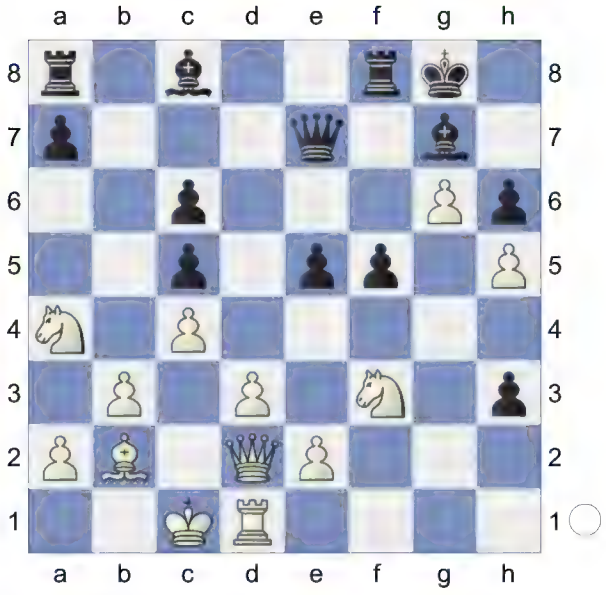
18...dxe5-+ aiming for ...Qe7.

[18...Qxe5 19.Nf3 Qe7 20.Rh1=]

19.Nf3 -3.12/23

[19.Qe3 -2.04/21 keeps fighting.]

19...h3 20.Na4 Qe7



21.Qe3 -4.43/22

[⌓21.Ba3 -2.94/21 Rd8 22.Bxc5]

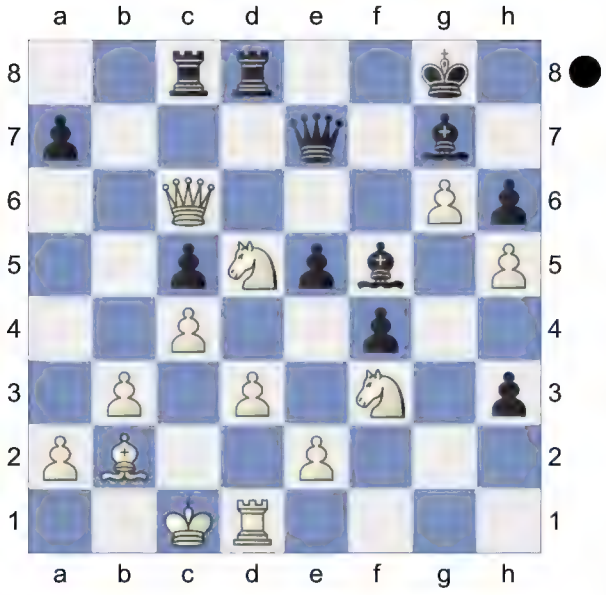
21...f4 22.Qe4 Bf5 23.Qxc6 Rfd8? -1.55/24

[23...Rac8-+ -4.22/22 24.Qd5+ Qe6]

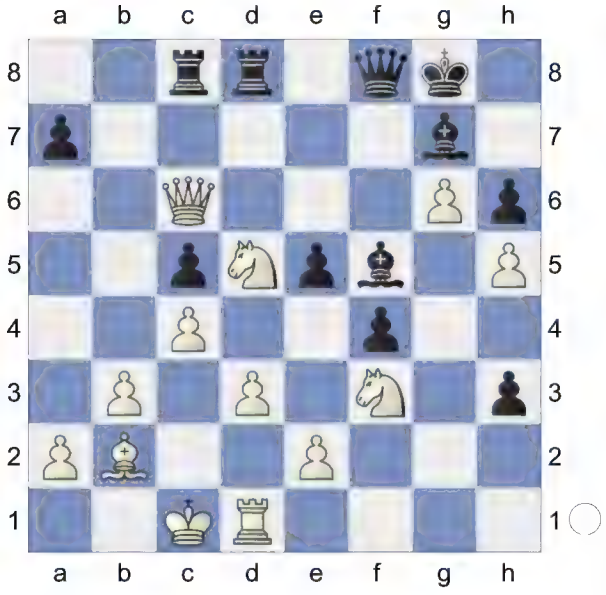
24.Nc3∓

[24.Nxc5? Rac8 25.Qb7 Rc7-+]

24...Rac8 25.Nd5

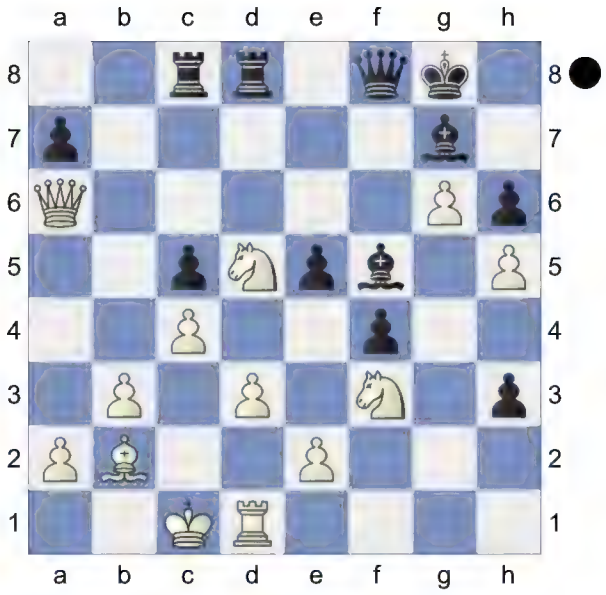


Qf8



26.Qa6

(Diagram)



Re8 -0.65/22

[26...Rd6!-+ -1.80/23 27.Qxa7 Ra8 28.Qxc5 Rxa2]

27.Rg1? -2.45/21

[27.Qxa7 Ra8 28.Qc7 Rac8=]

[27.Qb7!∓ -0.65/22]

27...Re6? -0.01/25

[27...e4 28.Bxg7 Qxg7 29.Nf6+ Kh8 30.Nh4∓ *(30.Nxe8? Rxe8 31.Ne5 h2-+; 30.Nxe4? Rxe4 31.d4 Rxe2-+)*]

[27...Rcd8-+ -2.45/21 Threatens to win with ...e4. 28.Qxa7 Ra8]

28.Qb7= Strongly threatening Bxe5!

28...Rb8 29.Qxa7 -0.90/29

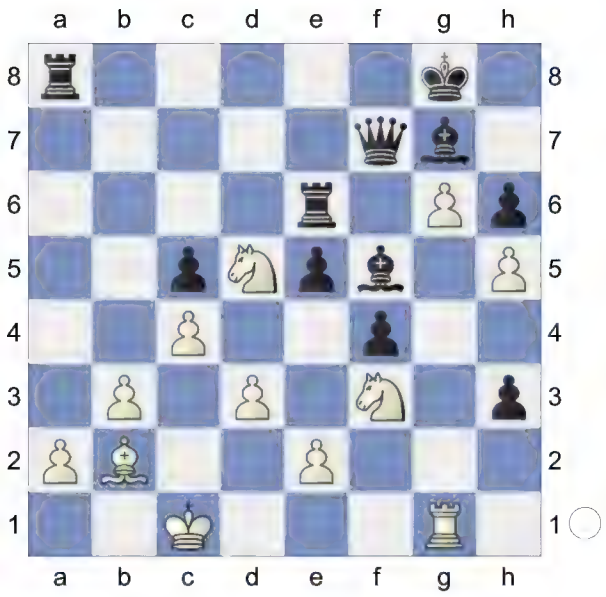
[29.Qc7= -0.01/22 Rc8 30.Qd7 *(30.Qxa7 Ra8∓)*]

29...Ra8∓ The board is on fire. **30.Qf7+** -4.81/25

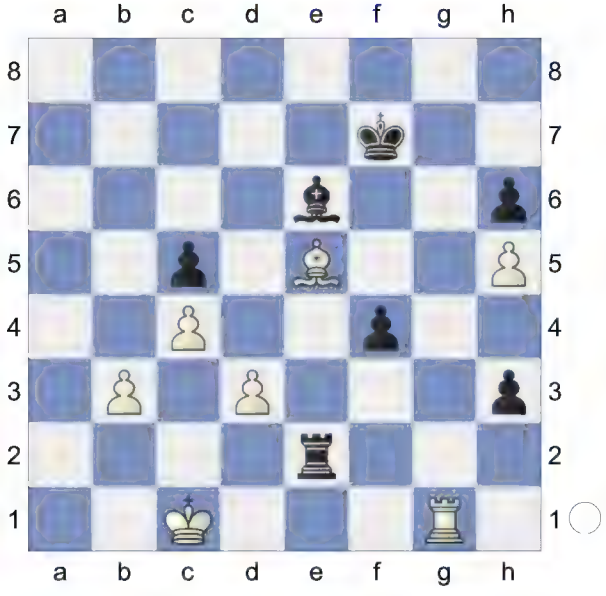
[30.Qc7∓ -0.74/26 is a better chance.]

30...Qxf7-+

(Diagram)

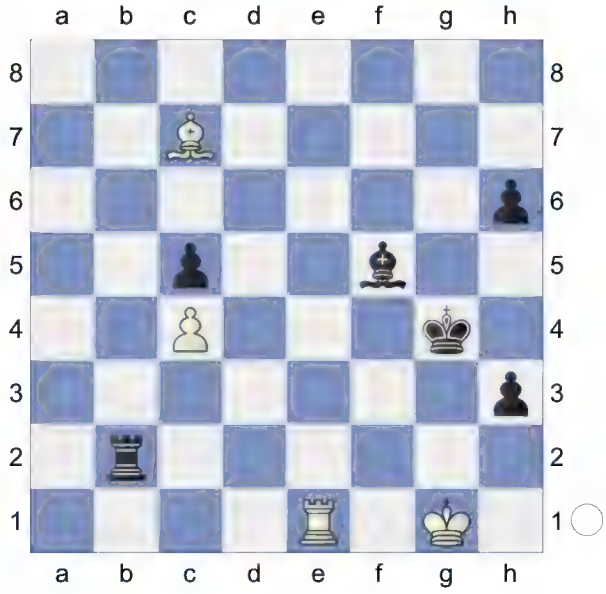


31.gxf7+ Kxf7 32.Nc7 Rxa2 33.Nxe6 Bxe6 34.Nxe5+ -5.37/28
[34.Nd2 -3.60/27 only move. Ra8 35.Rh1]
34...Bxe5? -0.36/23
[34...Kg8-+ -5.37/28 35.d4 Bf5]
35.Bxe5∓ Rxe2



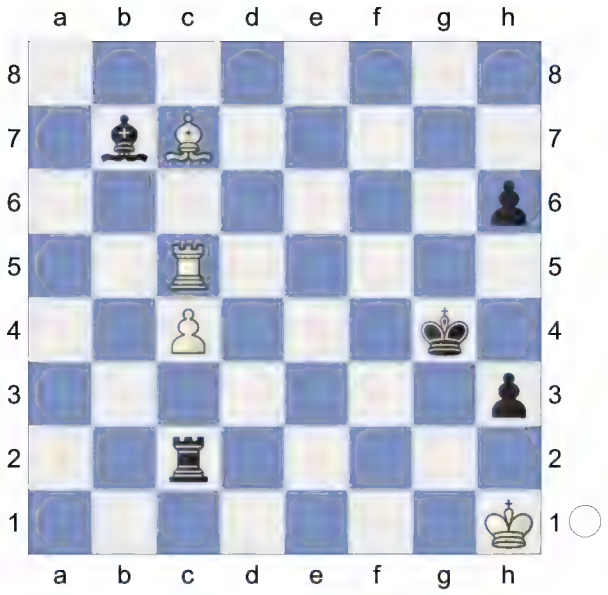
36.Bxf4-+ Endgame KRB-KRB **36...Rf2 37.Bg3** -0.41/29
[37.Be3= -0.04/28 Ra2 38.Kb1 *(38.Bxc5? h2-+)*]
37...Rf3∓ 38.Kd2? -3.46/28
Black continues to play with concentration.
[White should play 38.Bd6∓ -0.42/26]
38...Bf5-+
[Worse is 38...h2 39.Bxh2 Rf2+ 40.Kc3 Rxh2 41.b4-+]
39.Bc7 Rxd3+ 40.Ke2 Rxb3

41.Ra1 Kf6 42.Kf2 Kg5 43.Rg1+ Kxh5 44.Re1 Rb2+ 45.Kg1 Kg4

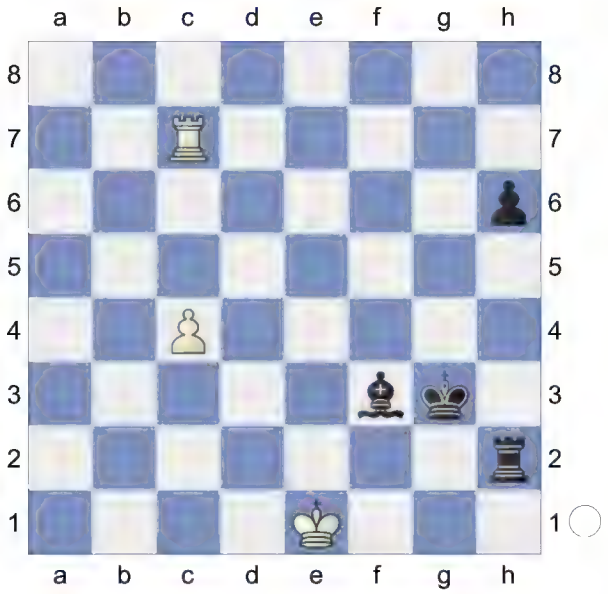


46.Kh1 Rc2 47.Rg1+ Kh5 48.Re1 Prevents Be4+. **48...Bc8 49.Re5+ Kg4** (-> ...Bb7+) **50.Rxc5 Bb7+**

(Diagram)

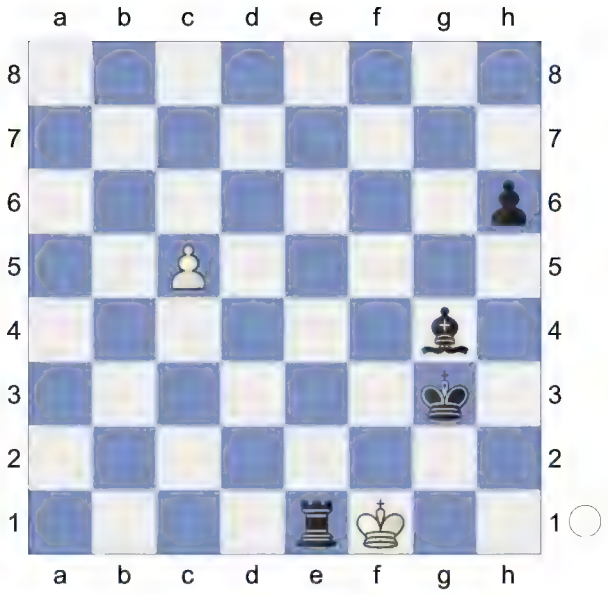


51.Kg1 Rg2+ 52.Kf1 h2 53.Bxh2 Rxh2 KRB-KR **54.Rc7 Bf3 55.Ke1 Kg3**

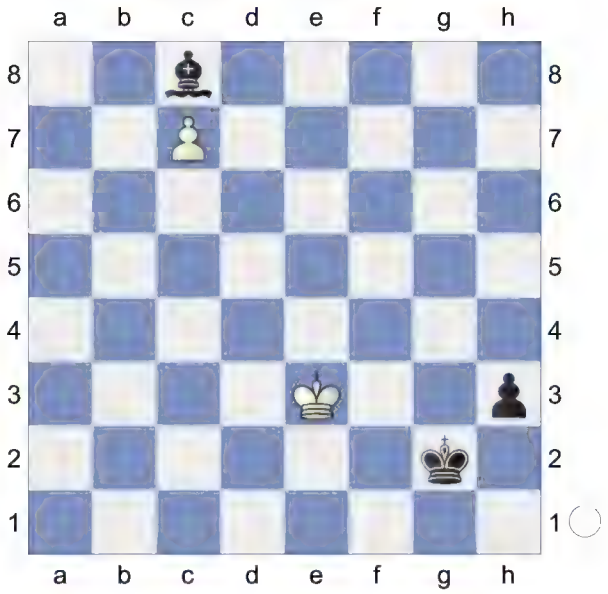


56.c5 Re2+ 57.Kf1 Rd2 58.Rg7+ Bg4 59.Re7 Rd1+ 60.Re1 Rxe1+

(Diagram)

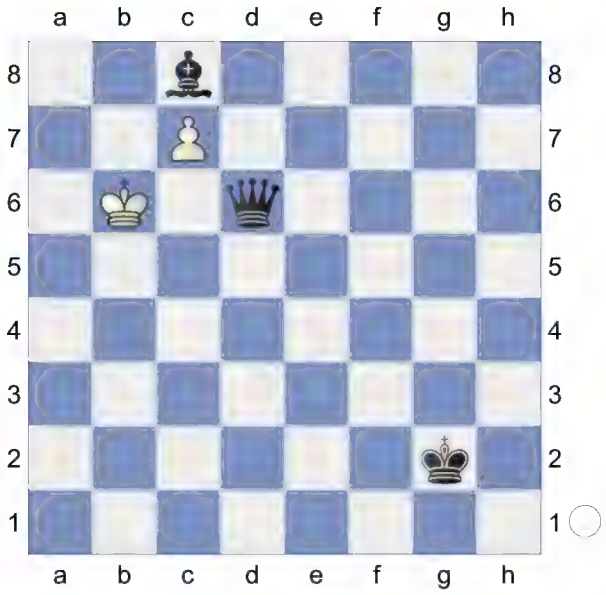


61.Kxe1 KB-KP **61...Kg2** Black mates. **62.c6 h5 63.c7 h4 64.Kd2 Bc8 65.Ke3 h3**

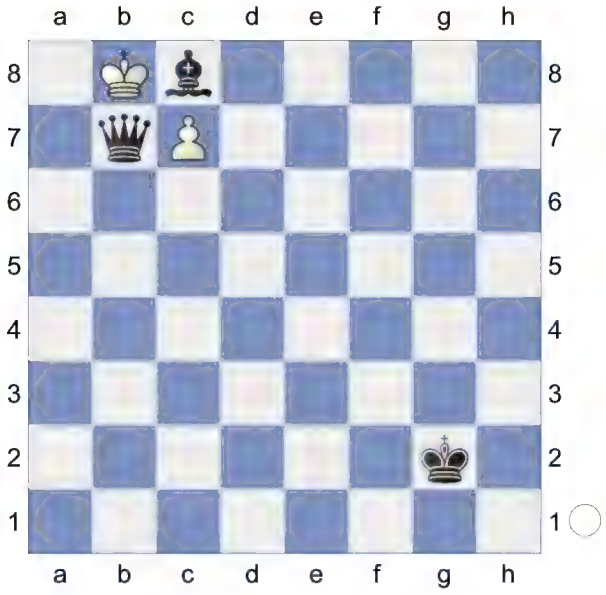


66.Kf4 h2 67.Ke5 h1Q 68.Kd6 Qh7 69.Kc6 Qd7+ 70.Kb6 Qd6+

(Diagram)



71.Ka7 Qa6+ 72.Kb8 Qb7#



Weighted Error Value: White=0.85/ Black=0.44

0-1

152 **C65**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**

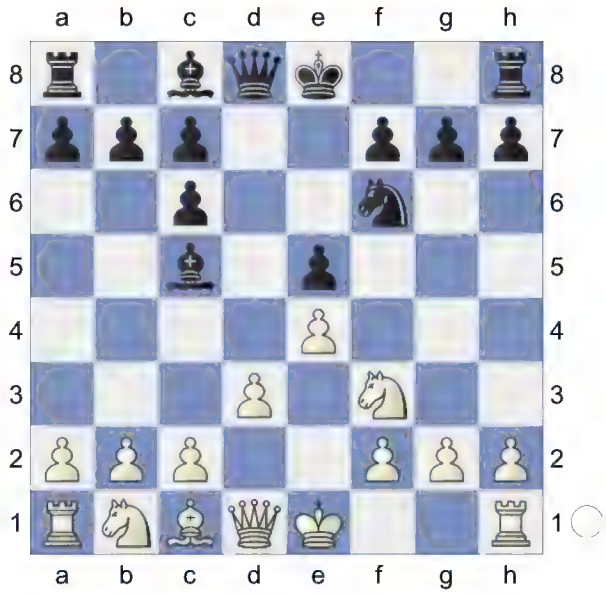
■ **Sadhwani,Raunak** **2603**

chess.com Junior Speed blitz (3.3)

[Kitty Kat]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6



6.Nbd2

[6.Nxe5? Qd4 7.Qe2 Qxe5-+]

6...Be6 7.0-0

[7.Nxe5? Qd4 8.Rf1 Qxe5-+]

7...Bd6 8.Nb3 The position is equal.

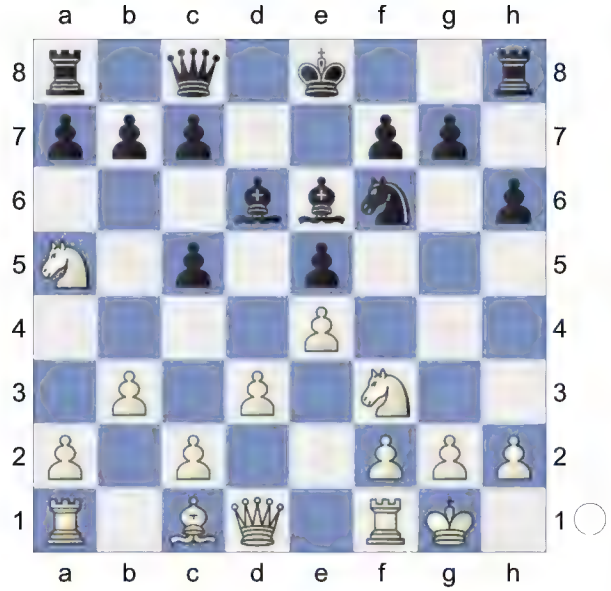
8...h6!? 8...b6 is a critical line. Exploring less charted territory.8...b6 ist die kritische Fortsetzung. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.

[8...a5 9.Qe1 a4 10.Na5 Qb8 11.b4 Bg4 12.Nh4 0-0 13.Nc4 Be6 14.Nxd6 cxd6 15.f4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Re8 17.a3 Nh5 18.Bd2 d5 19.Qe2 Nf6 20.Rxf6 gxf6 21.Rf1 dxe4 22.Bc3 Qd6 23.Bxf6 1-0 (31) Dominguez Perez,L (2763)-Aronian,L (2765) St. Louis Rapid & Blitz GCT

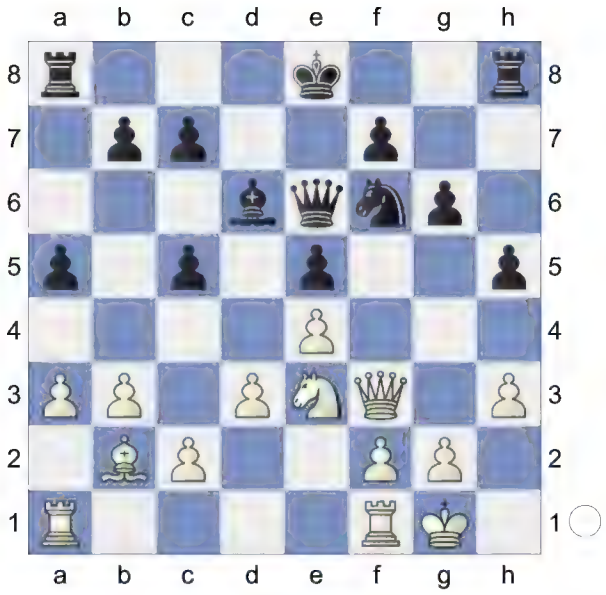
2019 (15.5)]
[8...0-0 9.Na5 Qc8 10.Ng5 Bg4 11.Nf3 Nd7 12.h3 Bh5 13.Nc4 Re8 14.Ne3 f6 15.Kh1 Nc5 16.Nf5 Ne6 17.g4 Bg6 18.Rg1 h6 19.Be3 Qd7 20.Qf1 c5 21.h4 Kf7 22.c3 Qc6 23.b3 ½-½ (34) Gukesh,D (2725)-Nakamura,H (2768) Tata Steel India Rapid 2022 (7)]

9.Na5N
[9.h3 Qe7 10.d4 0-0-0 11.Qe2 Bxb3 12.axb3 exd4 13.Rxa7 Qxe4 14.Qc4 Qd5 15.Qa4 Bc5 16.Ra5 b5 17.Qa1 Kb7 18.c4 dxc3 19.bxc3 Qxb3 20.Ba3 Bb6 21.Rb1 Qc4 22.Ne5 Qe6 23.c4 Bxa5 0-1 (32) 3.♗c4 ♘f6 36216 (2247)-9.0-0 ed4 10.♘d4 ♖e8 (2336) 85/256 Kallithea 2002 (4)]

9...Qc8 10.b3 c5

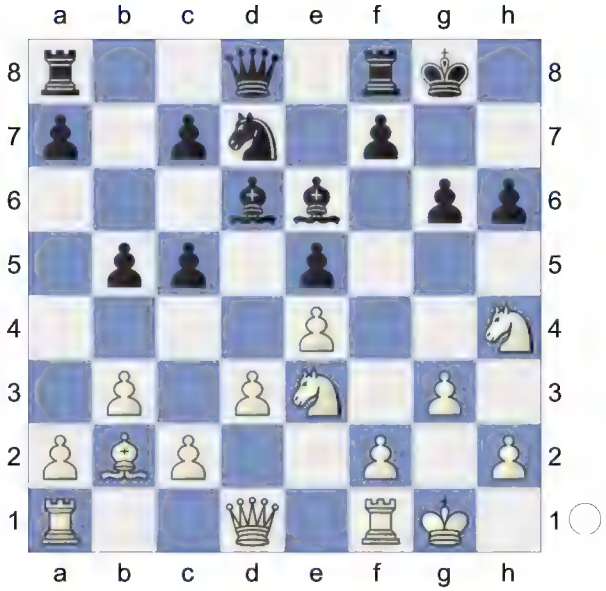


11.Bb2 Nd7N
[Predecessor: 11...Bg4 12.Nc4 Qe6 13.Ne3 h5 0.78/21 *(13...Nd7± 0.36/21)* 14.h3± Bxf3 15.Qxf3 g6 Against Nf5 16.a3 0.47/21 *(Better is 16.Nc4± 0.84/19)* 16...a5 1.15/17 *(16...Nd7± 0.47/21)*
(Diagram)



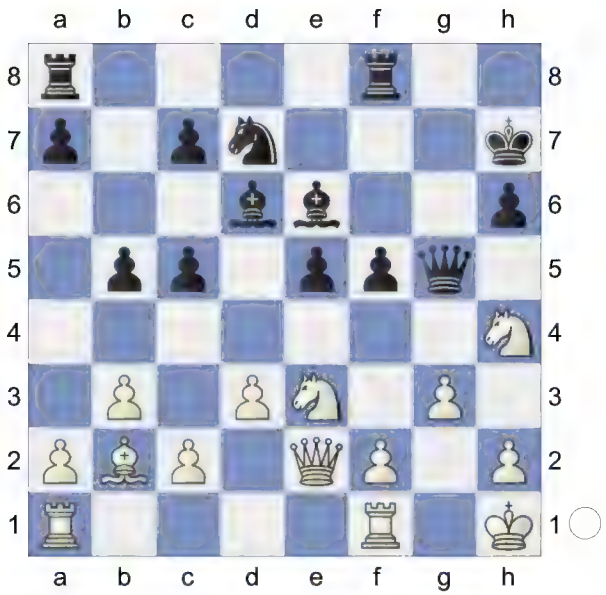
17.Nc4!± a4 ½-½ Zivkovic,V (2358)-Matanovic,L (2178) Bosnjaci op 20th 2015 (5)]

12.Nh4 0-0 13.Nc4 Qd8 ...Bxc4 is the strong threat. **14.g3 b5 15.Ne3 g6**

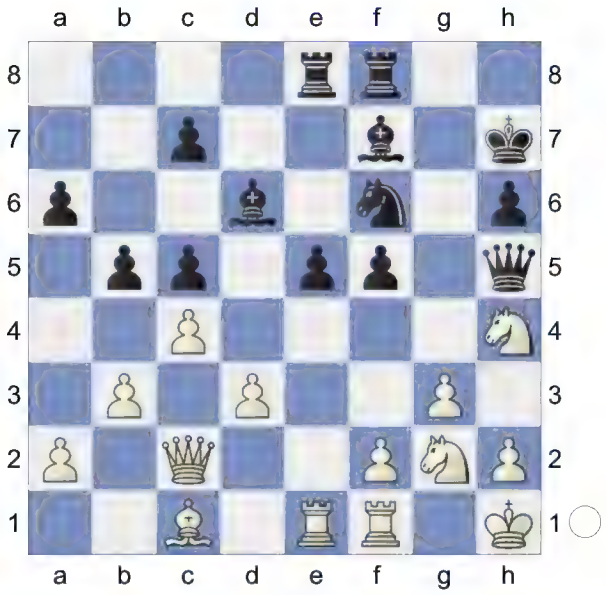


Wards off Nhf5 **16.Nhf5! Kh7 17.Kh1** 0.33/17 **f6** 0.95/18
[17...gxf5 18.exf5 Bxb3 19.axb3±]
[17...a5± 0.33/17]
18.Nh4± f5 19.exf5 gxf5 20.Qe2 0.00/20
[20.c4± 0.67/18]

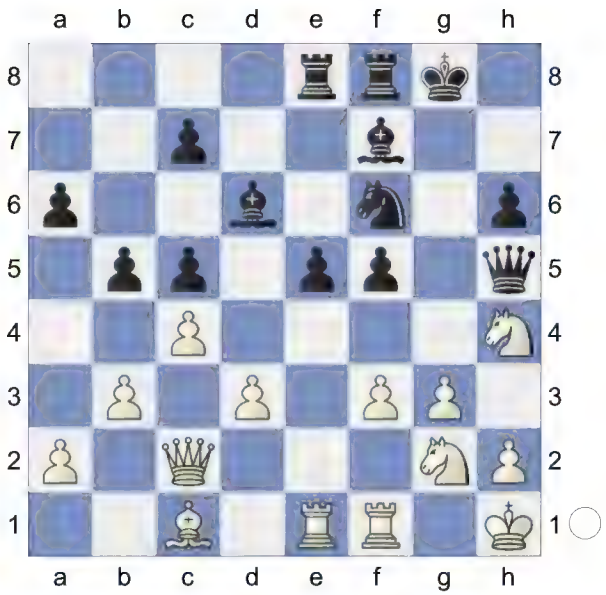
20...Qg5



21.c4 Rae8 22.Rae1 a6 1.09/19
[22...f4± 0.35/16 23.Nd5 Bxd5+ 24.cxd5 Nf6]
23.Neg2 Bf7 24.Bc1 Qh5 25.Qc2 0.49/19
[25.f3± 0.87/19 Threatens to win with g4. Be6 26.Qc2]
25...Nf6 1.39/21
[25...Nb8!± 0.49/19]

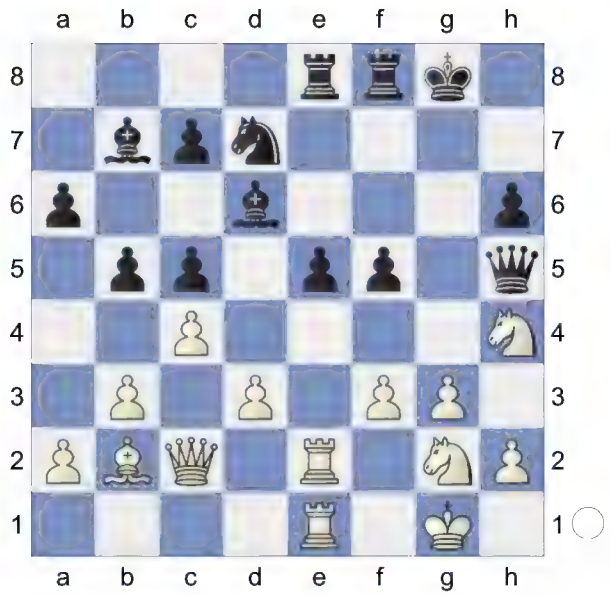


26.f3 Kg8 2.20/18
[26...Be6± 1.21/18]



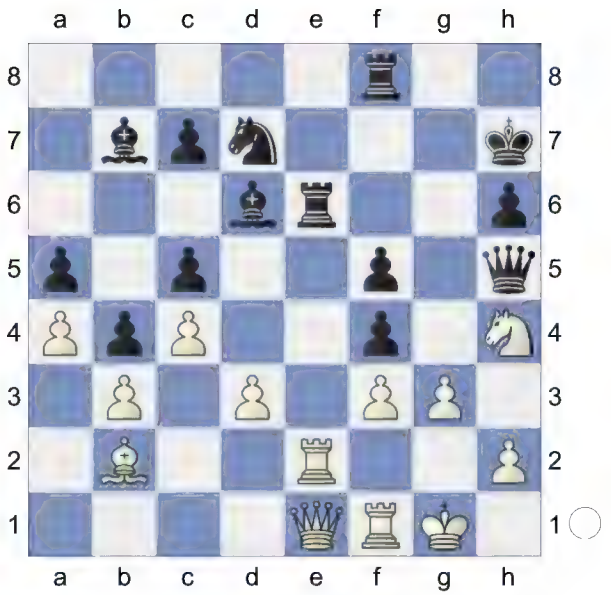
27.Re2 0.82/21
[27.g4!+- 2.20/18 is the precise move to win. fxg4 28.fxg4 Nxg4 29.Rf5 bxc4 30.h3 *(30.Rxh5 cxd3 31.Re4 Bxh5+-)* 30...cxd3 31.Qd2 *(31.hxg4? Qxf5 32.Nxf5 dxc2-+)* 31...Nf2+ 32.Qxf2 *(32.Rxf2 Bd5±)*]
27...Be6 28.Rfe1 Bc8 29.Bb2 Nd7 1.66/20
[29...e4± 1.17/19 keeps fighting. 30.fxe4 *(30.dxe4 fxe4 31.fxe4 Ng4±)* 30...fxe4]
30.Kg1 0.65/19
[30.f4+- 1.66/20]
30...Bb7 1.71/20
[Black should try 30...f4± 0.65/19]

(Diagram)

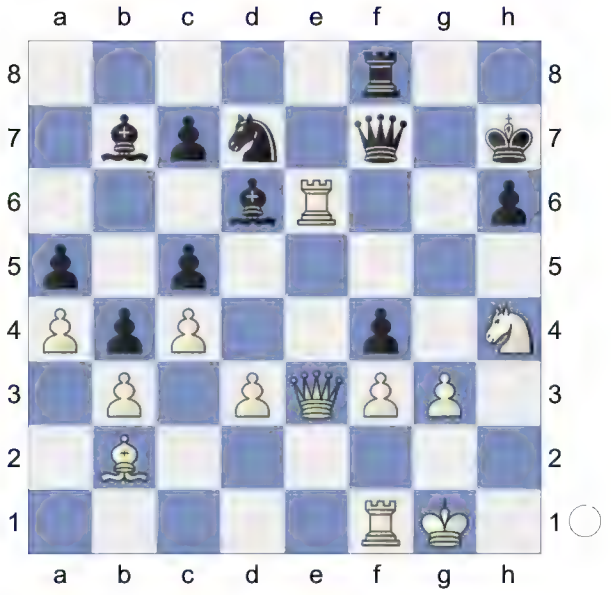


31.Rf1? -0.40/19
[31.f4+- 1.71/20]
31...b4∓ 32.Qd2 Kh7 -0.21/20
[32...f4∓ -0.62/20]
33.Qe1 -0.77/18
[33.f4= -0.21/20 keeps the balance.]
33...a5 0.24/19
[33...f4∓ -0.77/18]
34.a4 -0.76/18
[34.f4= 0.24/19 e4 *(34...exf4 35.Nxf4 Bxf4 36.Re7+ Rxe7 37.Qxe7+ Rf7 38.Qe8±)* 35.Qd1]
This move loses the game for Black.
34...Re6? 3.54/19
[34...f4∓ -0.76/18]
35.Nf4+- exf4

(Diagram)



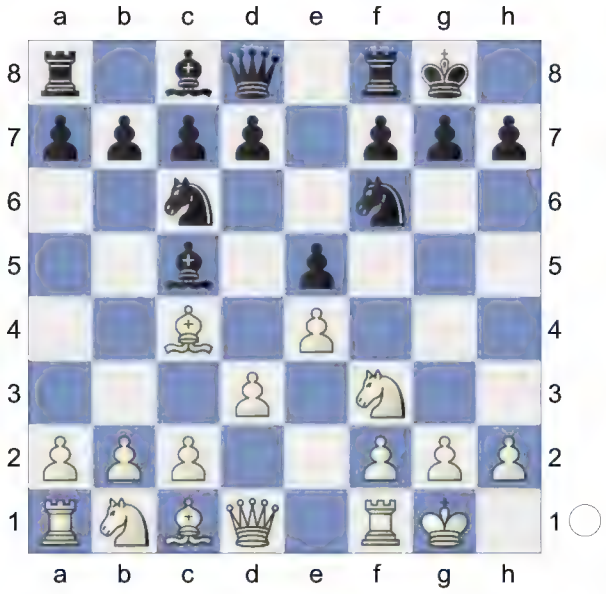
36.Rxe6 fxg3
[Not 36...Rg8 37.Re7+]
37.hxg3 Qf7 38.Qe3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.52
38...f4



Loss on time!?
0-1

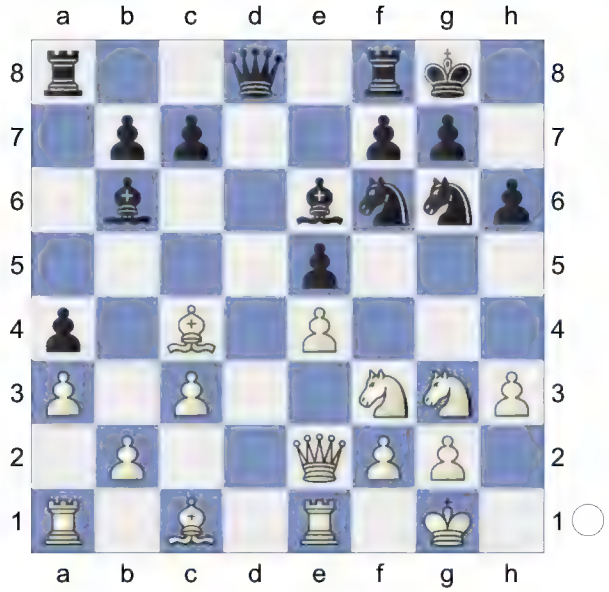
153 **C50**
□ **Pranav,V** **2608**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**
chess.com Junior Speed blitz (2.22)
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0

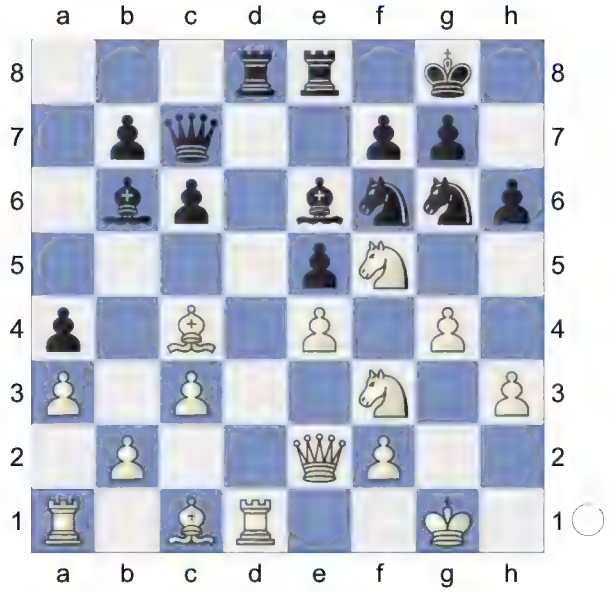


6.c3 d6 7.Nbd2 7.Re1 is a critical line. 7.Te1 ist die kritische Fortsetzung. **7...h6 8.h3 a5 9.Re1 a4N**
[9...Be6 10.Bb5 Nd7 *(10...Bb6 11.Nf1 Ne7 12.d4 exd4 13.cxd4 d5 14.e5 Ne4 15.Ng3 Nxg3 16.fxg3 c6 17.Bd3 Nf5 18.Bxf5 Bxf5 19.Be3 Be4 20.Nd2 Bg6 21.Bf2 a4 22.a3 Qd7 23.Qe2 Rae8 24.g4 Ba5 25.Rf1* ½-½ (79) Niemann,H (2675)-Tari,A (2635) Titled Tuesday intern op 13th Feb Late blitz 2024 (5)) 11.Nf1 d5 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Be3 Bd6 14.Ng3 Re8 15.Qc2 c5 16.c4 c6 17.Rad1 Bf8 18.Qc1 a4 19.Bd2 Qf6 20.Nh2 Qg6 21.Nf3 Qf6 22.Kh2 Rab8 23.Qc2 Ra8 24.Bc3 1-0 (47) Vachier Lagrave,M (2725)-Deac,B (2692) Titled Tuesday intern op 04th Mar Early blitz 2025 (8)]
10.Nf1 Bd7

White is slightly better. **11.a3 Ne7!N** 0.57/24 A top novelty.Eine Top Neuerung.
[Predecessor: 11...Bb6 12.Ng3 Re8 13.Nh4 -0.42/25 *(13.Qc2=* 0.17/22 *)* 13...Ng4 *(13...Na5!? 14.Ba2 Ng4=)* 14.hxg4 -1.28/20 *(14.Nhf5∓* -0.35/23 *Bxf2+ 15.Kf1 Bxg3 16.Qxg4 Bxf5 17.exf5)* 14...Qxh4∓ 15.Qf3 -1.71/25 *(15.Be3∓* -1.28/23 *Bxg4 16.Qc2)* 15...Bxg4-+ 16.Qxf7+? -4.35/22 *(16.Nf5* -1.69/22 *Bxf3 17.Nxh4)* 16...Kh7-+ 17.Be3 Rf8 0-1 Dominguez Perez,L (2739)-Caruana,F (2811) PRO League Stage rapid 2018 (4)]
[11...Re8= 0.07/26]
12.Ng3 Ng6 13.d4 Bb6 14.dxe5 -0.32/22
[14.Be3± 0.51/20]
14...dxe5∓ 15.Qe2 Be6 0.29/22
[Better is 15...Re8∓ -0.33/23]

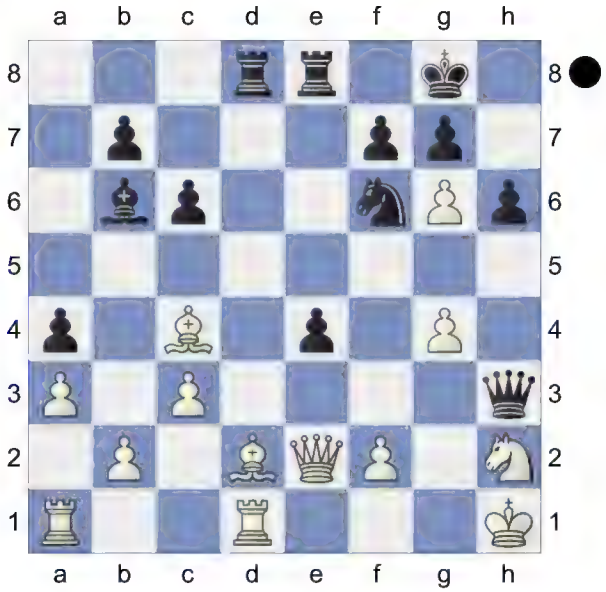


16.Nf5 -0.30/23
[White should play 16.Bxe6 0.29/22 fxe6 17.Be3]
16...Re8 17.g4 -0.67/20
[17.Bxe6= -0.12/20 Rxe6 18.Rb1]
17...Qd7 18.Bb5 c6 19.Rd1 Qc7 20.Bc4 Rad8!



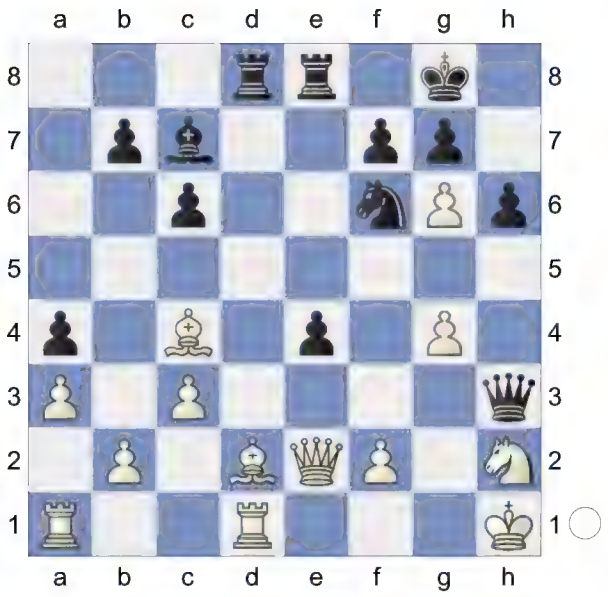
21.Bd2 -1.66/22
[21.Rxd8∓ -0.85/24 Qxd8 *(21...Rxd8 22.Bd2∓)* 22.Bd3]
21...Bxf5 -0.54/22
[21...Rxd2-+ -1.66/22 22.Nxd2 Nf4]

White does not recover from this.
22.exf5? -2.17/21
[22.gxf5∓ -0.54/22 Nf8 23.b3]
22...e4 Threatens to win with ...Qg3+.
[22...Nf4 23.Bxf4 exf4 24.Qc2∓]
23.fxg6? -6.64/21
[23.Bxf7+ -2.29/20 Kh8 *(23...Kxf7 24.fxg6+ Kxg6 25.Nd4∓)* 24.Nd4 *(24.Bxg6? perishes. Qg3+ 25.Kh1 Qxh3+ 26.Nh2 Bc7-+)* 24...Bxd4 *(24...Qxf7? 25.fxg6 Qxg6 26.Nf5∓)* 25.cxd4 Qxf7 26.fxg6 Qxg6 27.Be3]
23...Qg3+-+ 24.Kh1 Qxh3+ 25.Nh2

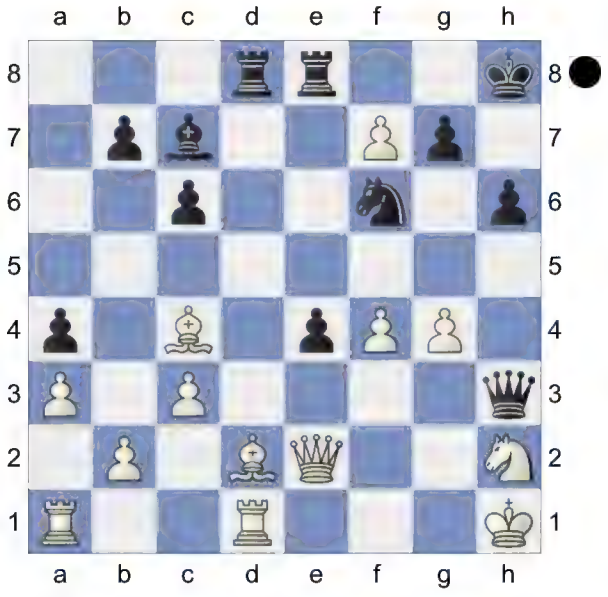


Bc7!

(Diagram)



26.gxf7+ Kh8 27.f4



exf3! 28.Qf2 Nxg4

[Don't go for 28...Re4? 29.Bf4 *(29.Qxf3? Qxh2#)* 29...Rc8 30.Bf1 *(30.Qxf3 Qxf3+ 31.Nxf3 Rxf4=; 30.Bxc7 Nxg4 31.Qxf3 Qxf3+ 32.Nxf3 Rxc4+-)* 30...Bxf4 *(30...Nxg4? 31.Qc5+-)* 31.Bxh3+-]

29.fxe8Q+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.67/ Black=0.15 (very precise)

29...Rxe8

(Diagram)

0-1

154 **B31**

□ **Pranav,V** **2608**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**

chess.com Junior Speed blitz (2.18)

[TA]

B31: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5 g6

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 Nc6

[2...e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Re1 d6 8.c3 e5 9.a3 0-0 10.b4 h6 11.Be3 b6 12.Nh4 Be6 13.b5 Na5 14.c4 Qd7 15.Nc3 Rae8 16.Rb1 Kh7 17.Nd5 1-0 (48) Damljanovic,B (2535)-Kindermann,S (2519) EUCup 18th Chalkidiki 2002 (2)]

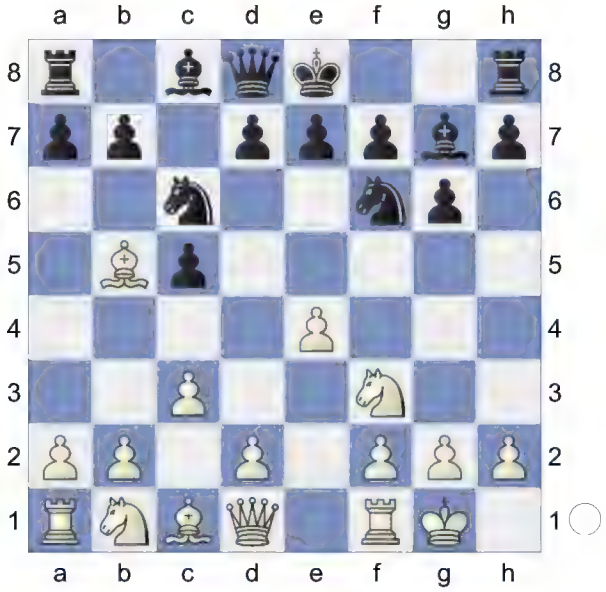
3.Bb5N

[3.d3 d6 4.Nbd2 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.a4 Rb8 9.Nc4 b6 10.Nfd2 a6 11.f4 Bg4 12.Bf3 Bxf3 13.Nxf3 b5 14.axb5 axb5 15.Ne3 Ra8 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.f5 c4 0-1 (33) Canonne,A-Seret,J (2350) Gonfreville op 1980 (5)

18.dxc4 bxc4 19.e5 dxe5 20.Nxc4 Rd8 21.Qe2 e4 22.Nh4 Qa6 23.b3 Ne5 24.fxg6 hxg6 25.Be3 Nxc4 26.Qxc4 Qxc4 27.bxc4 Rc8 28.c5 Ng4 29.Ng2 Nxe3 30.Nxe3 Bd4 31.Re1 Rxc5 32.Re2 Rc3 0-1 (33) Zier,L-Ig5 (2350) Champigny sur 37/338 1984 (5) 33.Kf2 f5 0-1 Cantore,A-Petrillo,M ITA-ch39 corr 1989]

[3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 e5 7.d3 Nge7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Na3 h6 10.d4 exd4 11.cxd4 d5 12.dxc5 dxe4 13.Nd2 Nf5 14.Rb1 Nxe3 15.fxe3 f5 16.b4 a5 17.b5 Nb4 0-1 (41) Nogueira,N (2079)-Dubyna (2538) CCLA ch-1 8586 1985 (8)]

3...g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 Nf6

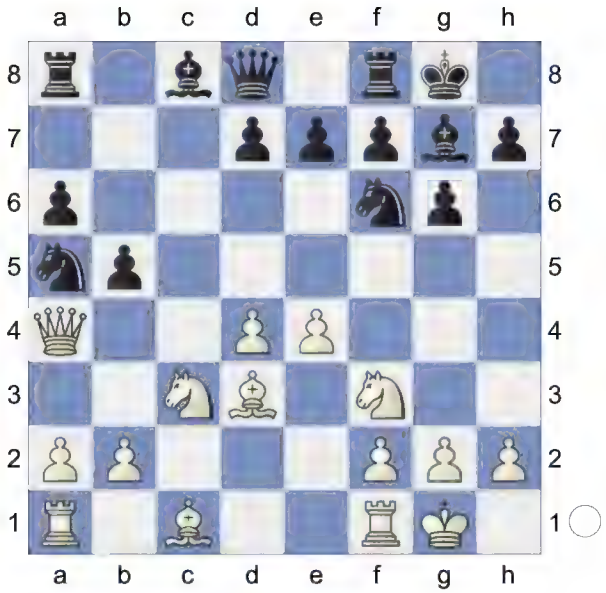


6.Qa4 0-0 7.d4! cxd4

[7...Nxe4?! 8.d5±]

8.cxd4 The position is equal. **8...a6 9.Nc3 Na5 10.Bd3 b5**

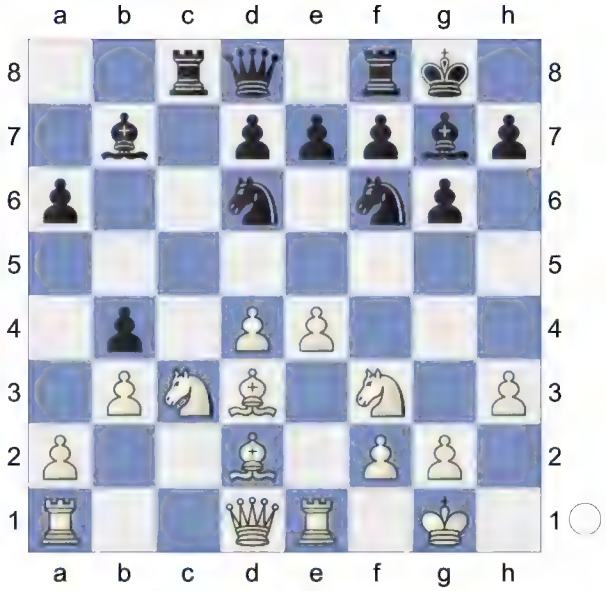
(Diagram)



11.Qd1 Bb7 12.Re1 Rc8 13.h3 Nc4 14.b3 -0.29/19

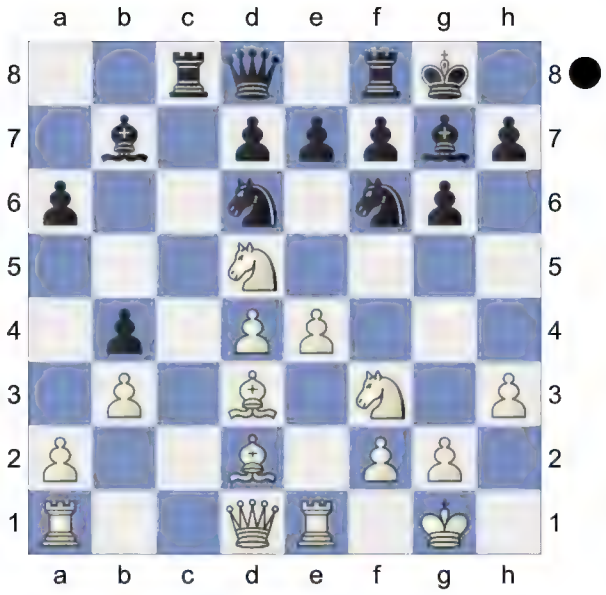
[14.Qe2± 0.42/21]

14...Nd6= 15.Bd2 e5 is the strong threat. **15...b4↑**

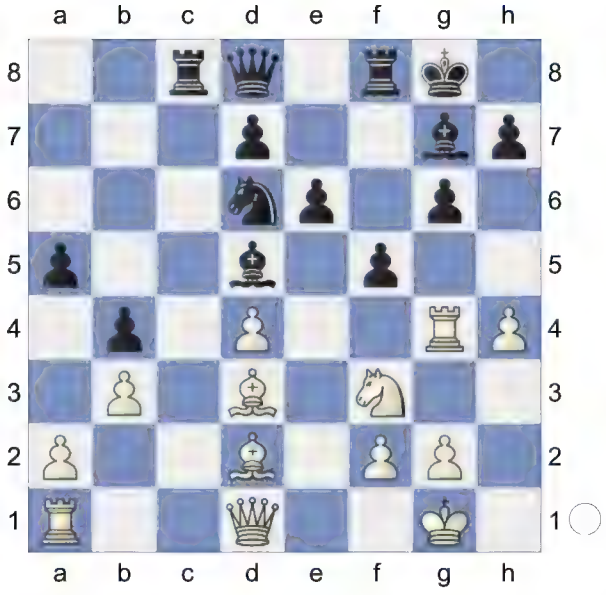


Black is more active. **16.Nd5** -1.39/21

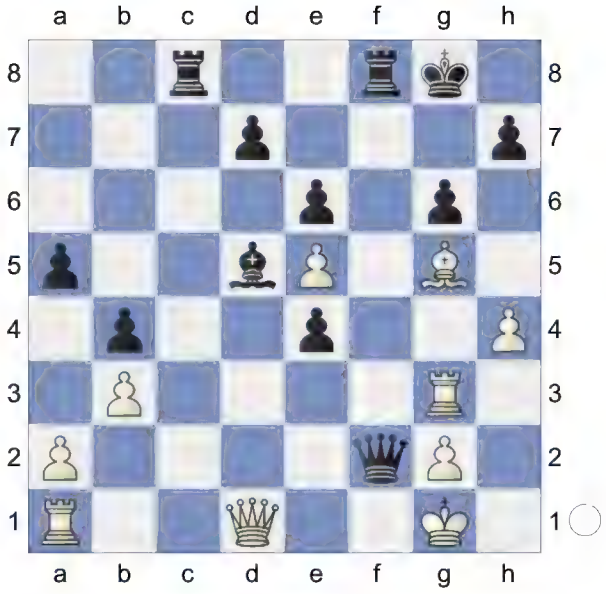
(Diagram)



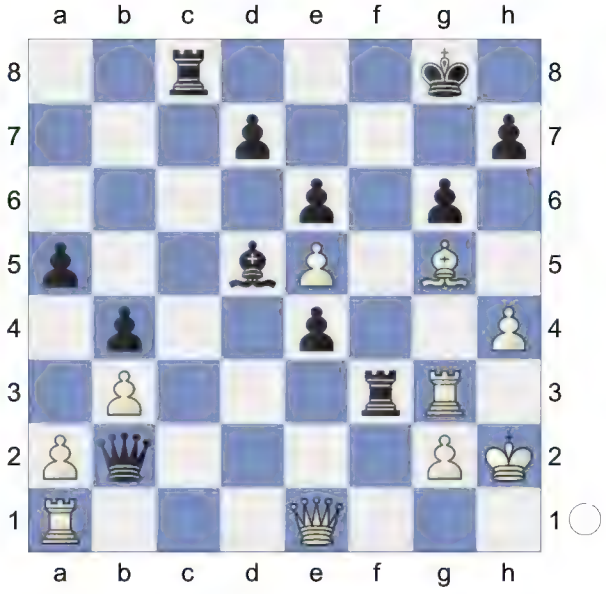
Nfxe4!∓ Remove Defender **17.Rxe4** **Bxd5** Loses the game. **18.Rh4** -2.55/20
[18.Re1∓ -1.21/17 is a better defense.]
18...e6 19.Rg4 a5 20.h4 f5



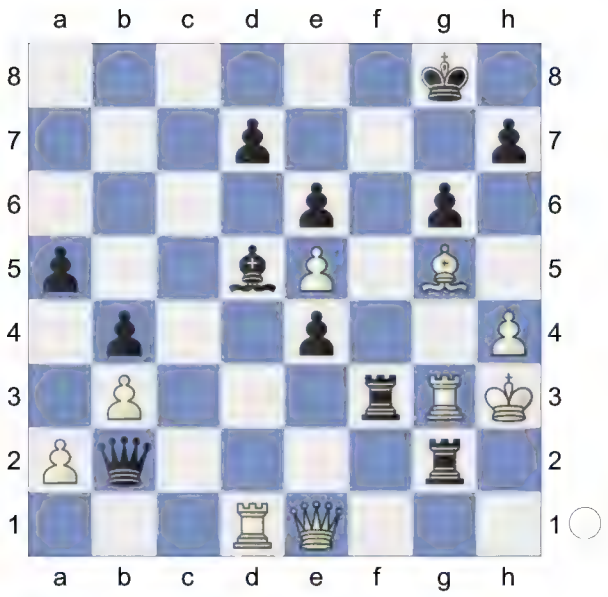
21.Rg3 Ne4 22.Bxe4 fxe4 23.Bg5 -4.02/19
[⌓23.Ne5 -2.63/19]
23...Qb6-+ 24.Ne5 Bxe5 25.dxe5
White is weak on the light squares
25...Qxf2+
[25...Rxf2? is the wrong capture. 26.Be3+-]



26.Kh2 Rf3 27.Qe1 Qb2



28.Rd1 Rc2 ...Rff2 would now be deadly.
[Not 28...Qxa2 29.Rd2 Qxb3 30.gxf3 exf3 31.h5=]
29.Kh3? -8.55/21
[29.Rd2 -3.12/20 Rxd2 30.Bxd2 Rxg3 31.Kxg3]
Weighted Error Value: White=0.60/ Black=0.13 (very precise)
29...Rxg2
(Diagram)



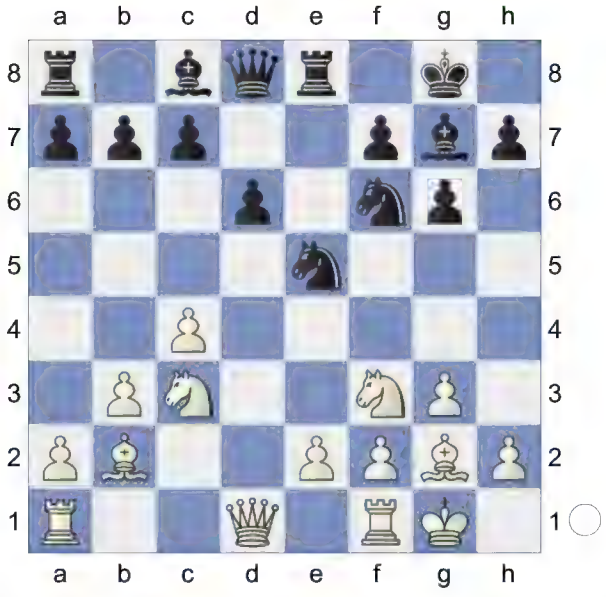
0-1

155 **A50**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**
■ **Pranav,V** **2608**
chess.com Junior Speed blitz (2.15)
[Kitty Kat]

A15: English Opening: 1...Nf6

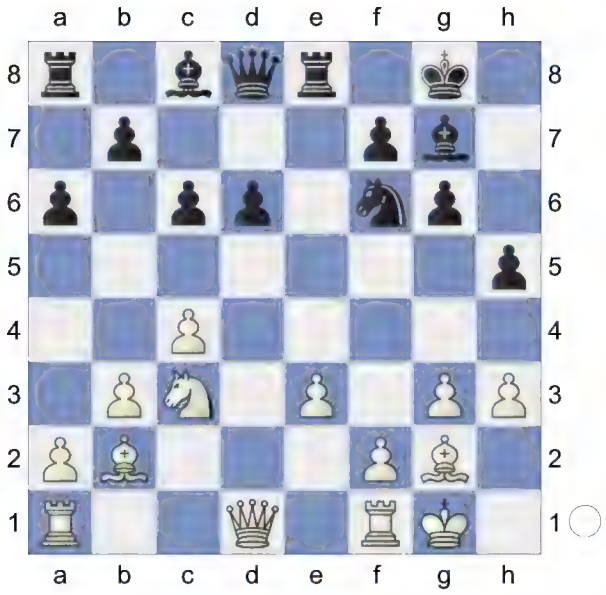
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7

6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3N
[7.d5 Ne7 8.Nc3 d6 9.e4 a6 10.Re1 Re8 11.h3 h6 12.Be3 g5 13.h4 gxh4 14.Nxh4 Ng6 15.Nxg6 fxg6 16.Rc1 e5 17.Bf3 Rf8 18.c5 Bh3 19.cxd6 cxd6 20.Na4 b5 21.Kh2 Rb8 1-0 (36) Wiesner,N (2640)-Korshunov,S (2305) British CC Ch 1991 (2)]
7...d6 8.b3 Re8!? Exploring less charted territory.Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain. **9.Bb2** White is slightly better. **9...e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5N** 1.01/19
[Predecessor: 10...dxe5± 0.38/22 11.Qxd8 Rxd8 12.Rfd1 aiming for Nxe5! Bf5 13.Nd5 Ne8 14.Ng5 f6 15.Ne4 Bxe4 16.Bxe4 Kf7 1.23/20 0-1 Posthuma,J (2389)-Caruana,F (2781) Titled Tuesday intern op 29th Mar Early blitz 2022 (8) *(16...f5=* 0.13/25 keeps the balance. *17.Bh1 e4 18.Bxg7 Kxg7)*]

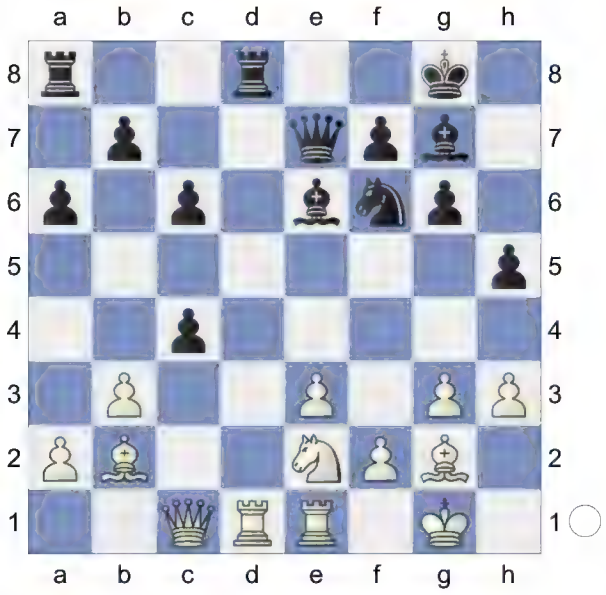


11.Nxe5± Rxe5 12.Nb5 Re8 13.e3 h5 14.h3 a6 15.Nc3 c6

(Diagram)

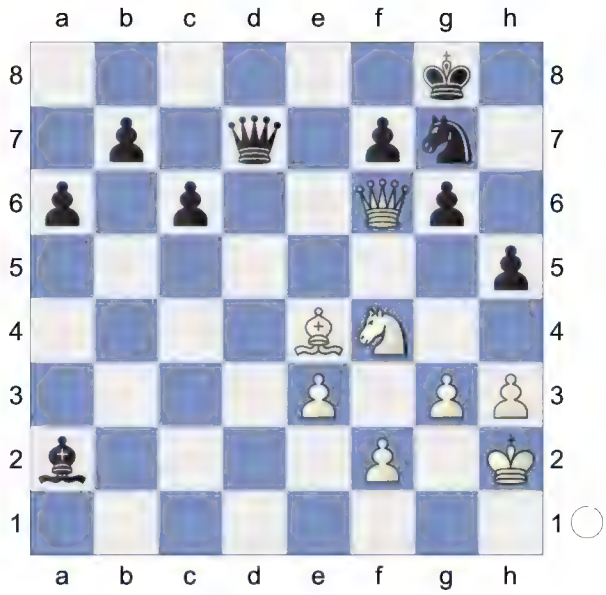


16.Qd2 Qe7 1.12/20
[16...Be6± 0.51/23]
17.Rad1 Rd8 18.Rfe1 Be6 19.Ne2 0.00/25
[19.e4± 1.12/20]
19...d5= 20.Qc1 dxc4



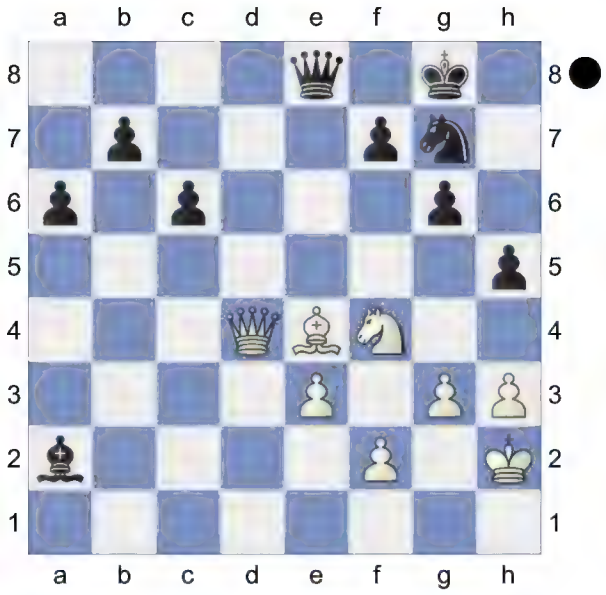
21.bxc4 Qb4 22.Nf4 Bxc4 23.Bc3 Qa4 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 Black continues to play with concentration. **25.Qa1** -1.95/22
[25.Qb2∓ -0.87/22 is a better defense. Qxa2 26.Qxb7]
25...Ne8!-+

26.Bxg7 Nxg7 27.Qf6 Rd1 28.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 29.Kh2 Bxa2 30.Be4 Qd7

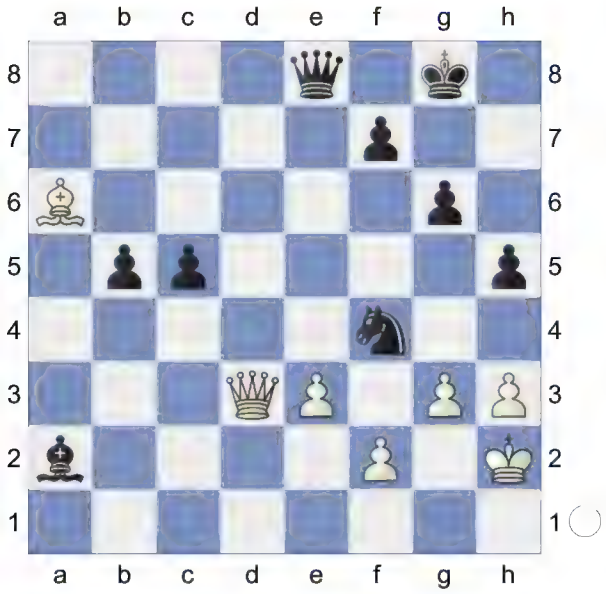


31.Qe5 Qe8 32.Qd4

(Diagram)

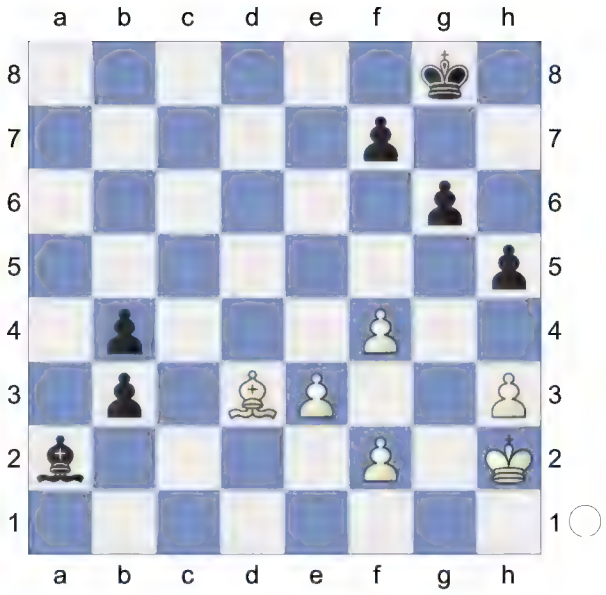


c5! 33.Qd3 b5 34.Bb7 -4.34/24
[34.Bd5 -3.09/21 was necessary. Bxd5 35.Qxd5]
34...Ne6 35.Bxa6 Nxf4

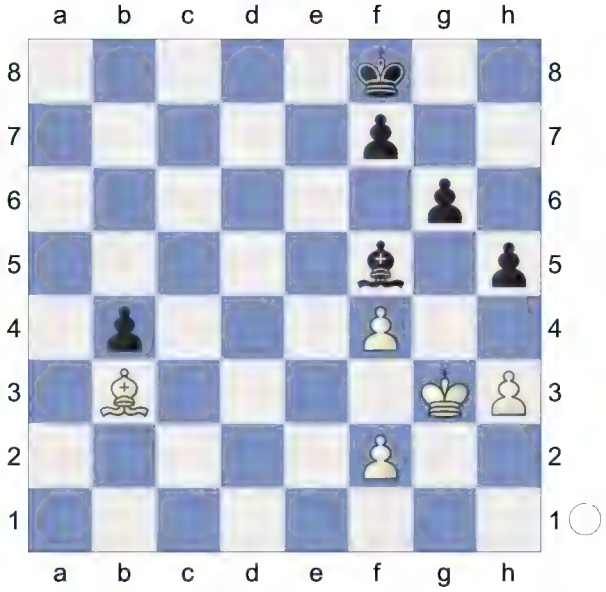


Black is clearly winning. **36.gxf4** Endgame. KQB-KQB **36...b4 37.Qc2 b3 38.Qc3 Qa4 39.Bd3 Qb4 40.Qxb4 cxb4**

(Diagram)



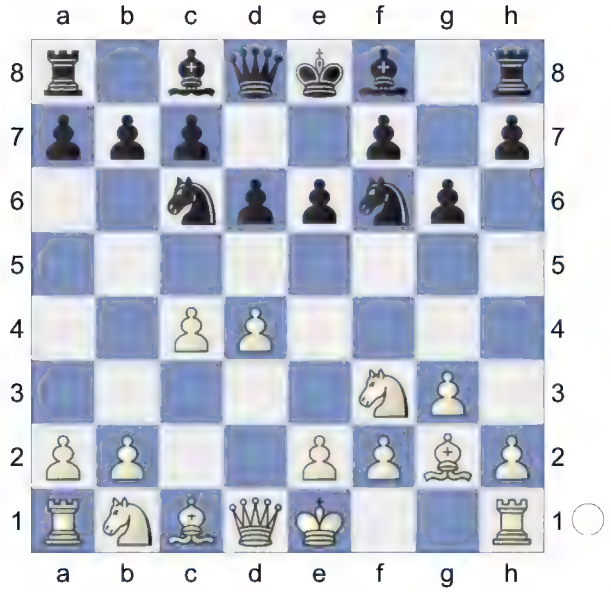
41.Bc4 Kf8 42.e4 Bb1 43.Bxb3 Bxe4 44.Kg3 Bf5



Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.16 (very precise)
0-1

156 **A50**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**
■ **Pranav,V** **2608**
chess.com Junior Speed blitz (2.11)
[Kitty Kat]

E10: Blumenfeld Gambit
John Watson: 'John Watson,MH: 'A15: English Opening: 1...Nf6
" 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 g6

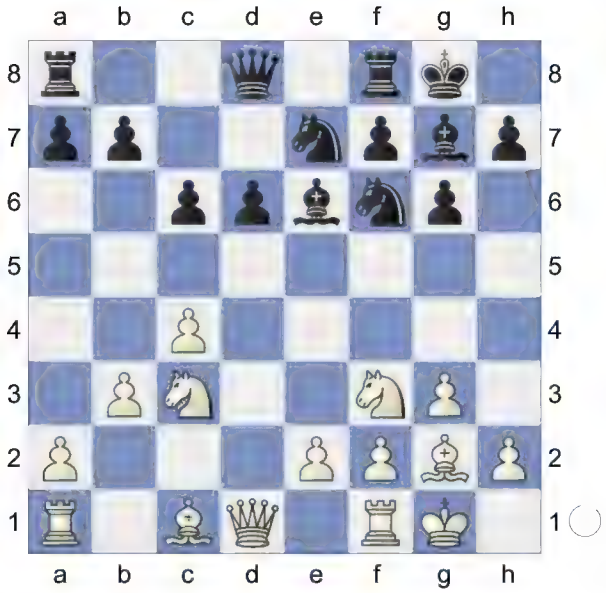


6.0-0 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.d5 White is better. White is better.
[8.b3 Re8 9.Bb2 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 1.00/18 *(*Better is *10...dxe5±* 0.49/20 *11.Qxd8 Rxd8)* 11.Nxe5± Rxe5 12.Nb5 0.64/20 *(12.Qd2±* 1.17/16 *)* 12...Re8± 13.e3 h5 14.h3 a6 15.Nc3 c6 0.57/18 *(15...Ne4=* 0.21/22 *16.Qc2 Ng5)* 16.Qd2± Qe7 0.97/18 *(16...Be6±* 0.53/20 *)* 17.Rad1± Rd8 18.Rfe1 Be6 19.Ne2 -0.01/18 *(19.e4±* 1.32/18 *)* 19...d5= 20.Qc1 dxc4 21.bxc4 Qb4 22.Nf4 Bxc4 0.00/17 0-1 (44) Sikorova,J (2736)-Schmucker,R (2608) Baku op 2010 (2.15) *(22...Qxc4∓* -0.47/20 *23.Qa1 Ne8)* 23.Bc3 -0.46/21 *(23.a3=* 0.00/17 *Qa4 24.Rd4 Rxd4 25.Bxd4)* 23...Qa4!∓ 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Qa1 -1.66/20 *(25.Qb2∓* -0.72/20 *Qxa2 26.Qxb7)* 25...Ne8!-+ 26.Bxg7 -2.35/17 *(26.a3∓* -1.53/18 *)* 26...Nxg7-+ 27.Qf6 Rd1 28.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 29.Kh2 Bxa2 30.Be4 Qd7 Against Qe7 31.Qe5 Qe8 32.Qd4 c5 33.Qd3 b5 34.Bb7 Ne6 35.Bxa6 Nxf4 36.gxf4 b4 37.Qc2 b3 0-1 (44) Gukesh,D (2736)-Pranav,V (2608) Chess.com U20 Speed blitz 2023 (2.15) 38.Qc3 Qa4 39.Bd3 Qb4 40.Qxb4 cxb4 41.Bc4 Kf8 42.e4 Bb1 43.Bxb3 Bxe4 44.Kg3 Bf5 0-1 Sikorova,J (2736)-Schmucker,R (2608) Baku op 2010 (2.15)]

8...Ne7 9.dxe6N
[9.e4 a6 10.Re1 Re8 11.h3 h6 12.Be3 g5 13.h4 gxh4 14.Nxh4 Ng6 15.Nxg6 fxg6 16.Rc1 e5! 17.Bf3 0.02/21 *(17.Na4±* 0.50/19 might be stronger.*)* 17...Rf8= 18.c5 Bh3 0.69/17 *(18...h5=* 0.11/18 *)* 19.cxd6 cxd6 20.Na4 -0.17/21 *(20.Kh2!±* 0.55/19 *Bc8 21.Kg2)* 20...b5? 1.65/21 *(20...h5!=* -0.17/21 and Black has nothing to worry.*)* 21.Kh2 Rb8 22.Kxh3 bxa4 23.Rc2 0.92/17 *(23.Kg2+-* 1.84/17 *)* 23...Rb4 1.78/17 1-0 (36) Wiesner,N (2640)-Korshunov,S (2305) British CC Ch 1991 (2) *(23...h5±* 0.92/17 *)* 24.Bd2 1.23/19 *(24.Kg2+-* 1.78/17 *)* 24...Rd4 25.Qe2 Nh7 White must now prevent ...Rxd2!. 26.Bg2 Ng5+ 2.18/21 *(26...h5±* 1.53/18 *27.Bc3 Nf6)* 27.Kh2+- Qf6 28.Be3 h5 2.75/19 *(28...Rb4* 1.89/19 keeps fighting. *29.Rec1 Rfb8 30.Qxa6 h5 31.Rc8+ Rxc8 32.Qxc8+ Kh7)* 29.Bxd4+- exd4 30.f4 Nf7 4.15/18 *(⌓30...h4*

2.68/17) 31.e5+- dxe5 32.Rc6 Qd8 33.Rxg6 exf4 6.45/16 (⌓33...Nh8 4.20/17) 34.Qxh5+- Nh8 35.d6 f3 36.Bxf3 1-0 Sumets,A (2640)-Bednarich,J (2305) Luxembourg-chT 1314 2013 (2)]

9...Bxe6 10.b3 c6



11.Bb2 Re8 12.Qd2 0.19/19

[12.Nd4± 0.64/20]

[12.Ng5± 0.69/22]

12...Qc7 1.02/20

[12...d5= 0.17/18 keeps the balance.]

[12...d5= 0.19/19]

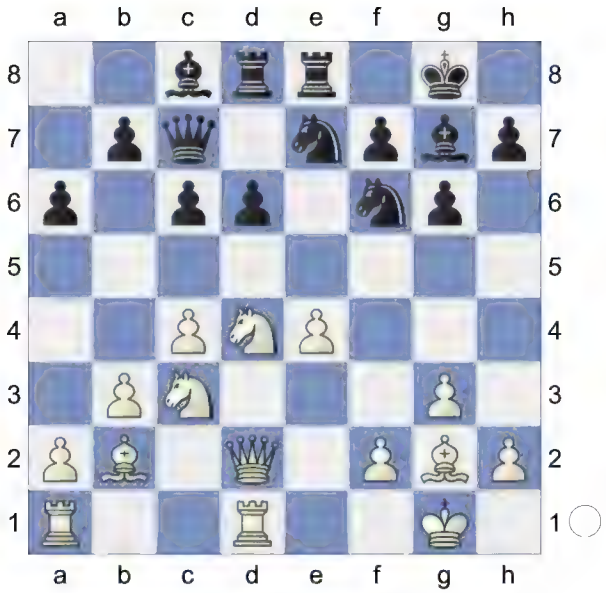
13.Rfd1 0.33/21

[13.Ng5± 0.79/21]

[13.e4± 1.02/20]

13...Rad8 14.Nd4 Bc8 15.e4 a6

(Diagram)



16.Rac1 Qb8 0.82/19

[16...Qa5!± 0.45/20]

17.a4 0.10/20

[17.Nc2± 0.82/19]

[17.Nc2± 0.80/18]

17...h5 0.72/20

[17...d5!= 0.10/20 remains equal.]

18.h3 0.21/21

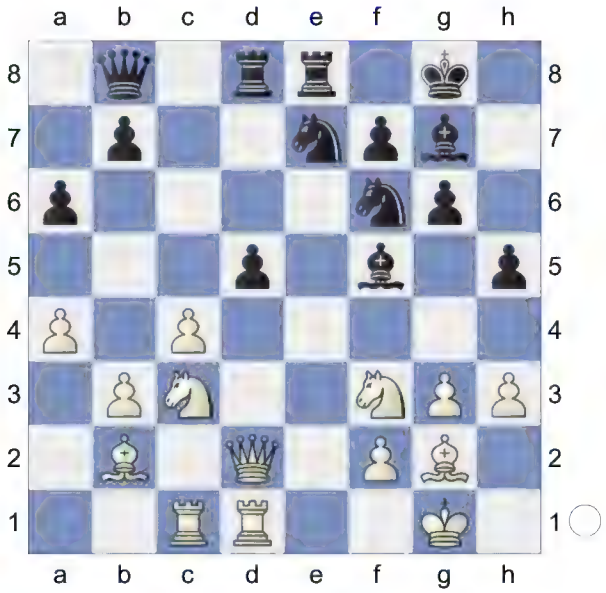
[White should try 18.Re1± 0.72/20]

18...d5 19.exd5 cxd5 20.Nf3 -0.16/22

[20.Nxd5± 0.40/23 Nfxd5 21.cxd5]

[20.Nxd5± 0.45/22 Nexd5 21.cxd5]

20...Bf5=



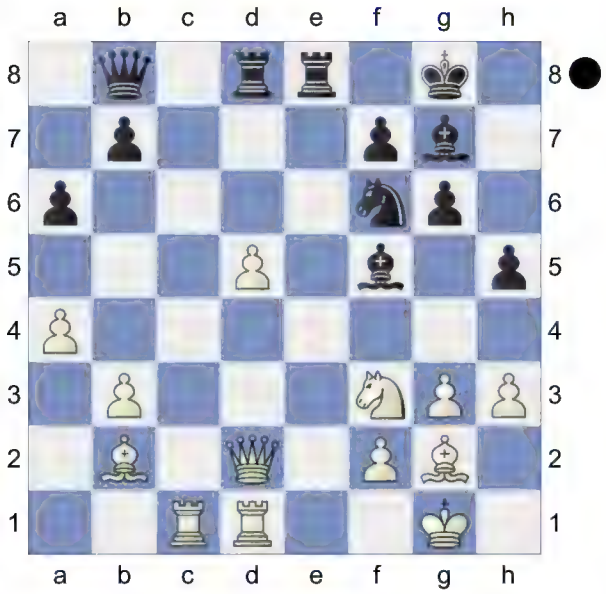
This costs White the game. **21.Nxd5** -2.76/21 This move loses the game for White.

[21.cxd5= -0.24/24 Nfxd5 22.Nxd5 Rxd5 23.Nd4]

[21.cxd5= -0.10/22 and White is okay. Nfxd5 22.Nxd5 Rxd5 23.Nd4]

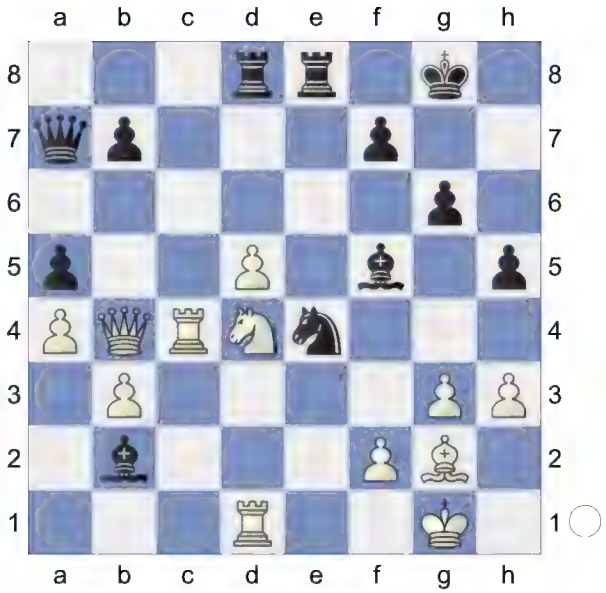
21...Nexd5-+ 22.cxd5 -3.80/22

[⌓22.Be5 -2.62/17 Rxe5 23.Nxe5 Qxe5 24.cxd5]



22...Ne4! Inhibits Ng5. Deflection **23.Qb4** Bxg7 is the strong threat. Hoping for Bxg7. **23...Bxb2 24.Rc4 Qa7 25.Nd4 a5**

(Diagram)

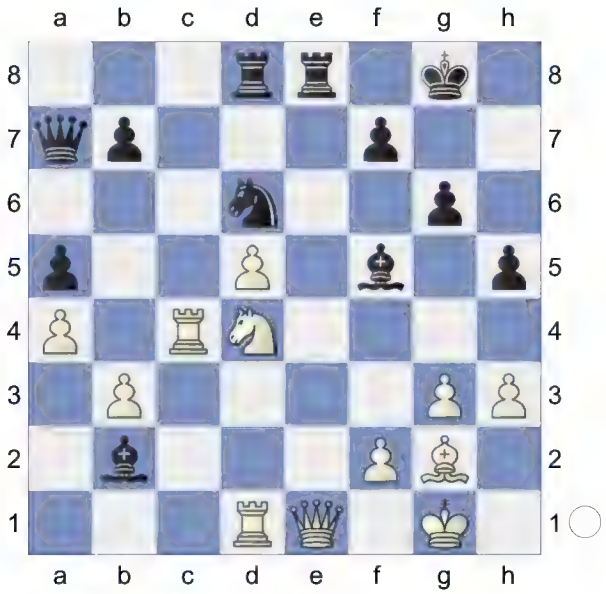


26.Qe1

Weighted Error Value: White=0.55/ Black=0.21 (precise)

26...Nd6

[Less strong is 26...Rxd5 27.Qe3 Red8 28.Nxf5 Rxd1+ 29.Kh2 Qxe3 30.Nxe3]



Inhibits Nb5.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.51/ Black=0.16 (very precise) . Wards off Nb5

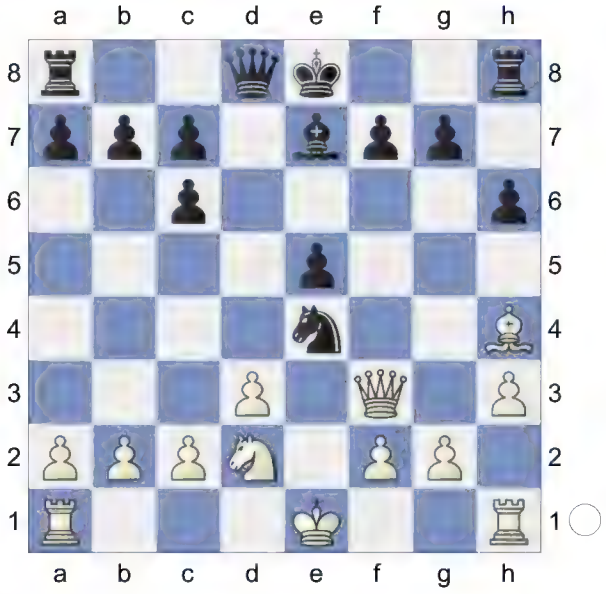
0-1

157 **C65**
□ **So,Wesley** **2760**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
11th Norway Armageddon blitz (9.2)
[Kitty Kat]

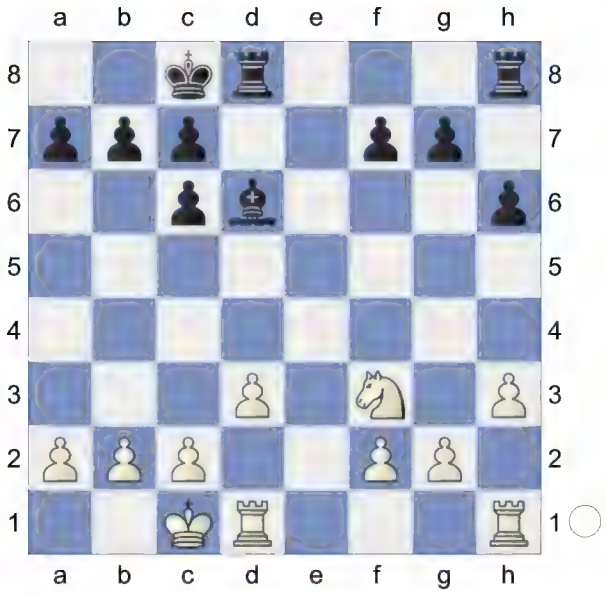
C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6

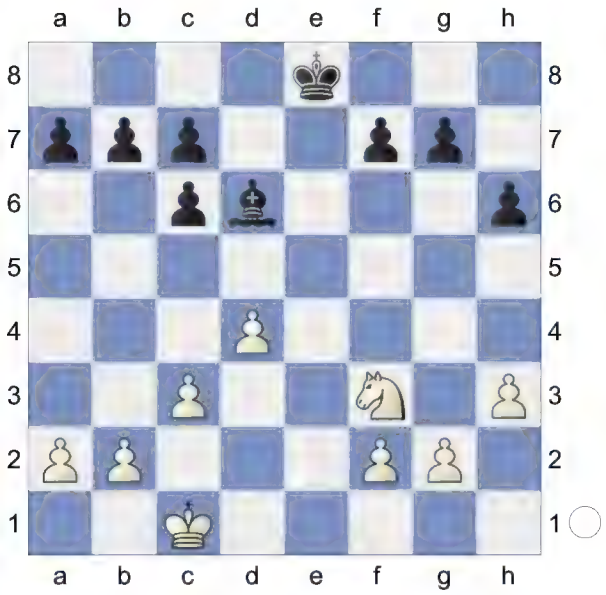
6.Bg5 -0.21/20
[6.Nxe5? too greedy. Qd4 7.Be3 Qxe5-+]
[6.Nbd2 0.16/20]
[6.0-0 Nd7 7.c3 a5 8.Bg5 f6 9.Bh4 Bd6 10.d4 Qe7 11.Nbd2 g5 12.Bg3 h5 13.h4 g4 14.dxe5 fxe5 15.Ng5 Nb6 16.a4 Bd7 17.b4 c5 18.bxa5 Rxa5 19.Qb3 Bxa4 20.Qa2 Ra6 0-1 (39) Carlsen,M (2810)-Kramnik,V (2788) Corus Wijk aan Zee 2010 (9)]
6...h6
[6...Be6 7.Nbd2 Qd6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.0-0 0-0-0 10.Kh1 Rhg8 11.Qe2 Rg7 12.Nc4 Qd7 13.Ne3 Rdg8 14.Nh4 Rg5 15.c3 a6 16.b4 Ba7 17.Rad1 Bxe3 18.Qxe3 Kb8 19.Rd2 f5 20.exf5 Bxf5 21.d4 1-0 (62) So,W (2752)-Lazavik,D (2566) CCT Finals Advancement 2023 (2.1)]
7.Bh4 Bg4N 0.34/20
[7...Be6= -0.09/20 is superior.]
[7...Qe7 8.Nbd2 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 g5 11.Bg3 0-0-0 12.Nc4 Nd7 13.Qf5 f6 14.h4 General Training Chess,L-Mariya Muzychuk Kateryna Lagn The Chess Coach Companion: Advanced Syl b5 15.Nd2 Kb7 16.0-0-0 a5 17.Nf3 Nb6 18.Nh2 Na4 19.hxg5 Bd4 20.Kd2 Qb4+ 21.Ke2 Qxb2 22.gxf6 Nc3+ 23.Kf3 Nxd1 24.Ng4 Qxc2 25.Nxe5 Bxe5 26.Qxe5 Rxd3+ 27.Kg4 Nxf2+ 28.Kf5 Rxg3 0-1 (29) General Training Chess,L-Mariya Muzychuk-Kateryna Lagn,F The Chess Coach Companion: Advanced Syl]
8.h3 White is slightly better. **8...Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Be7 10.Nd2 Nxe4!**



Discovered Attack. The position is equal. **11.Qxe4 Bxh4** Black is weak on the light squares **12.Qxe5+ Qe7 13.Qxe7+ Bxe7 14.0-0-0 0-0-0 15.Nf3 Bd6**
(Diagram)

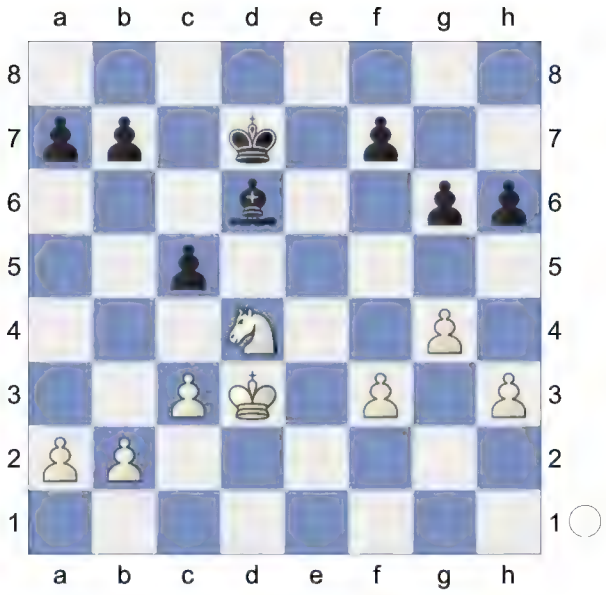


16.c3 Rde8 17.Rhe1 Kd7 18.d4 Rxe1 19.Rxe1 Re8 20.Rxe8 Kxe8=

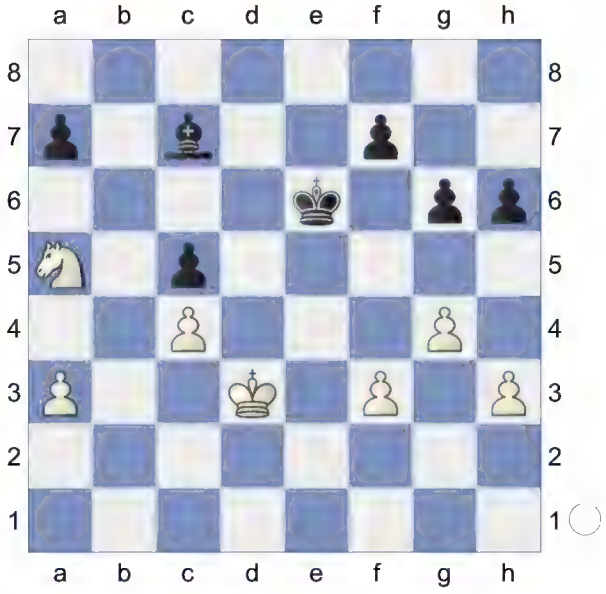


Endgame KB-KN **21.Kd2 c5 22.Kd3 cxd4 23.Nxd4 Kd7 24.g4 g6 25.f3 c5**

(Diagram)

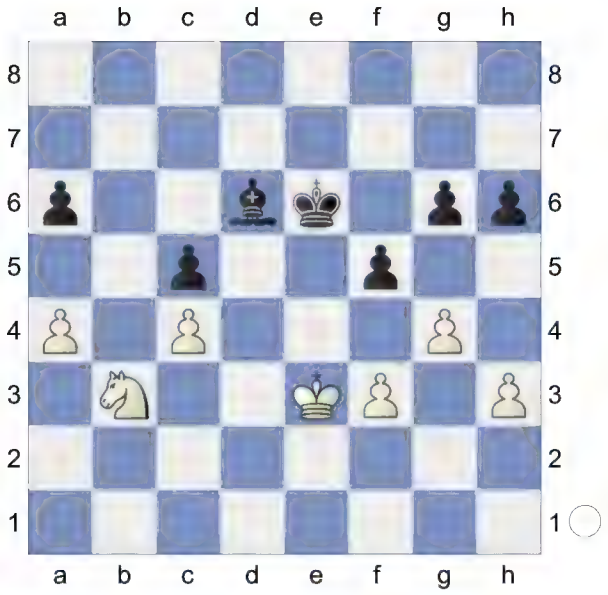


26.Nb3 b5 27.c4 b4 28.a3
[28.Ke4!? Ke6□ 29.f4=]
28...bxa3 29.bxa3 Ke6 30.Na5 Bc7

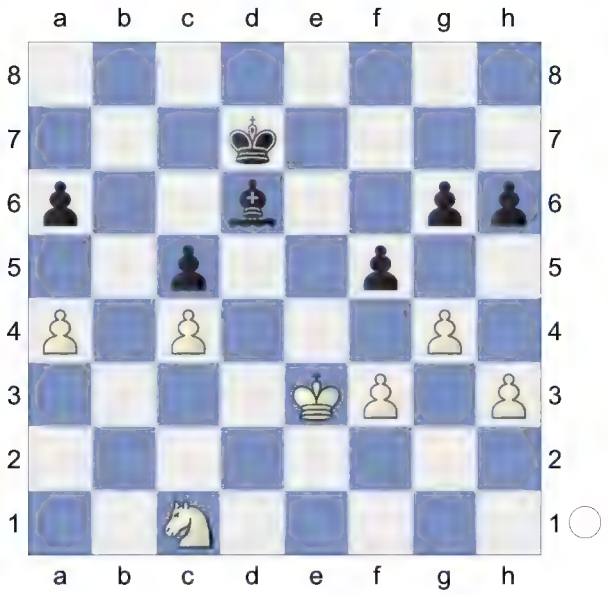


31.Nb3 Bd6 32.Ke3 f5 33.Na5 Bc7 34.Nb3 Bd6 35.a4 a6

(Diagram)

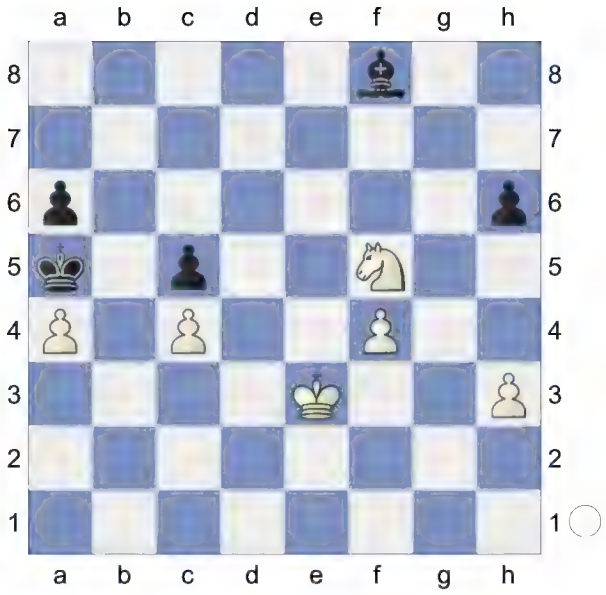


36.Na5 Kd7 37.Nb7 Be7 38.Na5 Bd6 39.Nb3 Ke6 40.Nc1 Kd7

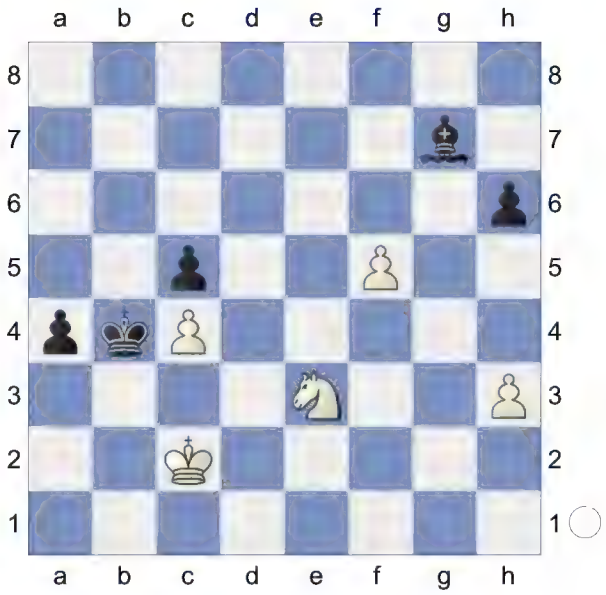


41.Ne2 Kc6 42.gxf5 gxf5 43.f4 Kb6 44.Ng3 Ka5 45.Nxf5 Bf8

(Diagram)

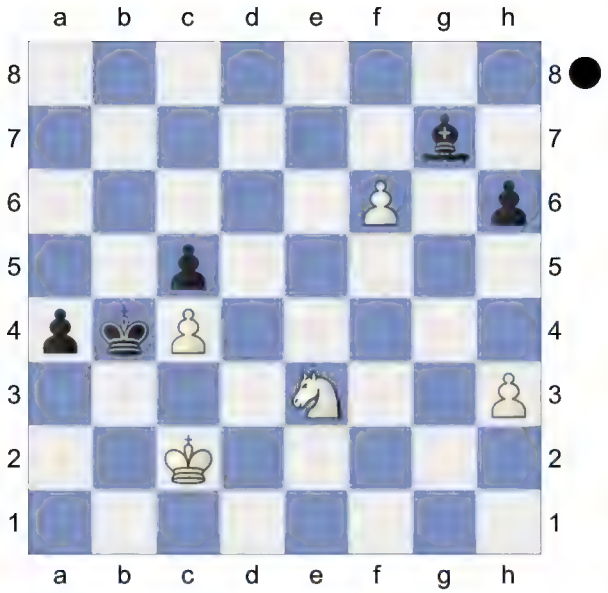


46.Kd3 Kxa4 47.Kc3 a5 48.Ne3 Bg7+ 49.Kc2 Kb4 aiming for ...h5. **50.f5! a4**

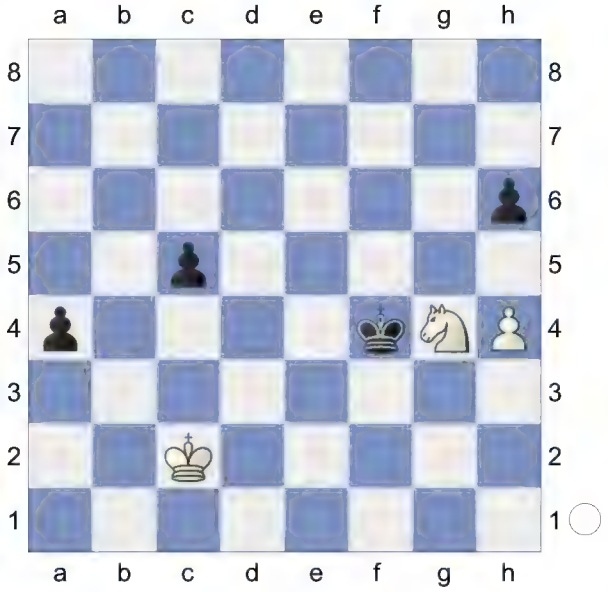


51.f6

(Diagram)



Decoy **51...Bxf6 52.Nd5+ Kxc4 53.Nxf6 Kd4 54.h4 Ke5 55.Ng4+ Kf4**

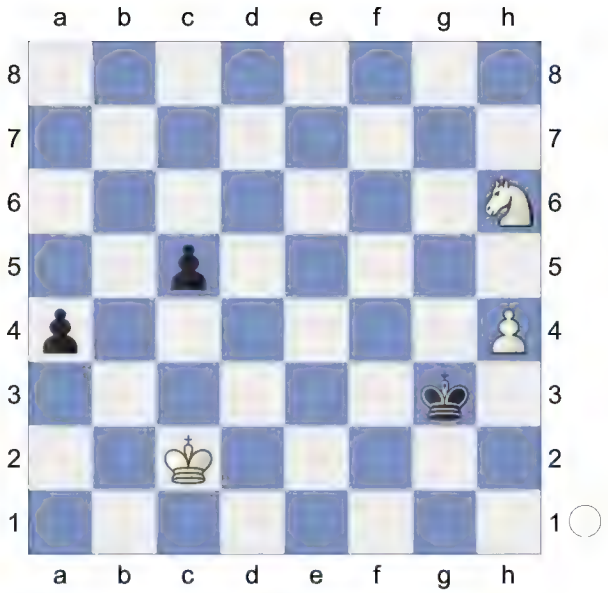


56.Nxh6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

56...Kg3

(Diagram)



½-½

158 **C65**

□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2764**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**

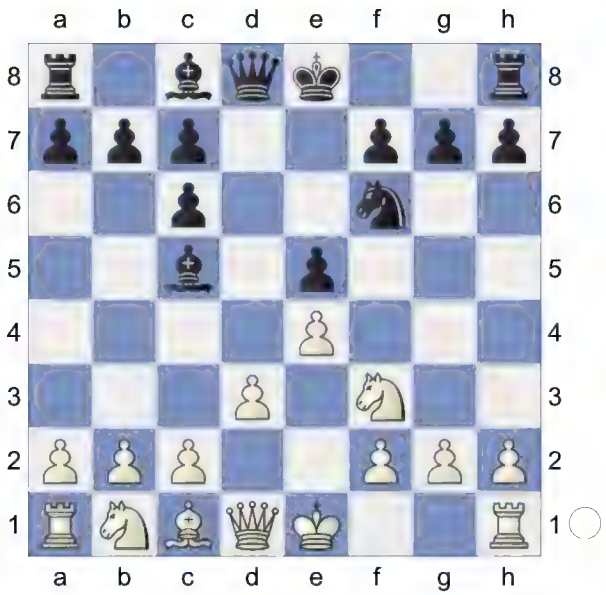
11th Norway Armageddon blitz (7.3)

[Kitty Kat]

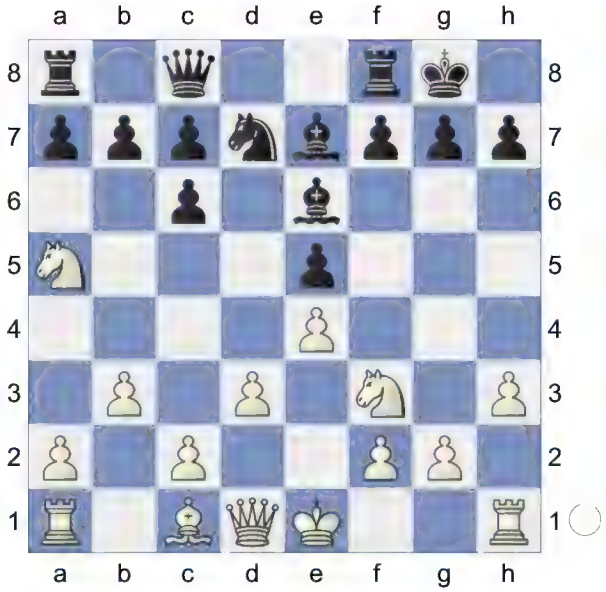
C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6

(Diagram)

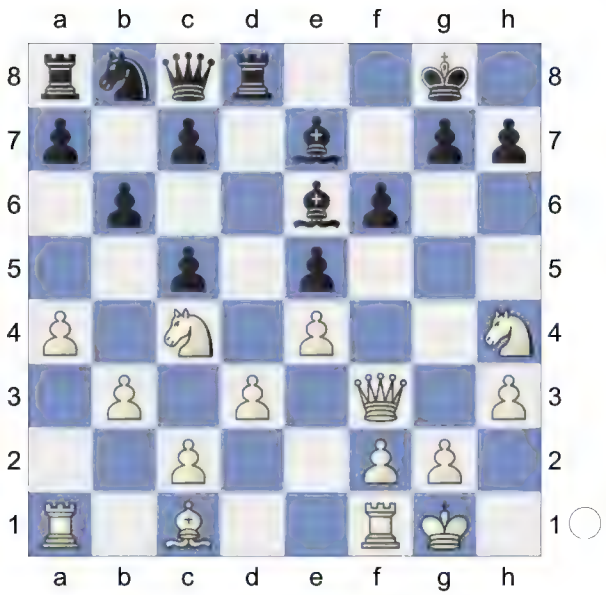


6.Nbd2
[6.Nxe5? Qd4 7.Qe2 Qxe5-+]
6...Be6 Repels Nc4 **7.h3**
[7.Nxe5? Qd4 8.Rf1 Qxe5-+]
[7.0-0 Bd6 8.d4 *(8.b3 Qe7 9.Bb2 Nd7 10.Qe2 0-0-0 11.d4 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.Qe3 exd4 14.Nxd4 Bg6 15.Rfe1 f6 16.a3 a6 17.Nc4 Bc5 18.b4 Nb6 19.Na5 Bd6 20.Rad1 Rhe8 21.Qf3 c5 22.e5 c6* 1-0 (40) Gukesh,D (2736)-Sadhwani,R (2603) Chess.com U20 Speed blitz 2023 (3.7)*)* 8...Nd7 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 11.f4 Bd4+ 12.Kh1 f5 13.Qh5+ g6 14.Qe2 0-0 15.Nf3 Bf6 16.e5 Be7 17.c4 c5 18.Be3 Qd7 19.b3 Rad8 20.Rad1 Qc6 21.Nd2 Rd7 ½-½ (39) Heinemann,T (2424)-Dankhazi,A (2342) AUT-chT2M 2425 2024 (3.2)]
7...Nd7 8.Nb3N The position is equal.
[8.Nf1 f6 9.g4 Qe7 10.Ng3 0-0-0 11.Qe2 Kb8 12.a3 Bb6 13.Be3 Nf8 14.0-0-0 Ng6 15.Nh5 Bxe3+ 16.Qxe3 c5 17.Nd2 b6 18.Nb1 Nh4 19.Rhg1 g5 20.Nc3 Ng6 21.Kb1 Nf4 22.Nxf4 gxf4 ½-½ (67) Nakamura,H (2736)-Carlsen,M (2863) Carlsen Tour Final rapid 2020 (2.77) 23.Qe2 h5 24.f3 hxg4 25.hxg4 Rh3 26.Rg2 Rdh8 27.Rdg1 Rh1 28.b3 c4 29.dxc4 Qxa3 30.g5 fxg5 31.Rxg5 a5 32.Qd3 Kb7 33.Rg7 Rxg1+ 34.Rxg1 Rh7 35.Na4 Qd6 36.Qc3 Bd7 37.Nb2 Rh3 ½-½ (67) Osnos,V (2736)-Molina,R (2863) CHN-chT 3rd Chiva 2007 (2.77)]
8...Be7 9.Na5 Qc8 10.b3 0-0

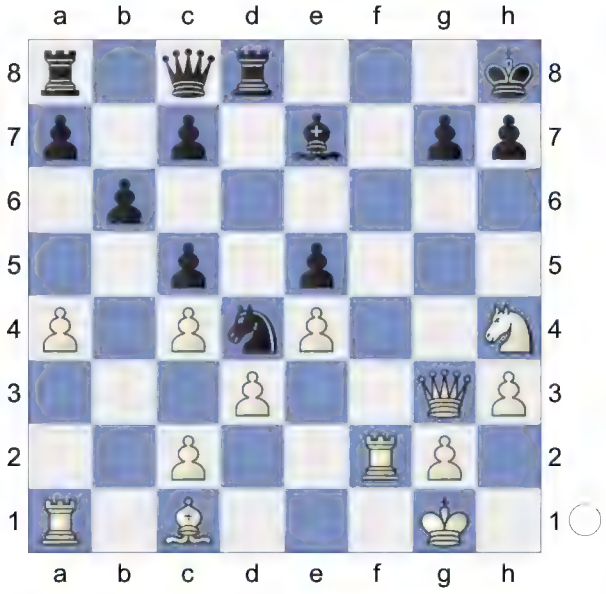


11.0-0 c5 12.a4 b6 13.Nc4 f6 14.Nh4 Rd8 0.64/18
[14...Nb8= 0.03/18]
15.Qf3 0.16/19
[15.Nf5± 0.64/18 feels stronger. Bxf5 16.exf5]
15...Nb8!=

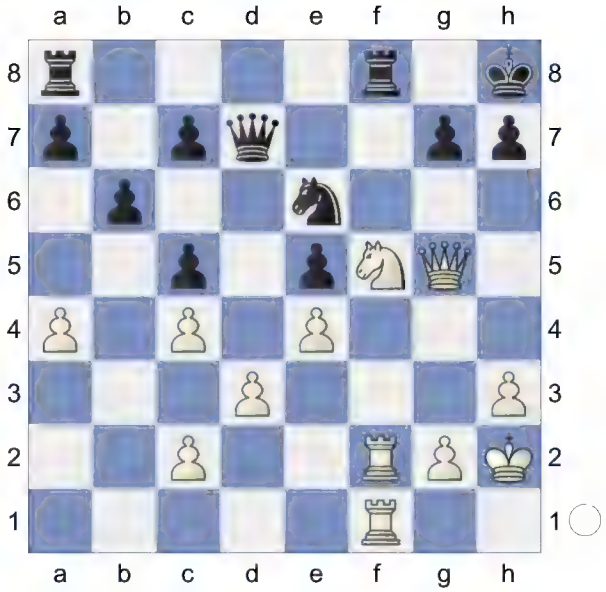
(Diagram)



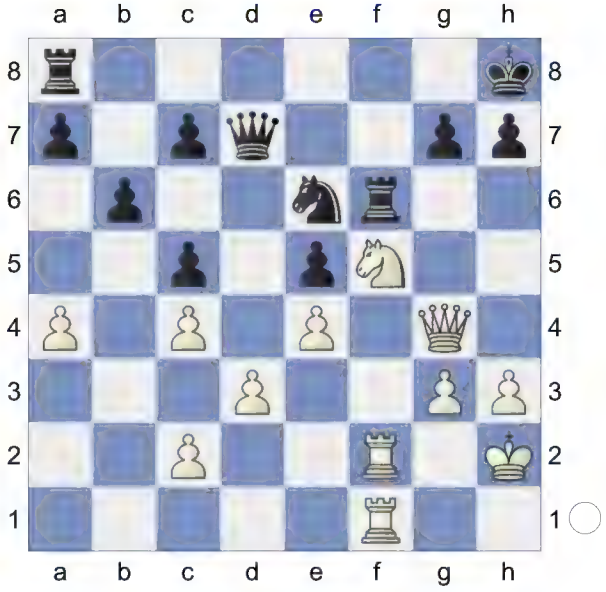
16.Qg3 Nc6 and ...Nd4 would now be decisive **17.f4 Nd4 18.Rf2** Repels Ne2+ **18...Kh8** 1.42/18
[18...Qd7± 0.32/19]
19.fxe5± Bxc4 20.bxc4
[20.dxc4 fxe5 21.Nf5 Bf6± *(21...Nxf5 22.Rxf5 Qe6 23.Bb2±)*]
20...fxe5



21.Nf5 Bf6 2.22/24
[21...Nxf5± 1.50/22 22.Rxf5 Re8]
22.Bg5 Bxg5 23.Qxg5 Qd7 24.Raf1 Rf8 25.Kh2 0.88/24
[⌓25.Qg3 1.47/20]
25...Ne6

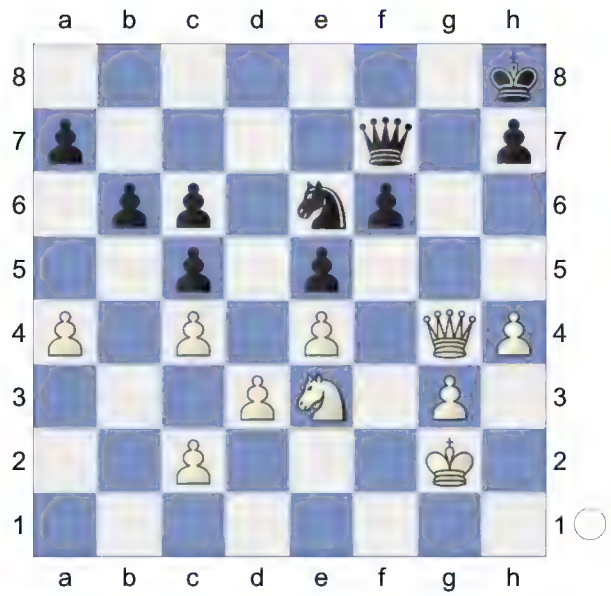


26.Qg3 Nf4 27.Qg4! Rf6 28.Ne3 Qd4 29.Nf5 1.55/20
[⌓29.Rf3 1.00/21]
29...Qd7 30.g3 0.62/22
[30.Ne3!± 1.55/20 Qc6 31.Nd5]
30...Ne6±

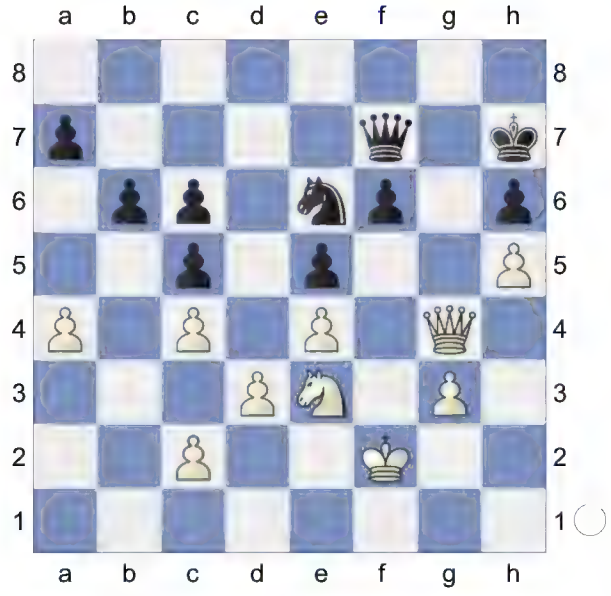


31.Ne3
[31.Nxg7 Rg6 32.Qh5 Qxg7-+ *(32...Rxg7 33.Qxe5 Rag8 34.g4∓)*]
31...Raf8 32.Rxf6→ White attacks.
32...Rxf6 33.Rxf6 gxf6± Endgame KQN-KQN **34.h4 Qf7 35.Kg2 c6?**

2.84/24
[35...Qg8± 0.73/22]

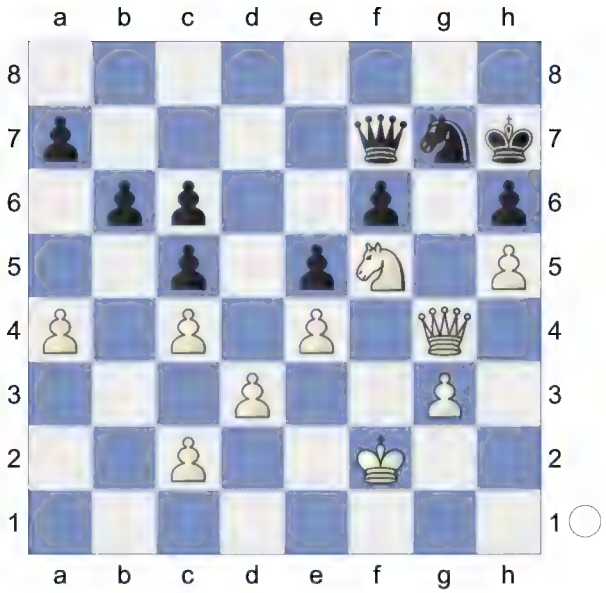


36.Kf2? 0.97/25
[36.h5!+- 2.84/24]
36...Qg8 37.Qf5 Qf7 38.h5 h6 1.59/22
[⌓38...Kg7 0.97/23]
39.Qg4 Kh7



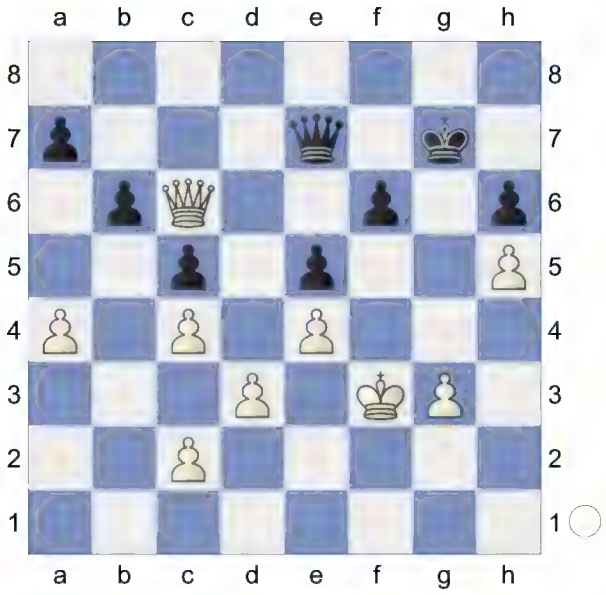
40.Nf5! Ng7 3.33/26
[⌓40...Nf8 1.88/21 41.Ke1 Qb7]

(Diagram)

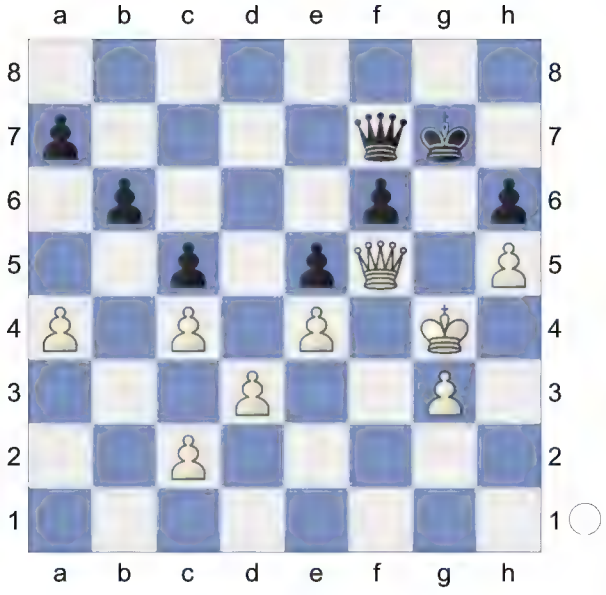


41.Nxg7 Qxg7+- KQ-KQ **42.Qf5+ Kh8**
43.Qc8+ 1.32/22
[43.Kg2+- 2.97/22 and White stays clearly on top.]
43...Kh7? 3.00/23
[43...Qg8± 1.32/22 44.Qxc6 Qf7]
44.Qxc6 1.40/23
[44.Qf5++- 3.00/23 Kg8 45.Qc8+ Qf8 46.Qxc6]
44...Qe7? 3.58/22
[44...Qg5± 1.40/23]
45.Kf3 Kg7 5.63/24
[⌓45...Qg7 3.58/23 46.Qe6 Qg5]

(Diagram)

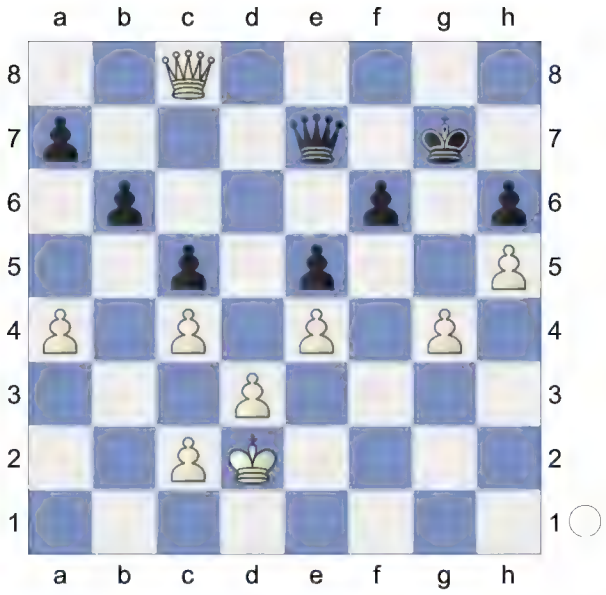


46.Qc8 Qf7 5.58/26
[⌓46...Kf7 3.87/23 47.Qg4 Kf8]
47.Kg4 Kh7 48.Kh4 Kg7 5.06/21
[⌓48...Qg7 3.32/22 49.Qf5+ Kh8]
49.Kg4 Kh7 50.Qf5+ Kg7

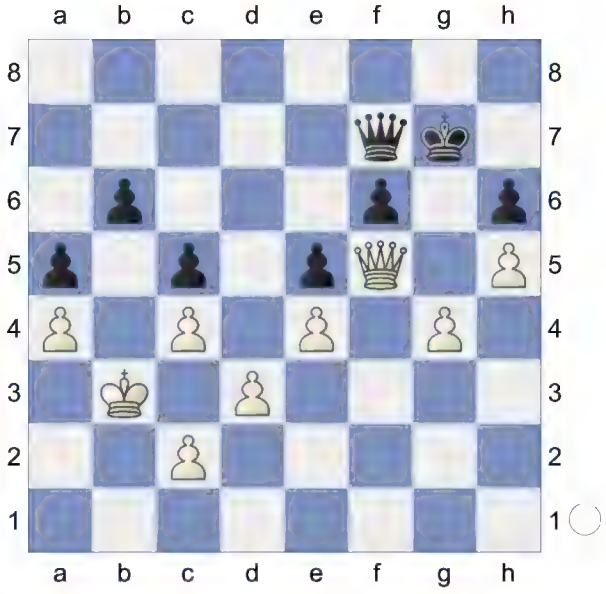


51.Kf3 Qe8? 4.38/25
[51...Kf8 1.92/21 52.Qg4 Qe8]
52.Ke3 Qf7 53.g4 Qe8? 5.70/24
[53...Kf8 2.53/20 54.a5 Qg7 55.axb6 axb6 56.Qc8+ Kf7]
54.Kd2 Qf7 55.Qc8 Qe7

(Diagram)

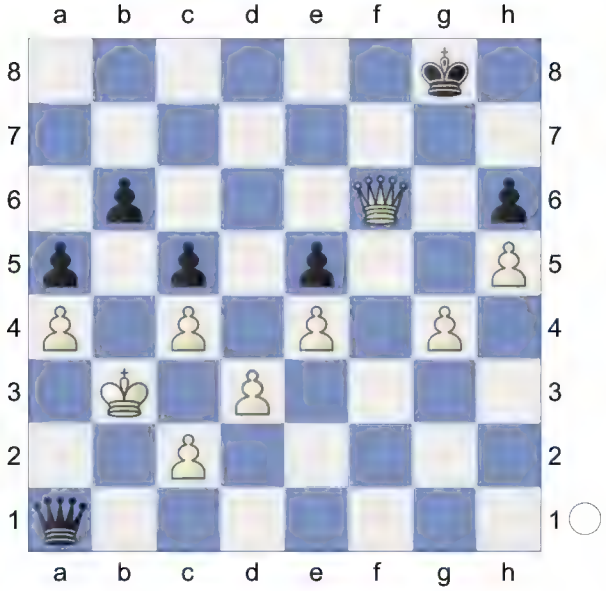


56.Kc3 Qf7 57.Kb3 Qe7 58.Qf5
and Qg6+ would now be decisive
58...Qe8 59.Ka3 a5 60.Kb3 Qf7



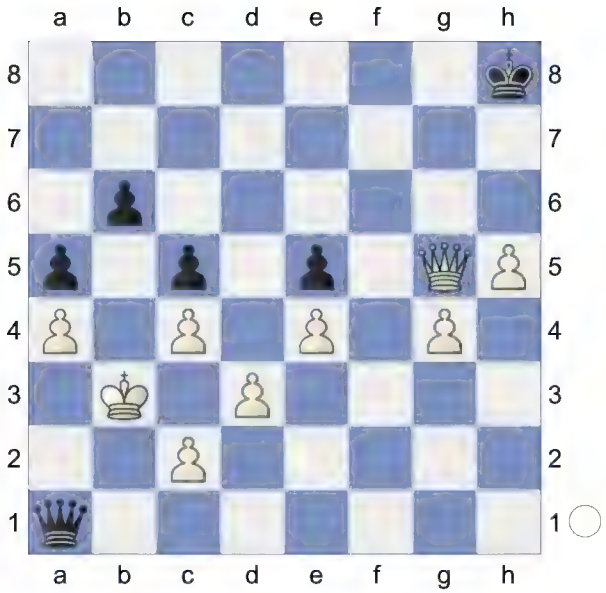
61.Qc8 Qe7 62.Qc6
[62.Qb8 Qe6=]
62...Qd8? 5.99/25
[62...Qa7 3.66/24 was called for. 63.Kb2 Kf7]
63.Qe6 2.64/25
[⌓63.Qb7+ 5.99/25 Kf8 64.Qh7]
63...Qd4? 7.14/20
[63...Qc7 2.64/25 64.Ka2 Qb7]
64.Qe7+ Deflection **64...Kg8 65.Qxf6?**

0.00/37
[65.Qe8++- 7.03/19 Kg7 66.Qg6+ Kf8 67.Qxf6+ *(67.Qxh6+ Ke7+-)* 67...Ke8 68.Qe6+ *(68.Qxh6 Qa1+-; 68.Qxb6 Ke7+-)* 68...Kd8 69.Qxh6 *(69.Qxb6+ Ke7+-)*]
65...Qa1!=

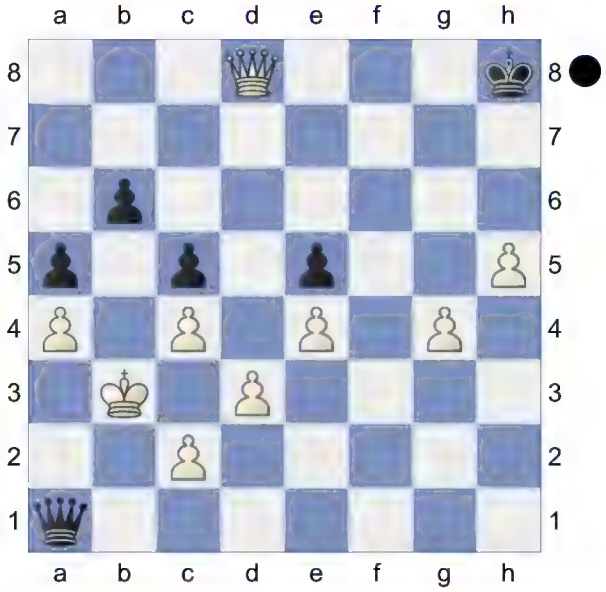


66.Qg6+ Kf8! 67.Qxh6+
[67.Qxb6? Qb1+ 68.Kc3 Qxb6-+]
67...Kg8? 6.19/28
[67...Ke7= 0.00/37]
68.Qg6+
[68.Qxb6? Qb1+ 69.Kc3 Qxb6-+]
68...Kh8 69.Qf6+
[69.Qxb6? Qb1+ 70.Kc3 Qxb6-+]
69...Kg8 70.Qg5+? 0.00/25
[70.Qxb6? too greedy. Qb1+ 71.Kc3 Qxb6-+]
[White should play 70.Qe6++- 6.01/27 Kf8 71.Qf6+ *(71.Qxb6? Qb1+* Skewer *72.Ka3 Qxb6-+)* 71...Kg8 72.Qg6+ Kf8 73.Qf6+ *(73.Qxb6? Qb1+* Skewer *74.Ka3 Qxb6-+)*]
70...Kh8? 5.73/24
[70...Kf7!= 0.00/25 and Black is okay.]

(Diagram)



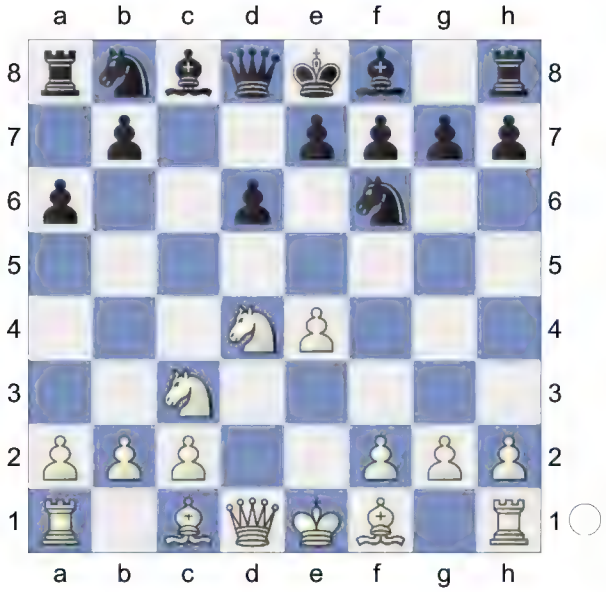
Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.50
71.Qd8+



Loss on time!?
0-1

159 **B92**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2768**
11th Norway Armageddon blitz (6.2)5.6.23
[Kitty Kat]

B92: Sicilian Najdorf: 6 Be2
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6



6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3
[7.Nf3 h6 8.0-0 Be6 9.a4 Nc6 10.b3 Rc8 11.Bb2 Be7 12.Re1 0-0 13.Bf1 B 92/02 2002]
7...Be7 8.Be3N
[8.0-0 0-0 9.Kh1 *(9.Be3 Nc6 10.Qd2 a5 11.a4 Nb4 12.f4 exf4 13.Bxf4 Be6 14.Kh1 d5 15.e5 Ne4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Nd4 Nd5 18.Rad1 Qb6 19.c4 Bb4 20.Qc2 Nxf4 21.Rxf4 e3 22.Qe4 Rfd8 23.Qxe3 Rd7* 1-0 (38) Barbulescu,D (2320)-Atalik,S World U20-ch22 1983 (2)) 9...Nc6 10.f4 a5 11.a4 Nb4 12.Be3 Be6 13.Bb5 Qc7 14.Nd2 Rfd8 15.f5 Bd7 16.Rc1 d5 17.exd5 Nbxd5 18.Nxd5 Nxd5 19.Qe2 Bc6 20.c3 h6 21.Ne4 Nf6 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 0-1 (36) Yemelin,V (2500)-Nepomniashchy,M (2465) St Petersburg-ch 1997 (8) 23.Rcd1 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Rd8 25.Rxd8+ Bxd8 26.h3 Bd7 27.Bxd7 Qxd7 28.Qd2 Qe8 29.Qd5 Bf6 30.b3 Qc8 31.Qd3 e4 32.Qxe4 Qxc3 33.Qe8+ Kh7 34.Bb6 Qa1+ 35.Kh2 Be5+ 36.g3 0-1 Schliemann Gambit (2500)-5..g6 6. Nf3?! (2465) 108: Simultaneous Display 2001 (8)]
8...Be6 9.Nd5 Nbd7 10.Qd3 0-0

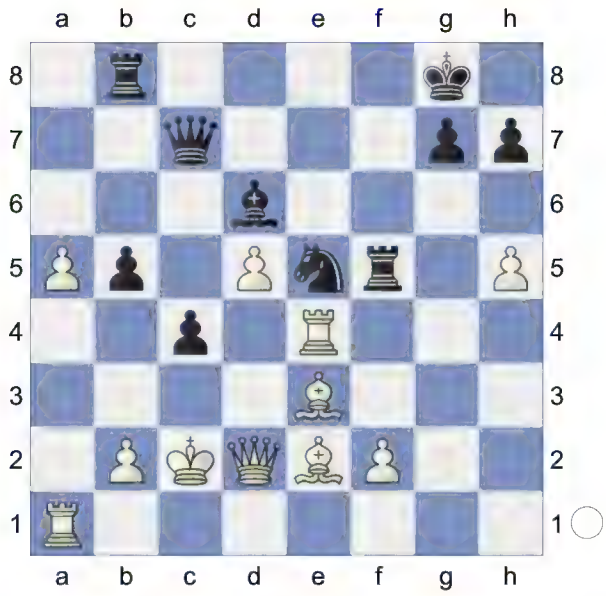
11.a4 Bxd5 12.exd5 Nc5 White is slightly better. **13.Nxc5 dxc5 14.c4 e4 15.Qd2 Bd6**

(Diagram)

16.a5 Qc7 17.h4 Nd7 18.g4 -0.39/19
[18.g3= 0.00/21 should be considered.]
18...Rae8 0.44/19
[18...b5∓ -0.39/19]
19.h5 0.06/17
[19.g5± 0.44/19]
19...Ne5 0.73/18
[19...h6= 0.06/17]
20.Kd1 0.00/18
[20.h6± 0.73/18]
20...f5 0.91/18
[20...Nf3= 0.00/18 keeps the balance. 21.Bxf3 exf3]

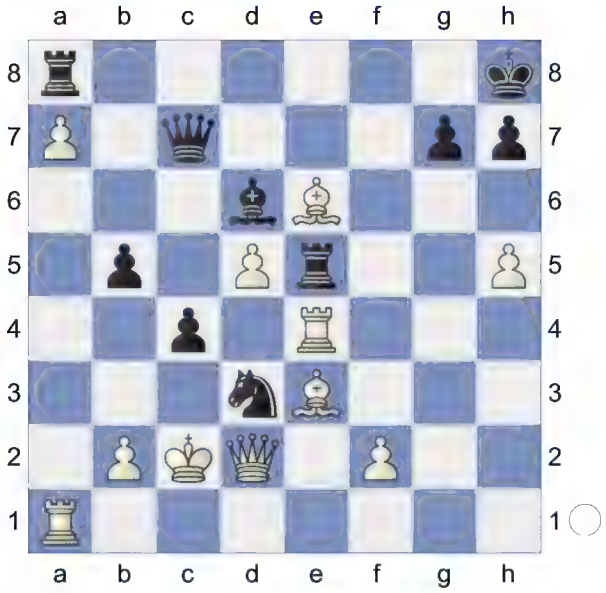
(Diagram)

White now steadily converts the win.
21.gxf5± Rxf5 22.Kc2 Rb8 1.64/19
[22...Qd7± 1.23/20]
23.Rh4+- b5 24.cxb5
[24.Rxe4 Nxc4 25.Qe1 *(25.Bxc4 bxc4 26.Rxc4 Qb7∓)* 25...Nxe3+ *(25...Rxd5 26.Rxc4 bxc4 27.Bxc4±* Pin *)* 26.Rxe3 Qf7± *(26...Rxd5 27.Rd1∓)*]
24...axb5 25.Rxe4 c4 2.94/17
[25...Nc4± 1.58/17 26.Bxc4 bxc4]

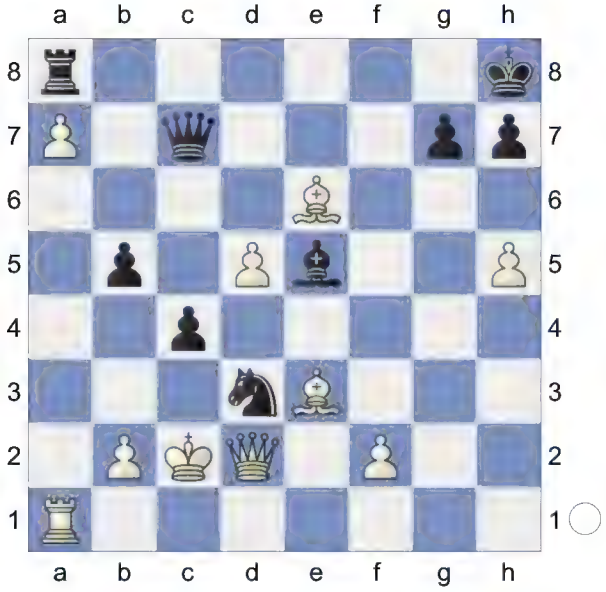


26.a6 Nd3 27.a7 Ra8 28.Bg4 Re5

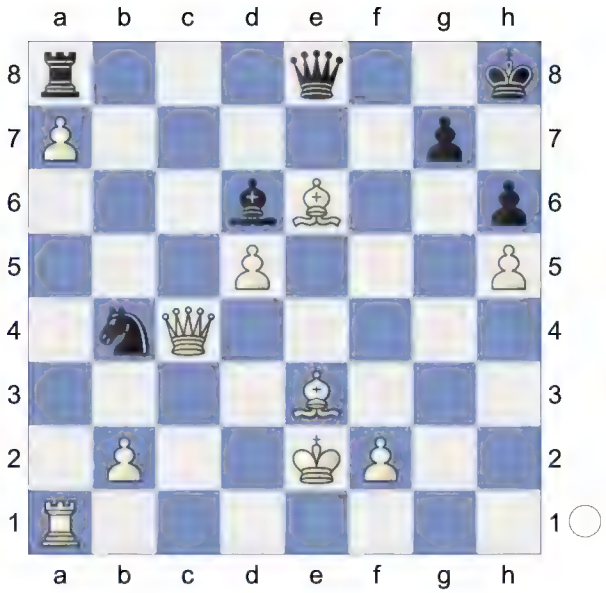
4.77/20
[28...Rf6 2.53/17 29.Be6+ Kh8]
29.Be6+ This pair of bishops is nice.
29...Kh8



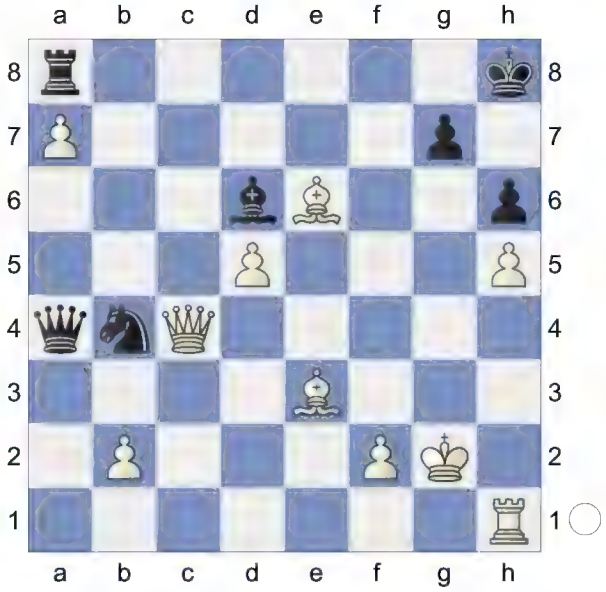
Strongly threatening ...Bb4. **30.Rxe5 Bxe5** 5.14/17
[30...Bb4 2.24/16 might work better.
31.Rg5 *(31.d6 Qxd6 32.Rd5 Qxe6+-)* 31...Bxd2]



31.Qa5 Qe7 32.Qxb5 h6 33.Qxc4 Nb4+ 34.Kd2 Bd6 35.Ke2 Qe8
(Diagram)



36.Rh1 Qf8 37.Rh3 Qe8 38.Kf1 Qa4 39.Kg2 Qd1 40.Rh1 Qa4



41.Bxh6! Qxa7 42.Be3 Qe7 43.h6 g6 44.h7 Be5 Inhibits Qc3. **45.Qe4 Bg7**

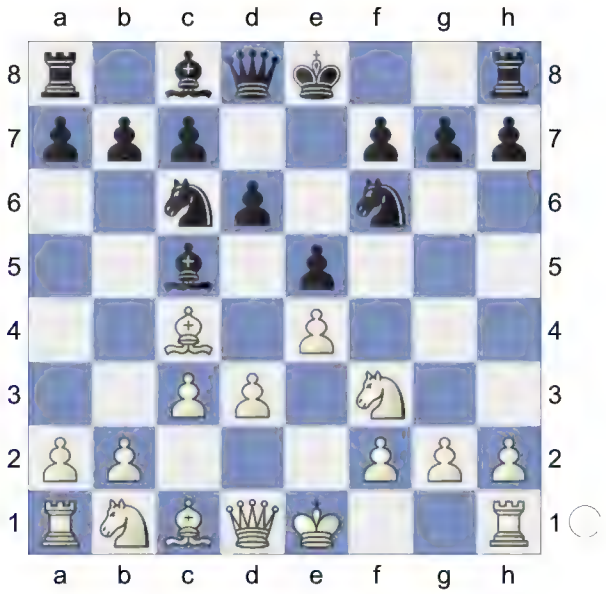
(Diagram)

46.d6 Qe8 47.d7 White threatens Bd4 and mate. **47...Qb8**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.59
48.Rc1

1-0

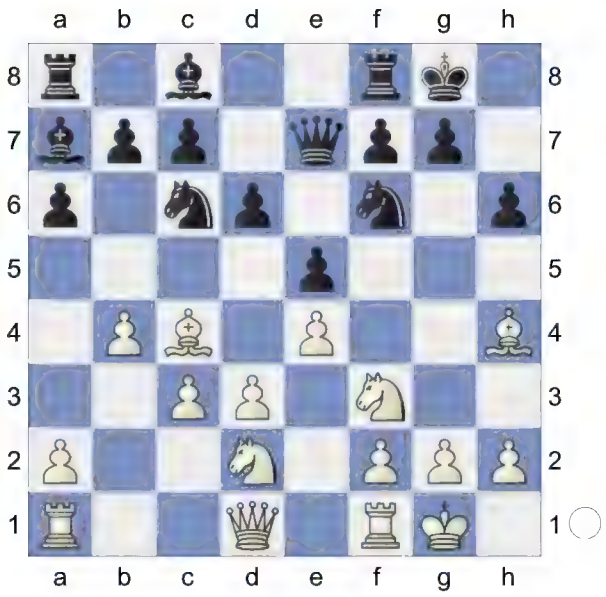
160 **C50**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2853**
11th Norway Armageddon blitz (4.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 d6



6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 a6 8.Nbd2 Ba7 9.0-0 Qe7 10.b4 The position is equal.
10...0-0N 0.38/24
[10...g5= -0.10/22 11.Bg3 Ng4 *(11...Bg4 12.Kh1 Nd8 13.d4 exd4 14.e5 dxe5 15.Bxe5 Ne6 16.cxd4 0-0-0 17.d5 Nf4 18.Re1 Bxf2 19.d6 Rxd6 20.Bxf4 Bxe1 21.Bxd6 Qxd6 22.Qxe1 Re8 23.Qg1 Bxf3 24.Nxf3 Ne4 25.Qd4 Qf4 26.Rf1* 1-0 (48) Gavrilescu,D (2549)-Kuandykuly,D (2168) Sitges Sunway op-A 11th 2024 (5) *)]*

(Diagram)

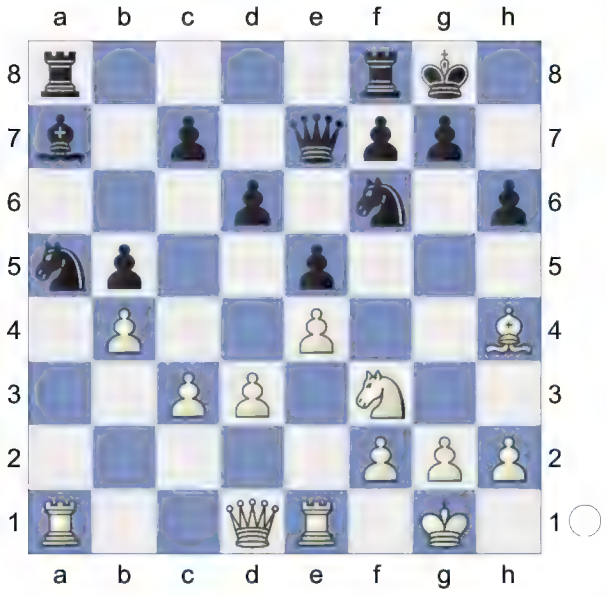


11.a4± Be6 12.Re1 Bxc4 13.Nxc4 b5!N 0.78/20 A top novelty.Eine Top Neuerung.

[Predecessor: 13...Qe6 14.b5 Ne7 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Rb1 axb5 17.axb5 Ng6 18.g3 Rfc8 19.Kg2 Nf8 0-1 So,W (2770)-Carlsen,M (2847) Goldmoney Asian Rapid KO 2021 (1.21)]

[13...Qe6= 0.30/21 was preferable.]

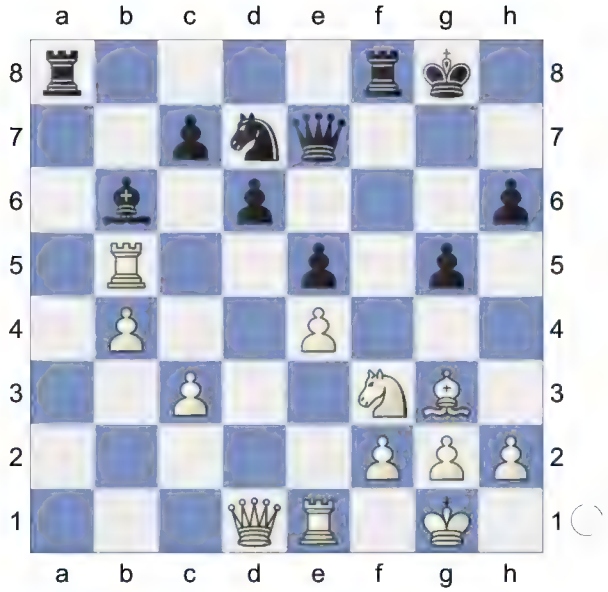
14.axb5 axb5 15.Na5 Nxa5



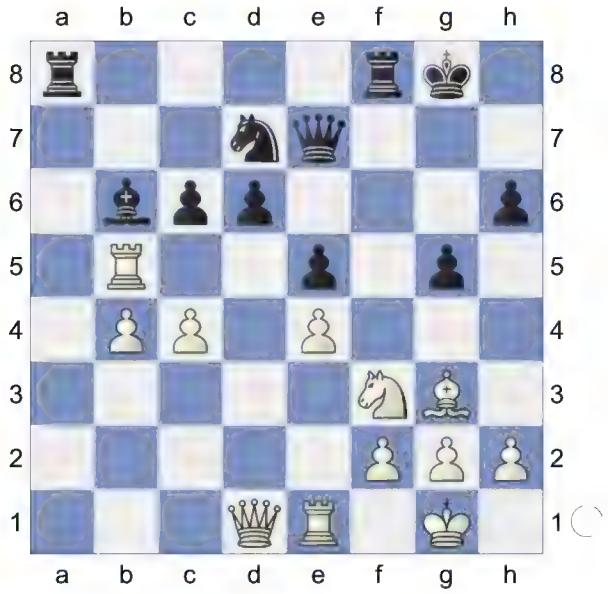
16.Rxa5 Bb6 17.Rxb5 g5 18.Bg3 Nd7 19.d4 f6

[19...c6 20.Rxb6 Nxb6 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.Nxe5]

20.dxe5 fxe5

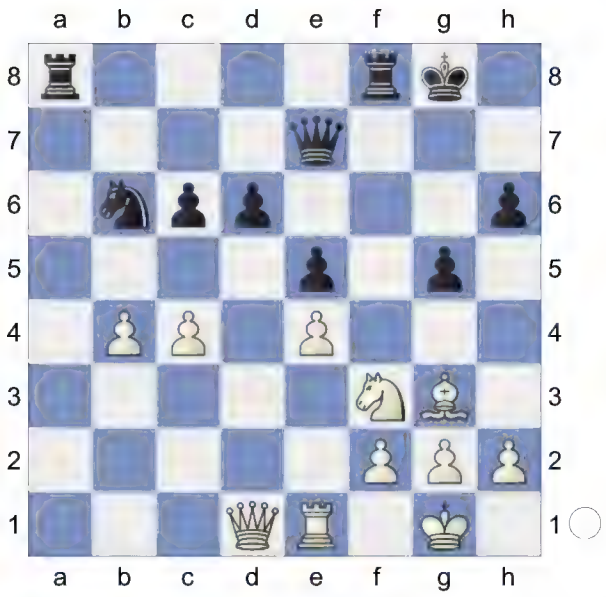


21.c4! c6

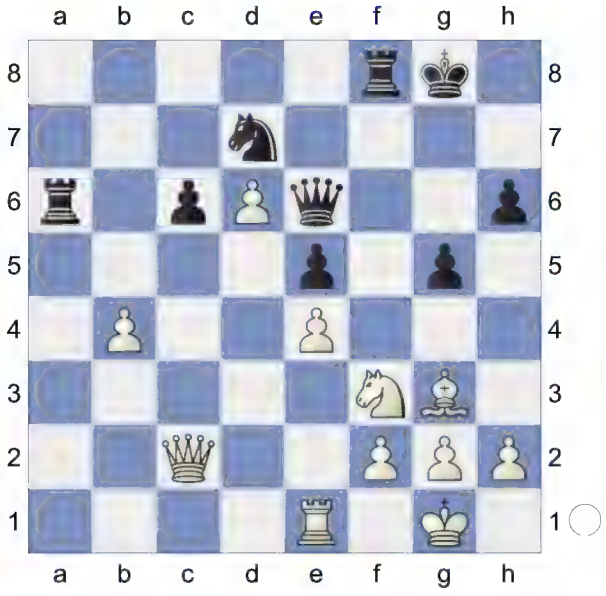


22.Rxb6 Nxb6

(Diagram)

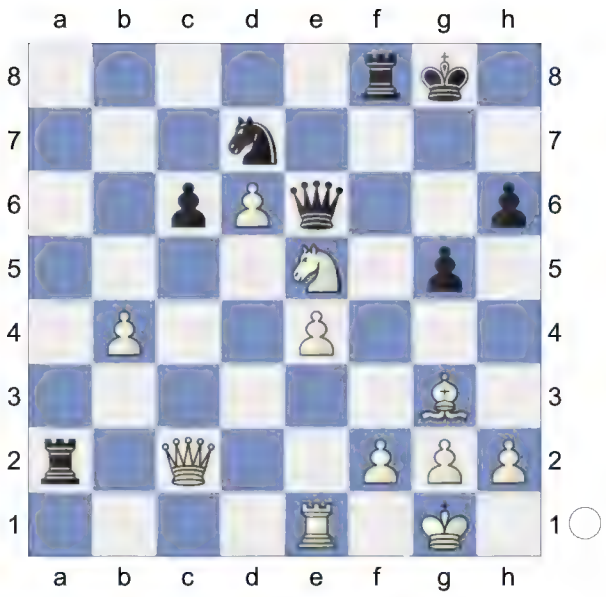


23.c5 Nd7
[23...dxc5 24.Nxe5]
24.cxd6 Qe6 25.Qc2 0.52/19
[25.h4± 0.99/20 g4 26.Nh2]
25...Ra6 2.02/19
[25...Rab8± 0.52/19]

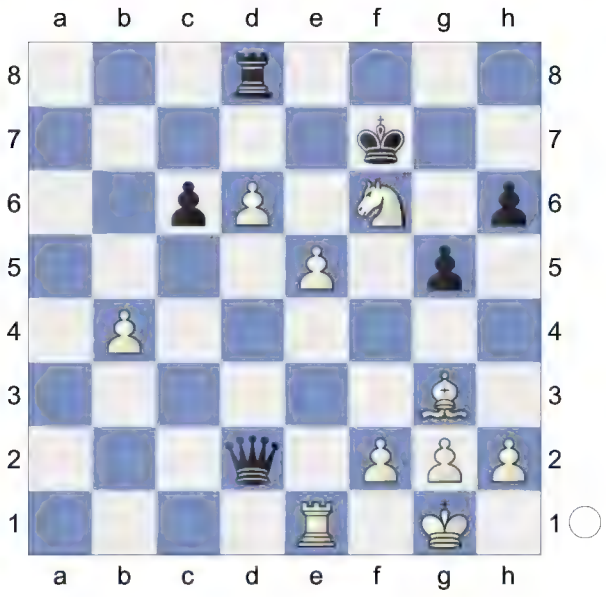


26.Nxe5!+- Ra2

(Diagram)

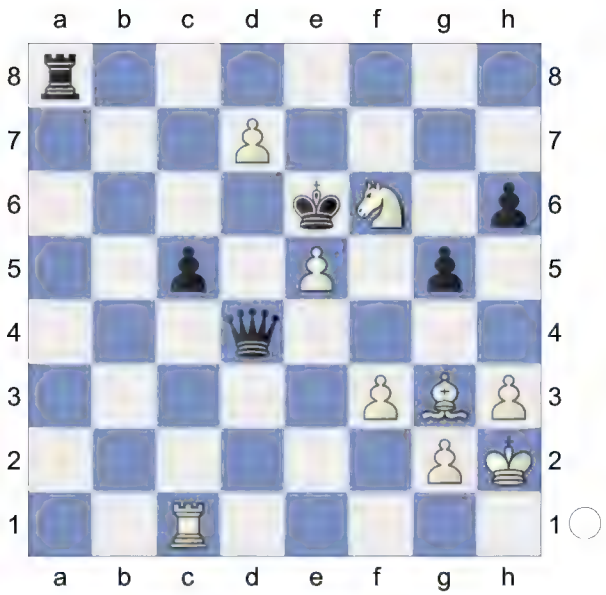


27.Qxa2 0.23/19 **Qxa2= 28.Nxd7 Rd8 29.Nf6+ Kf7 30.e5 Qd2!**



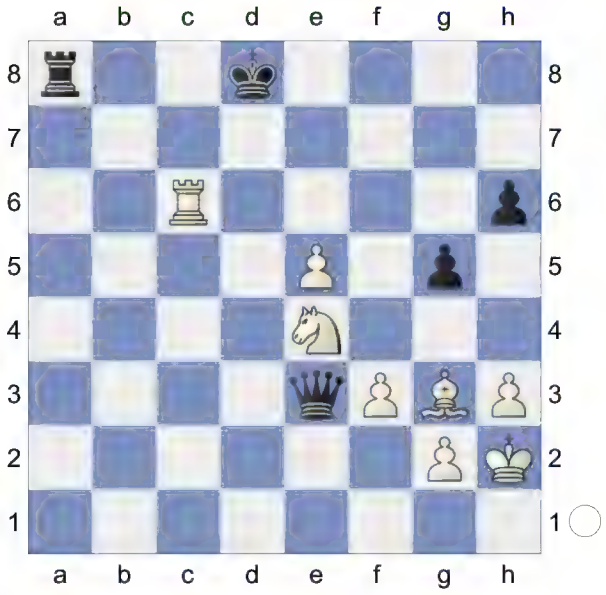
31.f3 0.00/23
[31.Rf1± 0.37/21]
31...Qxb4 32.h3 Ra8! 33.d7 0.00/24
[33.Ne4± 0.42/20]
33...Qd4+ 34.Kh2 Ke6 35.Rc1 c5

(Diagram)



36.Ne4 c4 37.Nd6 c3 Dancing on a razor blade. **38.Ne4 Kxd7 39.Rxc3 Kd8 40.Rc6 Qe3?** 3.15/20

[40...Ke7= 0.03/24 and Black has nothing to worry.]



41.Rc3? -0.03/21

[41.Rxh6 Ra1 42.Rh8+ Ke7=]

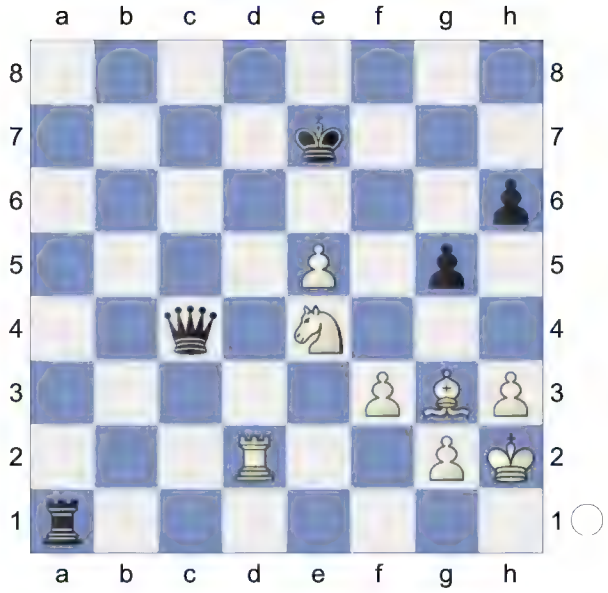
[41.Rd6+ Ke7=]

[White has to play 41.e6!+- 3.15/20 Qa7 42.Nf6]

41...Qd4 42.Rc2 Black must now prevent Rd2. **42...Ke7 43.Rd2** White has compensation. **43...Qc4 44.Bf2**

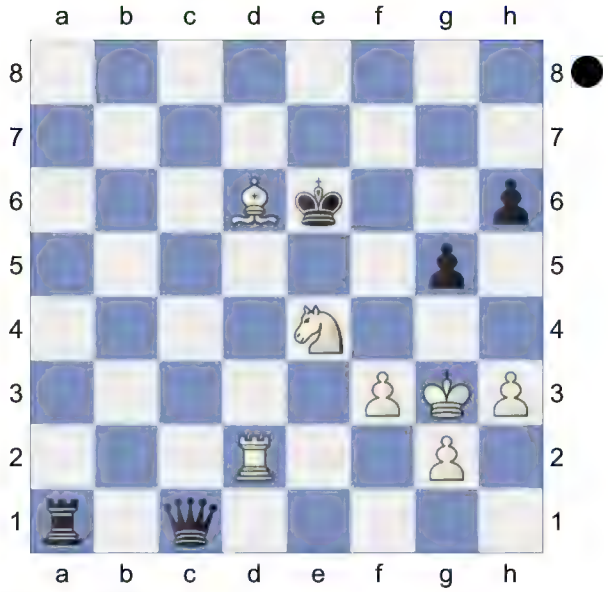
[44.Rd6 Ra2∓]

44...Ra5 Repels Bc5+ **45.Bg3 Ra1**



46.e6 Qc1 47.Bd6+ Kxe6 Hoping for ... Qh1+. **48.Kg3?** -3.17/20

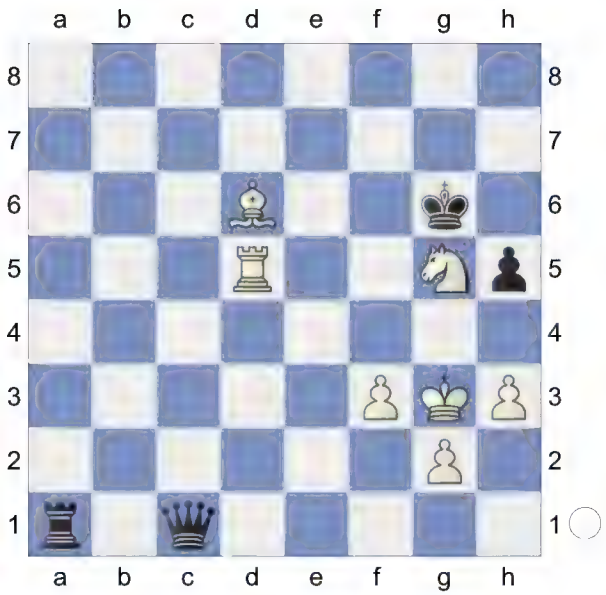
[48.Bb4= -0.30/22 and White has nothing to worry.]



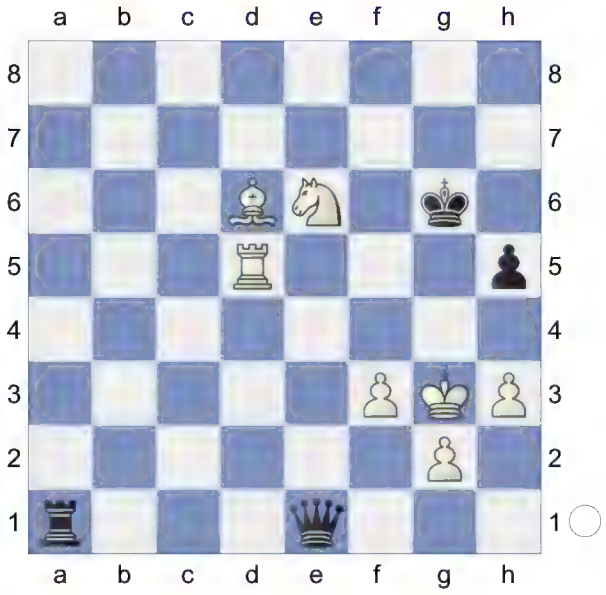
48...h5? 0.00/28

[Black should play 48...Qe1+!-+ -3.17/20 49.Rf2 Ra4]

49.Nxg5+ Kf5 50.Rd5+ Kg6



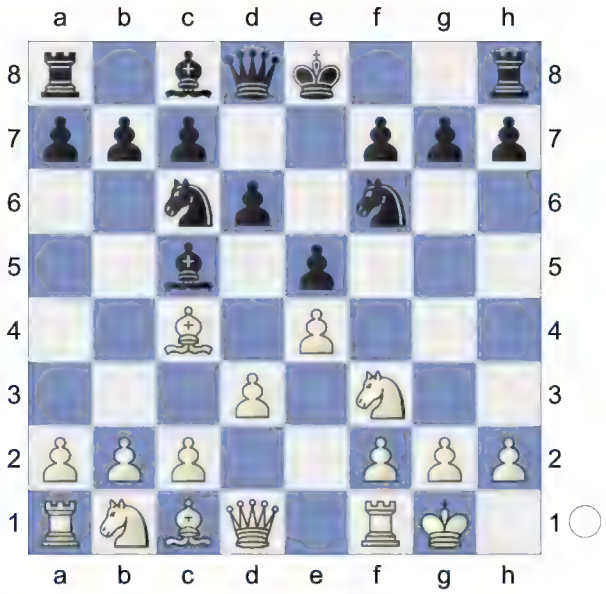
51.Ne6? -5.91/21
[51.h4= 0.00/28]
Quite a comeback for Black.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.30
51...Qe1+



0-1

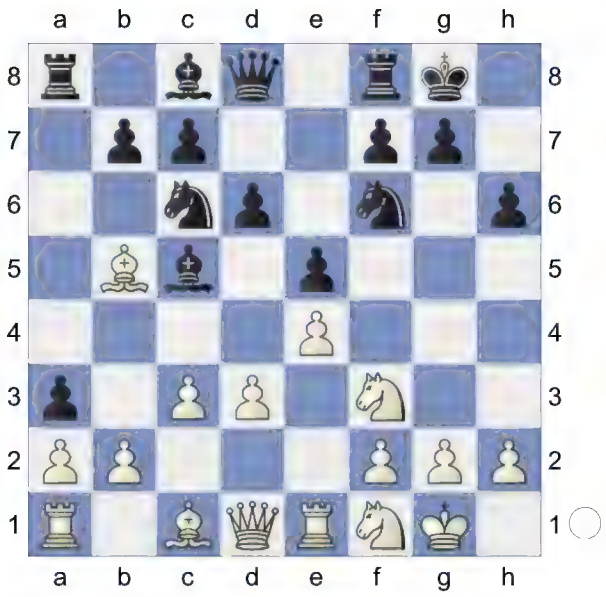
161 **C50**
□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2785**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
11th Norway Chess 2023 (1.2) 30.05.23
[TA]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.0-0 d6

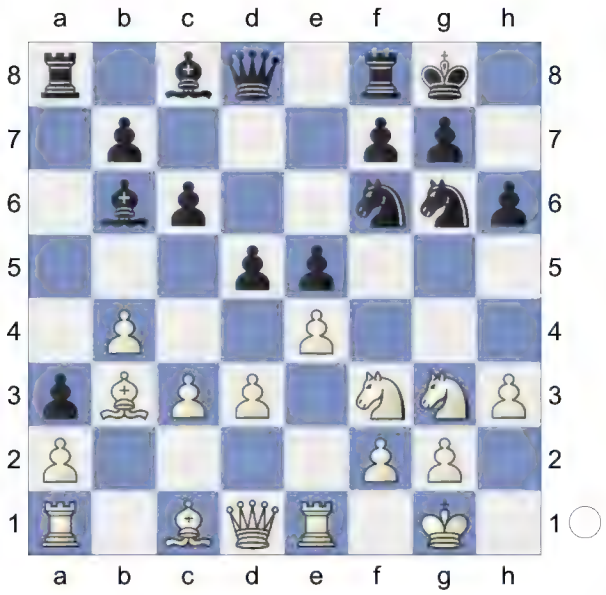


6.c3 h6 7.Nbd2 a5 8.Re1 0-0 9.Nf1N
[9.a4 Be6 10.Bb3 Re8 11.Bc2 Nd7 12.Nf1 d5 13.Ng3 d4 14.Qe2 f6 15.Nd2 Rf8 16.Qf3 Qe7 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 Nd8 19.Bb3+ Kh8 20.Nf3 Nf7 21.Nh4 Qe8 22.Ng6+ Kg8 23.Qg4 Nb6 ½-½ (44) Dezelak,B (1364)-Bastow,M (1152) 98/(422) Paks 2006 (4)]
9...a4 White has an edge. **10.Bb5 a3**

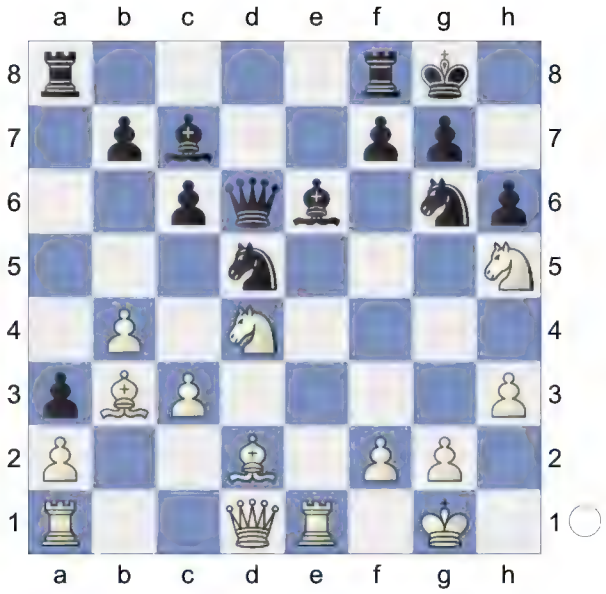
(Diagram)



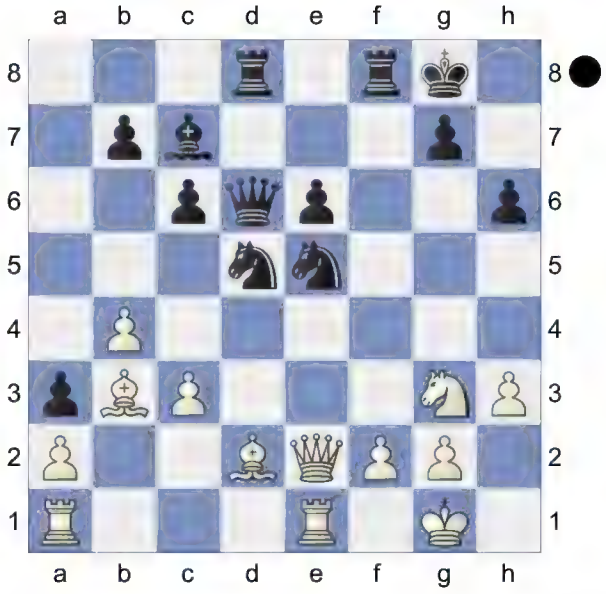
11.b4 Bb6 12.Bc4 Ne7 13.Ng3 Ng6 14.h3 c6 15.Bb3 d5



16.exd5 Nxd5 17.Bd2 Be6 18.Nh5
[18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Rxe5 Bxf2+ 20.Kxf2 Qf6+ 21.Qf3 Qxe5-+]
18...Bc7 0.88/18
[18...Qd6= 0.00/20 keeps the balance.]
19.d4± exd4 1.37/20
[19...Nf6 0.91/19]
20.Nxd4 0.00/19
[White must play 20.Bxh6!± 1.37/20 Black must now prevent Qxd4!. Nxc3 *(20...gxh6? 21.Qxd4+-)* 21.Qd3 Bxb3 *(21...gxh6 22.Rxe6 Kh8 23.Rae1±)* 22.Bxg7]
20...Qd6
[20...Qh4!?]



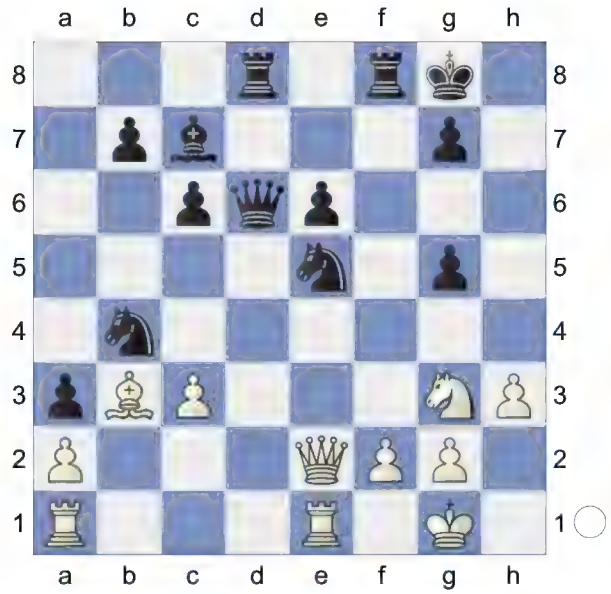
21.Ng3 Rad8 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Qg4 Ne5 24.Qe2⇄



White is fighting back **24...Nxb4!** Discovered Attack. Excellent horsemanship. **25.Bg5!**
[25.Ne4? Nf3+ 26.Kf1 Qh2 *(26...Nxd2+? 27.Nxd2 Qh2*

28.Qe3-+) 27.Qxf3 Rxf3 28.gxf3 Qxh3+ 29.Ke2 Rf8-+]

25...hxg5



26.cxb4 g6 27.Rad1 Qxb4 28.Bxe6+? -1.53/20

[Better is 28.Ne4= 0.00/20]

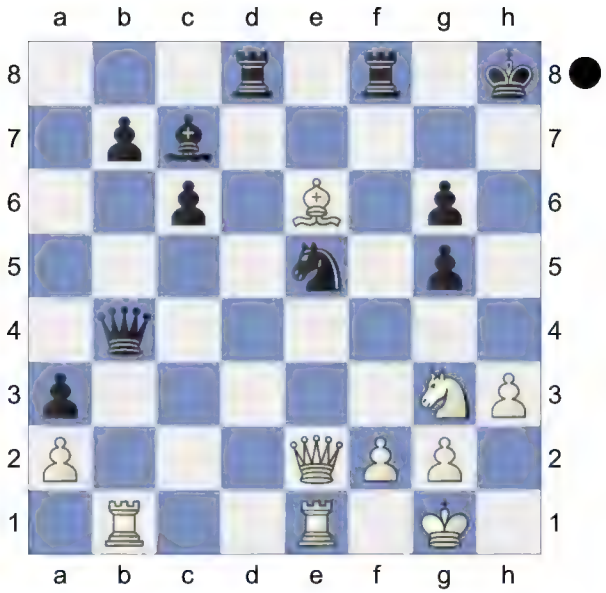
28...Kh8 -0.94/17 Black is much more active.

[Black should play 28...Kg7 -1.53/20 aiming for ...Rxf2!. 29.Rxd8 *(29.Rb1 Qf4∓)* 29...Rxd8]

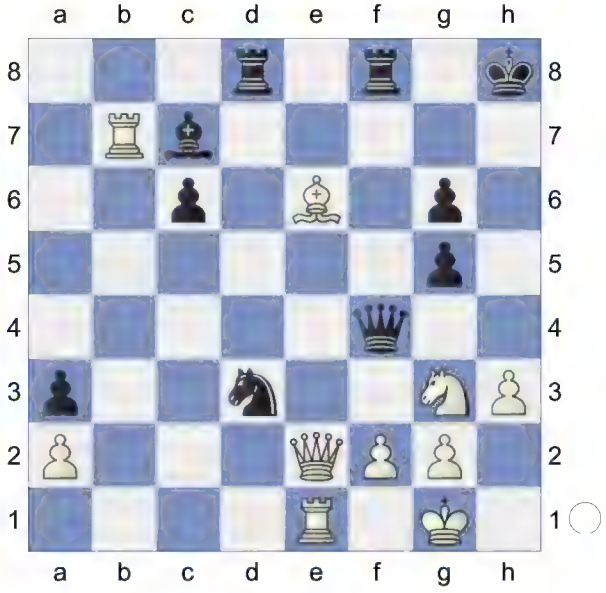
29.Rb1 -2.07/18

[29.Rxd8∓ -0.94/17 Rxd8 30.Bb3]

(Diagram)



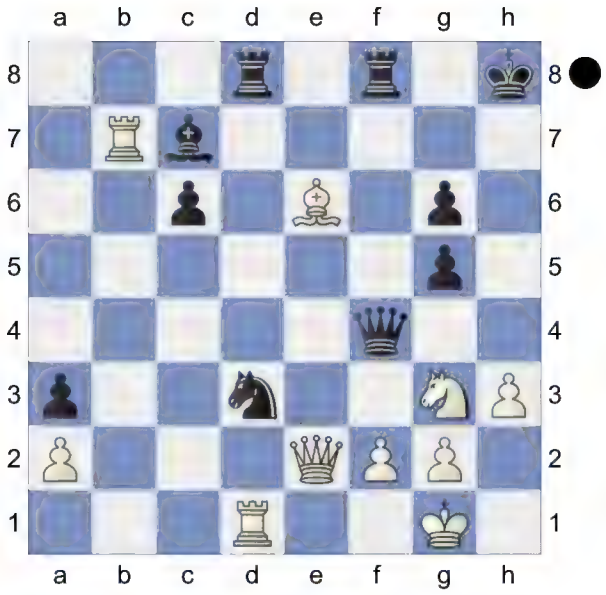
29...Qf4!-+ 30.Rxb7 Nd3



31.Rd1 -2.29/21

[⌓31.Rf1 -1.86/18 Nc5 32.Rxc7 Qxc7 33.Qe3 Nxe6 34.Qxe6]

(Diagram)



31...Nc1!

[31...Qxf2+ 32.Qxf2 Nxf2 33.Rxd8 Bxd8 34.Bf7=]

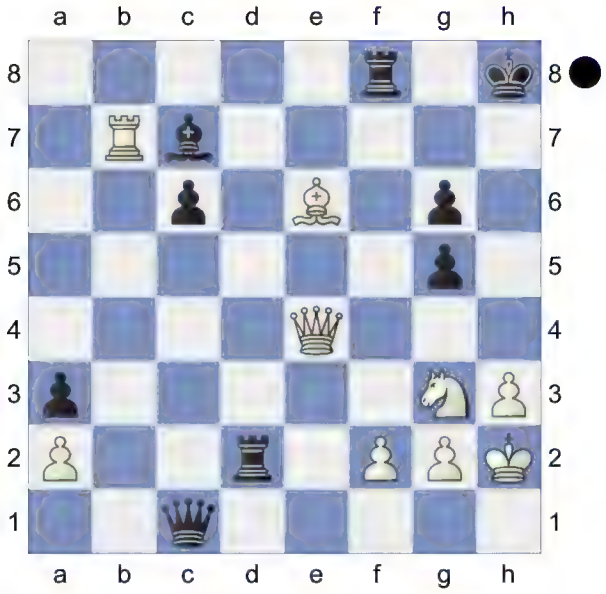
[Don't take 31...Nxf2 32.Rxd8 Bxd8 33.Bf5 Nxh3+ *(33...Qxg3 34.Rh7+ Kg8 35.Qe6+ Kxh7 36.Qxg6+ Kh8 37.Qh7#)* 34.Kh2∓]

32.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 33.Kh2? -5.65/20

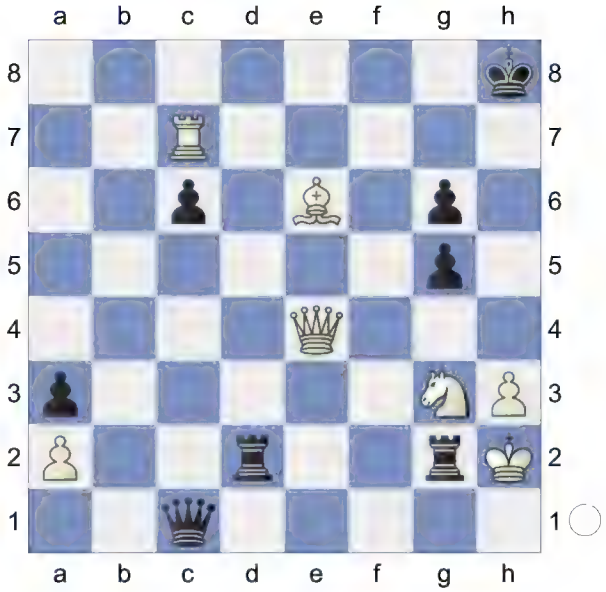
[33.Nf1 -2.36/19 nothing else works. Qf4 34.g3]

33...Rd2 Black is clearly winning.

34.Qe4



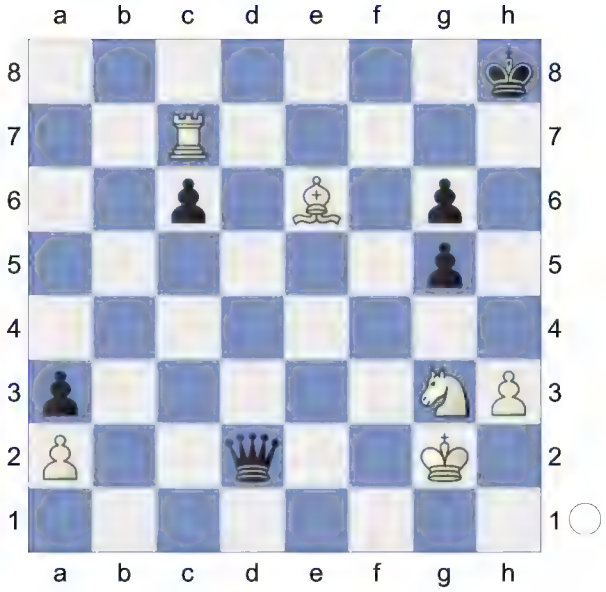
Rfxf2! (-> ...Qf1!) **35.Rxc7** Qe5+ would kill now. **35...Rxg2+**



36.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 37.Kxg2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.10 (very precise)

37...Qd2+



0-1

162 **B30**
□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2785**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
Norway Chess 11th (1) 30.05.2023
[TA]

B30: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5, lines without ...g6

Vasiukov,Evgeni: 'Vasiukov,E: 'Inf 20/370" **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5**

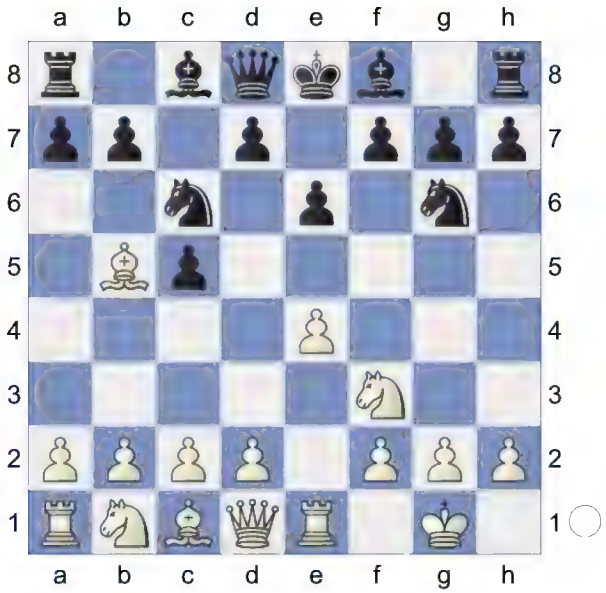
[3.c4 e5 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 f5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Ne1 Rb8 12.f4 exf4 13.gxf4 b5 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.Rb1 Bb7 17.b3 Qa8 0-1 (43) Buksa,J (2081)-Jun,R (2200) CZE-ch Amateur 2023 (8)]

3...e6 4.0-0 Nge7 5.Re1N

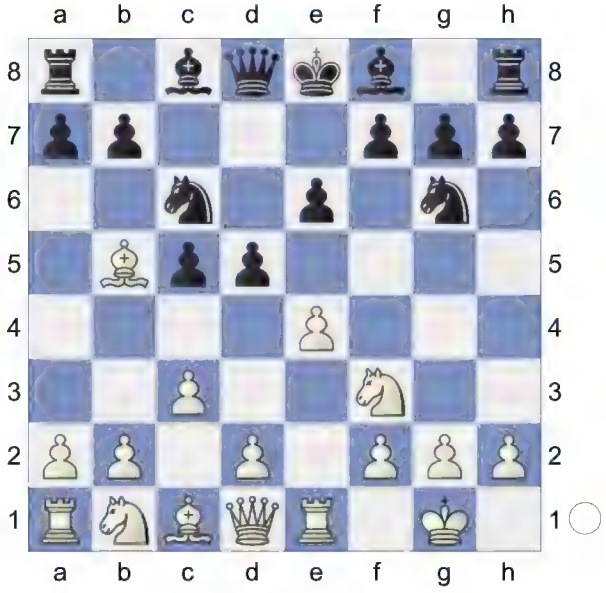
[5.c3 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Be7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Re1 Bd7 11.Nxd5 *(11.a3 Rc8 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Be4 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Qc7 17.c4 Red8 18.Rad1 Na5 19.c5 Bc6 20.h4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Rd5 22.Bf4 Qd8 23.Bd6 Nc4 24.Bg3 Rcxc5 25.dxc5 Rxd1* 1-0 (72) Hanke,L (2709)-10. ♗c2 c5 11.♘bd2 15267 (2728) NAICCC VIII 9600 1996 (2)*)* 11...exd5 12.Qb3 Nb4 13.Rxe7 Qxe7 14.Bxd7 Nxa2 15.Bf5 Nxc1 16.Rxc1 g6 17.Bh3 Rad8 18.g3 Rfe8 19.Ne5 Rd6 1-0 (30) Vasiukov,E-Timoscenko,G USSR 20/370 1975 20.Rc5 Rb6 21.Qc3 f6 22.Rc7 Qd6 23.Rd7 Qf8 24.Nd3 Rd8 25.Nc5 Qe8 26.Be6+ Kh8 27.Bf7 Qf8 28.Ne6 Rxd7 29.Nxf8 Rxf7 30.Qc8 1-0 8.♘a3 ♗e7 9.♘c2 ♗g5 10-Siemer,A ICCF GMN/032 email 2011]

5...Ng6

(Diagram)



6.c3 d5



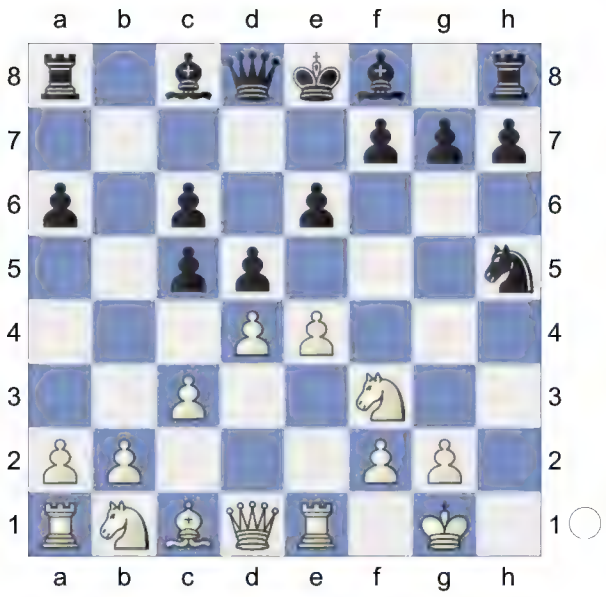
7.h4! a6

[7...dxe4 8.Rxe4]

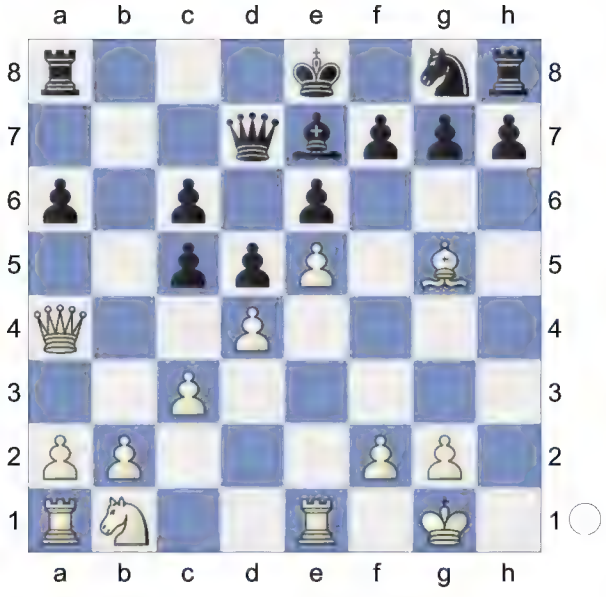
8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.h5 White is better.

9...Nf4 10.d4 Nxh5

(Diagram)

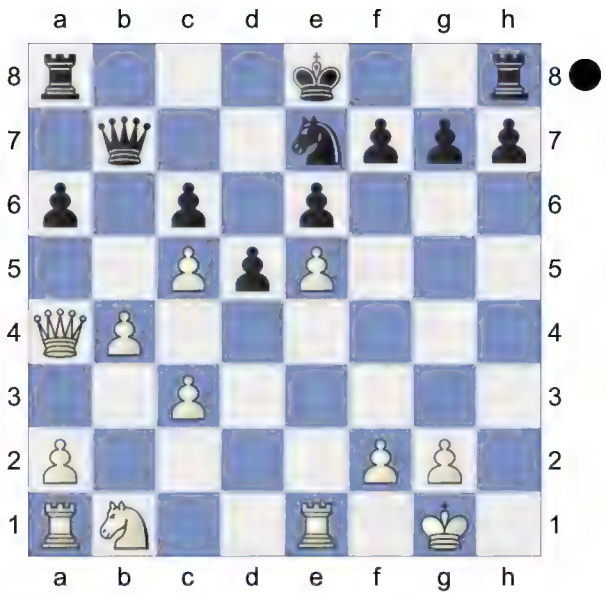


11.Ne5 Nf6 12.Qa4 -0.31/21
[White should try 12.Nxc6= 0.25/21 Qc7 13.exd5]
12...Bd7!∓ 13.Bg5 Be7 14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.e5 Ng8

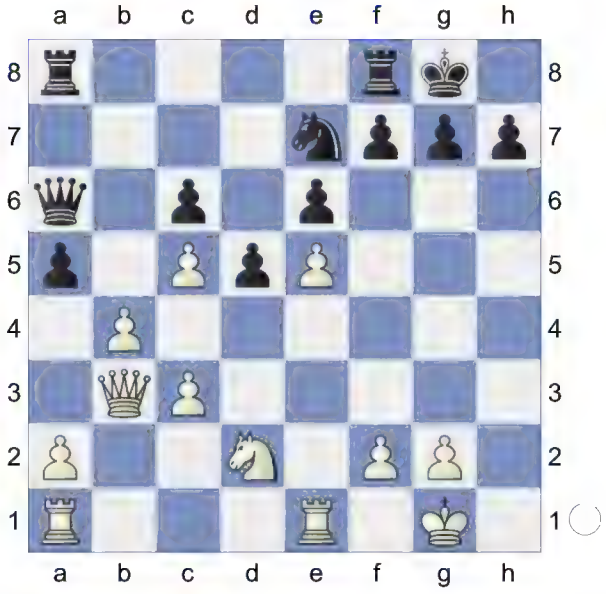


16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.dxc5 Qb7 18.b4

(Diagram)

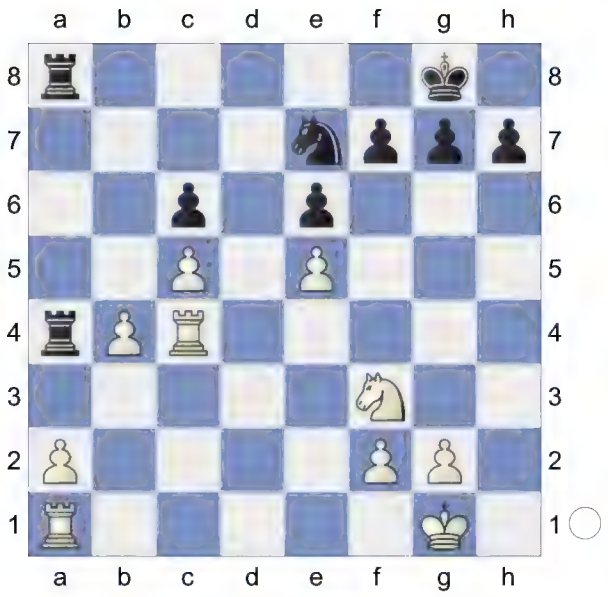


a5! 19.Qb3 0-0 20.Nd2 Qa6 0.36/23
[20...Rfb8= 0.00/22]

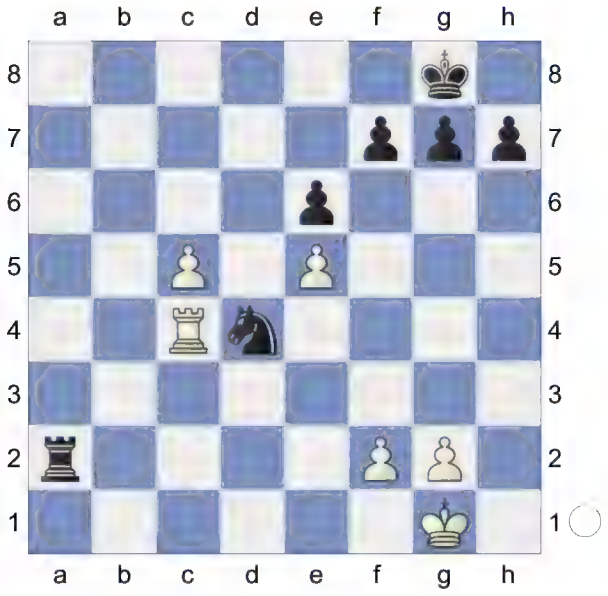


21.Nf3 Qc4 The position is equal.
22.Qxc4 dxc4 23.Re4 axb4 24.cxb4 Ra4
[Reject 24...c3?! 25.a4±]
25.Rxc4 Rfa8

(Diagram)

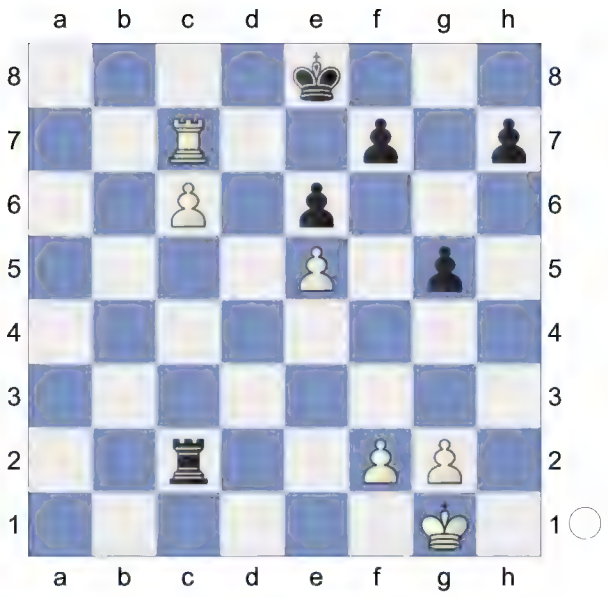


26.Nd4 Rxa2 27.Rxa2 Rxa2= Endgame KRN-KRN 28.b5 cxb5 29.Nxb5 and c6 would now be decisive **29...Nc6 30.Nd4 Nxd4**



31.Rxd4 KR-KR **31...Kf8 32.c6 Rc2 33.Rd8+ Ke7 34.Rd7+ Ke8 35.Rc7 g5**

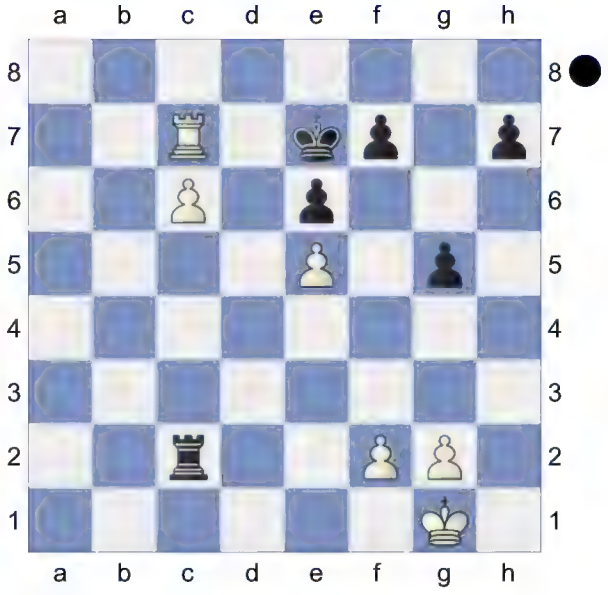
(Diagram)



36.Rc8+ Ke7 37.Rc7+ Ke8 38.Rc8+ Ke7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

39.Rc7+

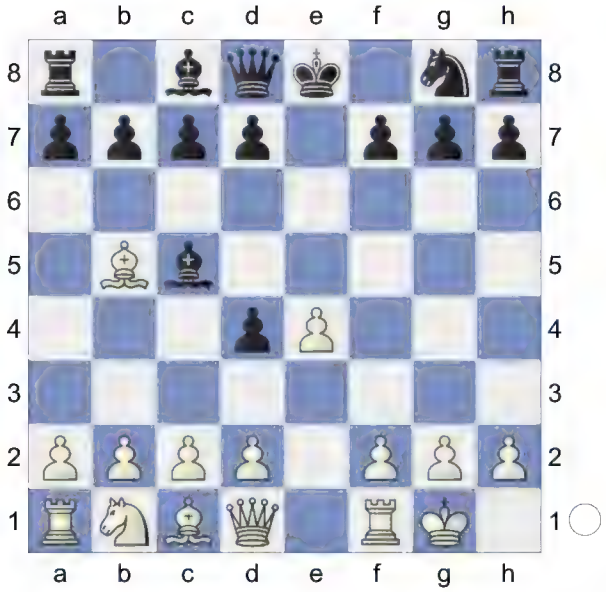


Loss on time!?

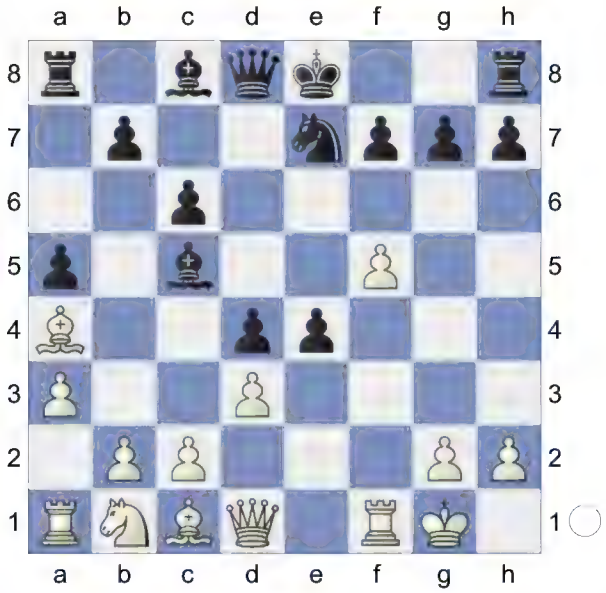
0-1

163 **C61**
□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2785**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
Norway Chess 11th (1) 30.05.2023
[TA]

C61: Ruy Lopez: Bird's Defence
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4 exd4 5.0-0 Bc5



6.d3 c6 7.Ba4 Ne7 8.f4 d5 9.f5 a5 10.a3! dxe4



White is slightly better. **11.dxe4 0-0!**

12.Qh5 Bb6 1.16/18
[12...d3+!± 0.51/18 13.Kh1 Qd4]
13.Bg5 0.38/19
[13.Kh1± 1.16/18]
13...d3+ 1.25/17
[Black should try 13...f6± 0.38/19
14.Bb3+ Kh8]
14.Kh1±

Bd4 2.08/18
[14...f6± 1.25/20]
15.c3+-
[15.cxd3 b5 *(15...Bxb2 16.Ra2±)*
16.Bc2 Bxb2∓]
15...Be5

(Diagram)

16.Nd2 1.33/17

[White should play 16.Bb3+- 1.88/17]

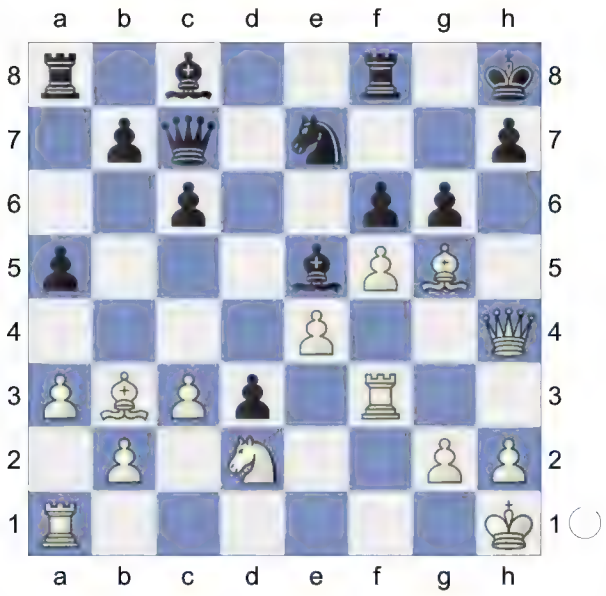
16...Qc7? 2.95/20

[16...b5± 1.33/17 was called for.]

17.Rf3 Strongly threatening Rh3!.

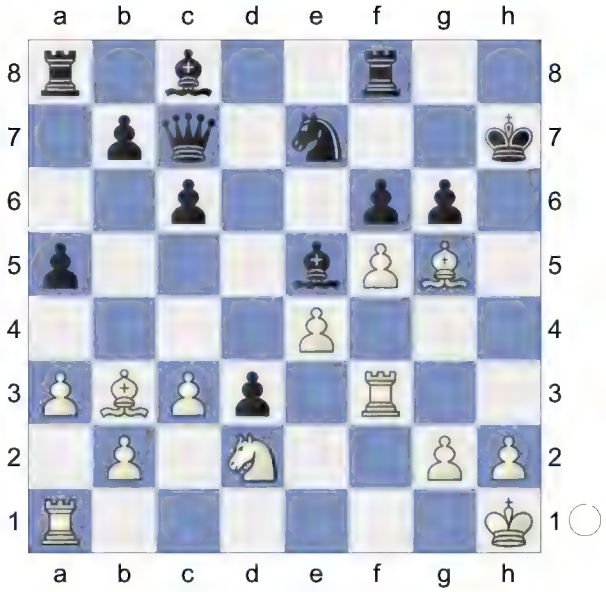
17...g6 18.Qh4 f6 19.Bb3+ Kh8N #4/17

[19...Nd5+- 4.90/21 20.fxg6 *(20.Bxd5+ cxd5 21.Bh6 dxe4±; 20.exd5 fxg5 21.Qxg5 Kg7+-)* 20...a4]



20.Qxh7+!! Decoy. White mates.

20...Kxh7



21.Rh3+ Kg7 22.Bh6+ Skewer, Deflection **22...Kh8** Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.86

23.Bxf8#

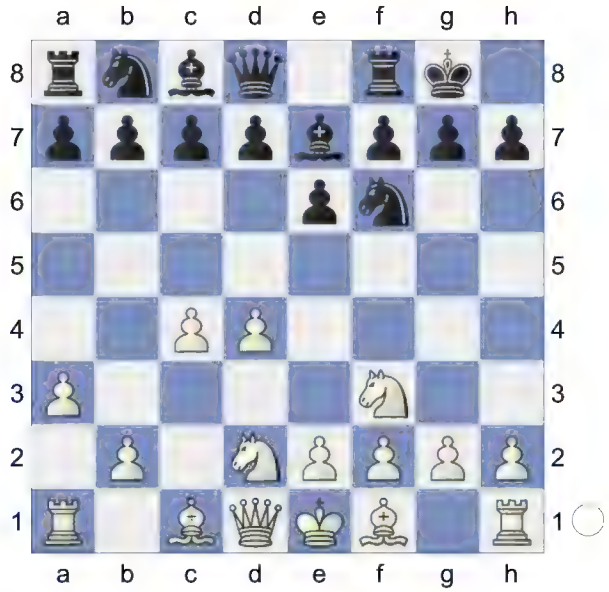
Loss on time!?

0-1

164 **E11**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2775**
11th Norway Blitz 2023 (7.2) 29.05.2023
[TA]

E11: Bogo-Indian
Marin,Mihail: 'OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES The Hedgehog By Mihail Marin The Hedgehog setup has long been known as a paradoxical way of playing for a win with Black. But should anybody really be afraid of an opening where Black deploys his pieces and pawns only on the first three ranks? Well, practice has shown that White should indeed take care. While enjoying a big space advantage with multiple possible active plans on both wings, the first player should not let himself be carried away by a false sense of security. In fact Black's position is like a compressed spring, ready to be unwound at the first favourable moment. Black's counterplay is based mainly on four thematic elements: ... b6–b5, ... d6–d5, ...e6–e5 and all sorts of tactical blows on the kingside. Carrying out even just one of these operations under favourable circumstances usually means equalisation, while a successful combination of two such ideas may already spell trouble for White. There are very rare cases when Black can deliver all the afore-mentioned blows. Then, irrespective of the objective evaluation of the position and the final result, a thrilling spectacle is in prospect! It was with great pleasure that I watched and analysed the following game, in which Black managed to display his whole arsenal of weapons.

' 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 0-0 5.a3 Be7



6.e4 d6 7.Be2 Nc6N Recently 7...Nfd7 got a lot of attention.7...Sfd7 erhält neuerdings viel Aufmerksamkeit.

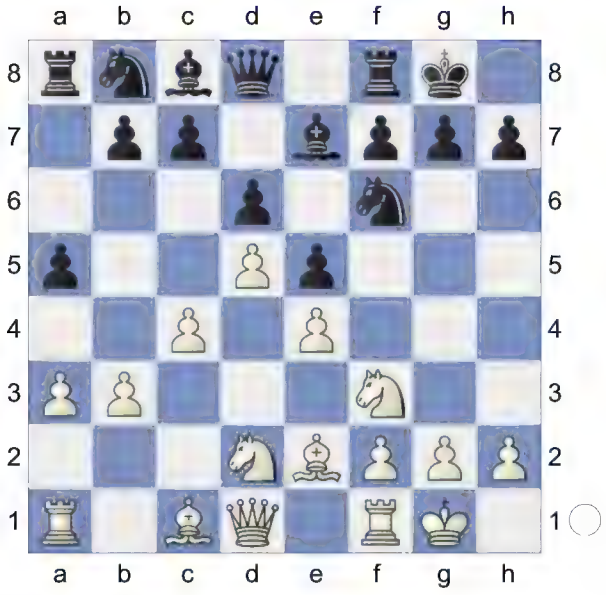
[7...Nfd7 8.b4 e5 9.d5 a5 10.Bb2 c6 11.0-0 Nb6 12.bxa5 Rxa5 13.Bc3 Ra8 14.a4 N6d7 15.Nb3 Na6 16.Nfd2 Ndc5 17.a5 Bg5 18.Bf3 g6 19.Nxc5 Nxc5 20.Nb3 Nxb3 21.Qxb3 c5 22.Qc2 ½-½ (73) Dudin,G (2386)-Delchev,A (2548) Srbija 146/5 2020]

[7...c5 8.b3 cxd4 9.Nxd4 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Bd3 Nbd7 12.Qe2 Re8 13.Bb2 Bf8 14.Rad1 a6 15.f4 e5 16.fxe5 Nxe5 17.Bb1 b5 18.cxb5 d5 19.Nc6 Qb6+ 20.Bd4 Bc5 21.Qf2 Nfg4 22.Bxc5 0-1 (37) Wojtaszek,R (2744)-Jobava,B (2727) Tata Steel-A 77th 2015 (7)]

[7...a5 8.b3 Nfd7 9.Bb2 e5 10.0-0 exd4 11.Nxd4 Bf6 12.Qc2 Nc6 13.N2f3 Re8 14.Rfe1 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Nc5 16.Bf1 Bd7 17.Rad1 Bg4 18.f3 Bd7 19.Ne2 Bxb2 20.Qxb2 Qg5 21.Nc3 Bc6 22.Qc2 ½-½ (105) Mamedyarov,S (2738)-Martinez

Alcantara,J (2607) Chessable Masters Div 3 Win rapid 2023 (1.2)]

8.0-0 a5 White is slightly better. **9.b3 e5 10.d5 Nb8**



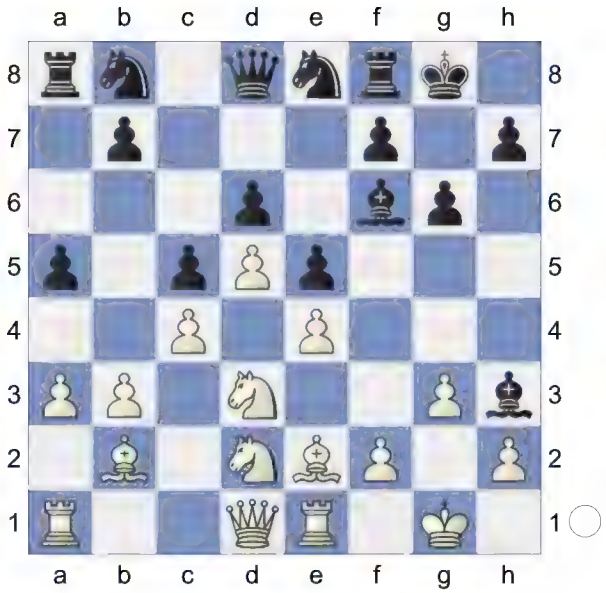
11.Bb2 c5N 0.99/23

[Vorgänger: 11...Nbd7 12.b4 g6 13.Ne1 Ne8 14.Nd3 Bf6 1.02/21 *(14...axb4±* 0.53/21 might be stronger. *15.axb4 Rxa1 16.Bxa1 b6)* 15.c5± Bg7 1.62/20 *(15...axb4±* 0.85/20 might work better. *16.axb4 Rxa1 17.Qxa1 Bg5)* 16.c6!+- Nb6 17.bxa5 Rxa5 1-0 Van Foreest,J (2598)-Ptacnikova,L (2202) Reykjavik op 2019 (1)]

[11...Bg4± 0.57/23]

12.Ne1 Ne8 13.Nd3 Bf6 14.g3 Bh3 15.Re1 g6

(Diagram)



16.Bg4 1.00/18

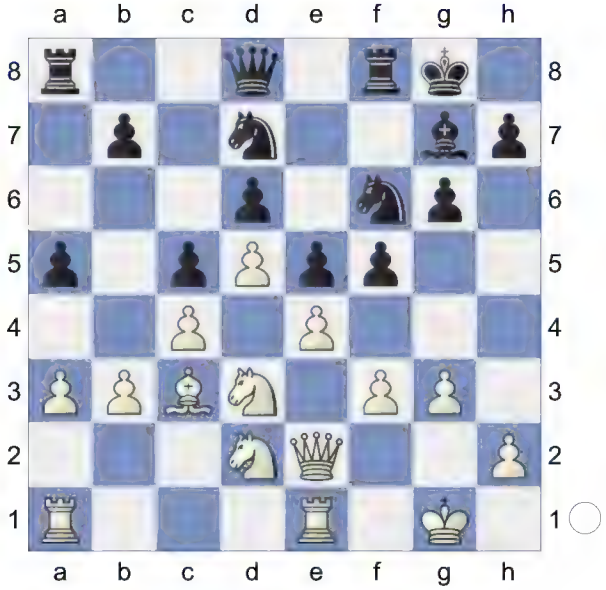
[⌓16.g4 1.47/20]

16...Bxg4± 17.Qxg4 Nd7 18.Qe2 White is much more active. **18...Bg7**

19.Bc3 0.66/21

[19.a4± 1.06/21]

19...f5± 20.f3 Nef6



21.b4 0.00/23

[21.a4± 0.77/18]

21...axb4= 22.axb4 Qc7 0.43/21

[22...Rxa1= 0.00/23 23.Rxa1 fxe4 24.Nxe4 *(24.fxe4 cxb4 25.Bxb4 Qb6+ 26.Kg2 Bh6=)* 24...cxb4

25.Bxb4 *(25.Nxb4 Nxe4 26.fxe4 Bh6=)* 25...Nxe4 26.fxe4 *(26.Qxe4 Nf6∓)* 26...Qc7]

23.Kh1 -0.23/22

[23.b5± 0.43/21]

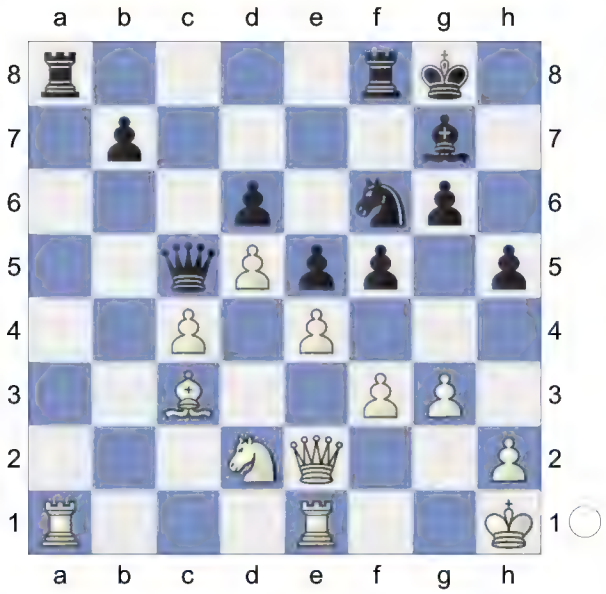
23...h5 0.64/21

[Better is 23...cxb4= -0.23/22 24.Bxb4 Bh6 25.exf5 gxf5]

24.bxc5 0.00/23

[24.b5± 0.64/21]

24...Nxc5 25.Nxc5 Qxc5



26.Rab1 Ra2 27.Rb5

[27.Rxb7 fxe4 28.Bb2 exf3 29.Nxf3 Qc8-+]

27...Qc8

[27...Qa3? 28.Ra5 Qxc3 29.Rxa2+-]

28.exf5

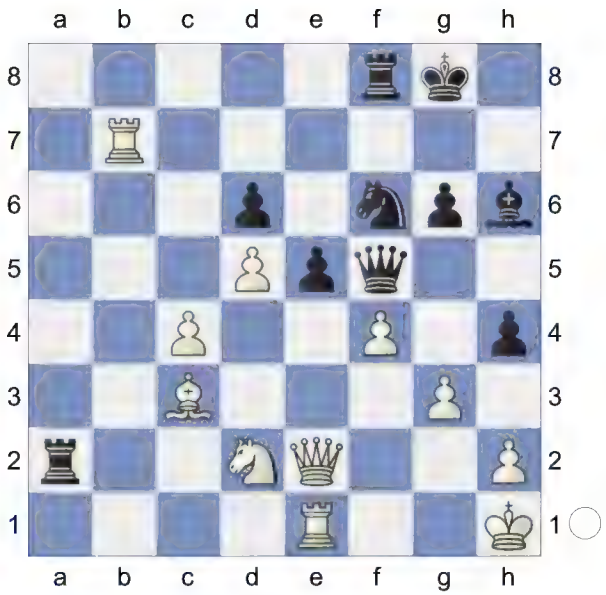
[28.Rb2 Rxb2 29.Bxb2 Bh6 30.exf5 Qxf5 31.Ne4]

28...Qxf5 29.Rxb7

[29.Rb2 simplifies Rfa8 30.Ne4 Rxb2 31.Bxb2 Nxe4 32.fxe4 Qc8 33.Kg2]

29...Bh6 30.f4 h4

(Diagram)



31.Rb2

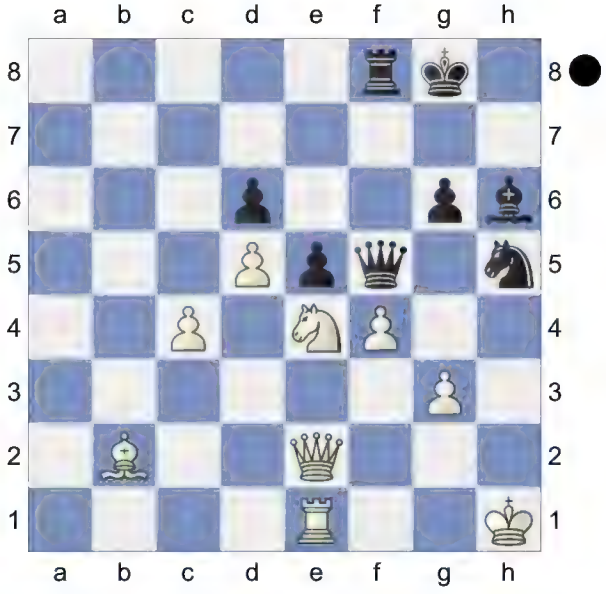
[31.gxh4 Bxf4 *(31...Qxf4 32.Rg1=)* 32.c5 Rc2-+ *(32...Nxd5 33.Qc4∓; 32...dxc5? 33.Rf1-+)*]

[31.fxe5 Bxd2 32.Bxd2 *(32.exf6? Bxe1 33.Qe6+ Qxe6-+)* 32...Ng4-+]

31...Rxb2 32.Bxb2 hxg3

[32...exf4?! 33.Qe6+ Qxe6 34.Rxe6 fxg3 35.Bxf6±]

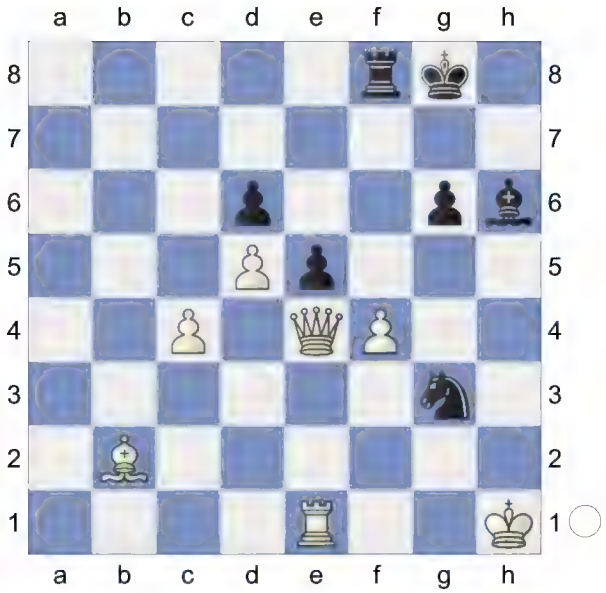
33.hxg3 Nh5 34.Ne4



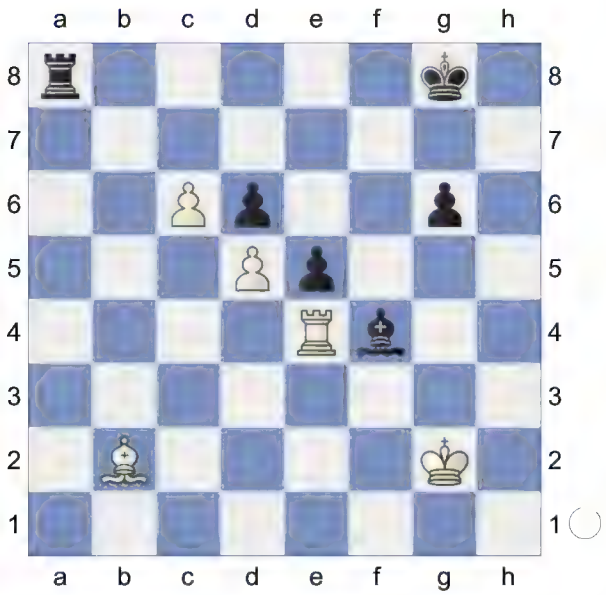
Qxe4+! Remove Defender, Decoy

35.Qxe4 Nxg3+

(Diagram)

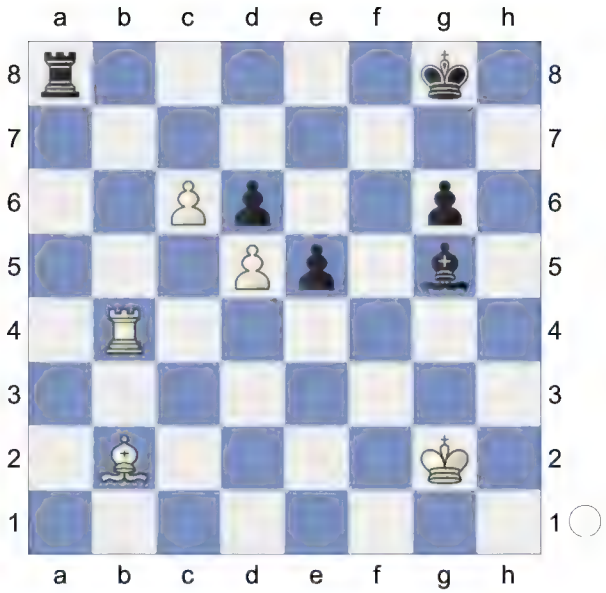


36.Kg2 Nxe4 37.Rxe4 Bxf4 Endgame KRB-KRB. Black is a pawn up. **38.c5 Rc8 39.c6** White has compensation. **39...Ra8**

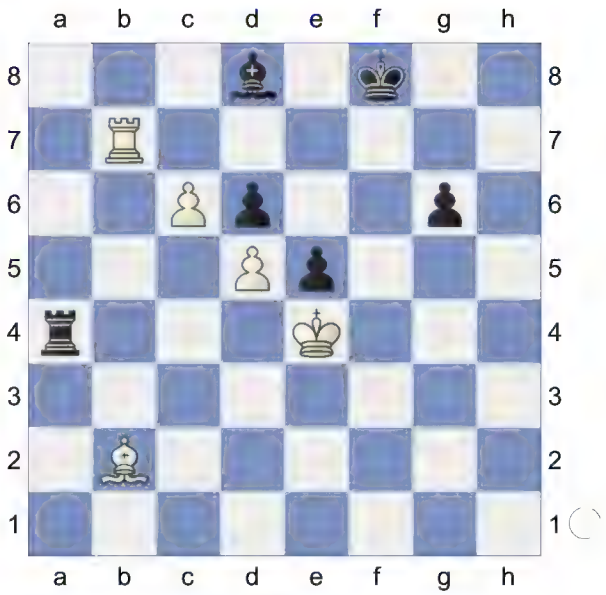


Against Ba3 **40.Rb4! Bg5?** 7.20/20
[40...Kf7= 0.28/19]

(Diagram)

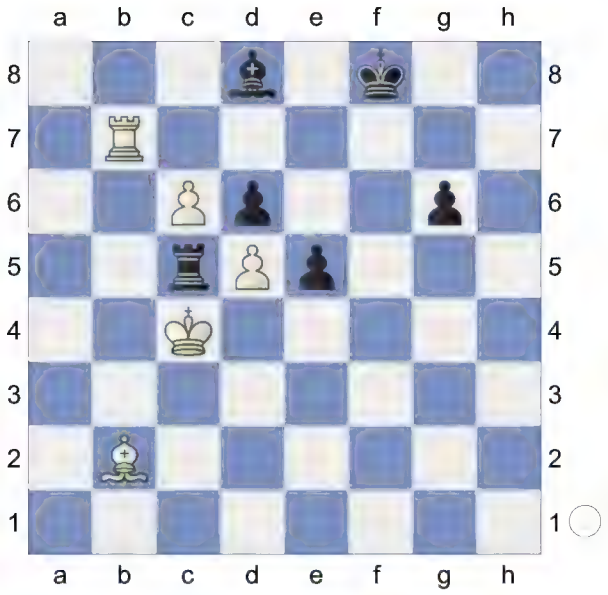


41.Rb7 Bd8 42.Kf3 Kf8 43.Ke4 1.48/20
[43.Bc1+- 3.52/20]
43...Ra4+±

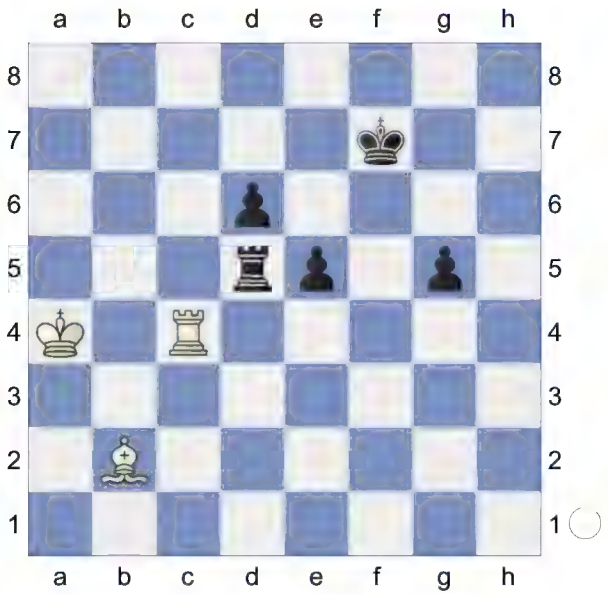


44.Kd3 1.12/19
[44.Ke3!+- 1.62/22]
44...Ra5 45.Kc4 0.00/25
[45.Ke4± 1.09/21]
45...Rc5+=

(Diagram)

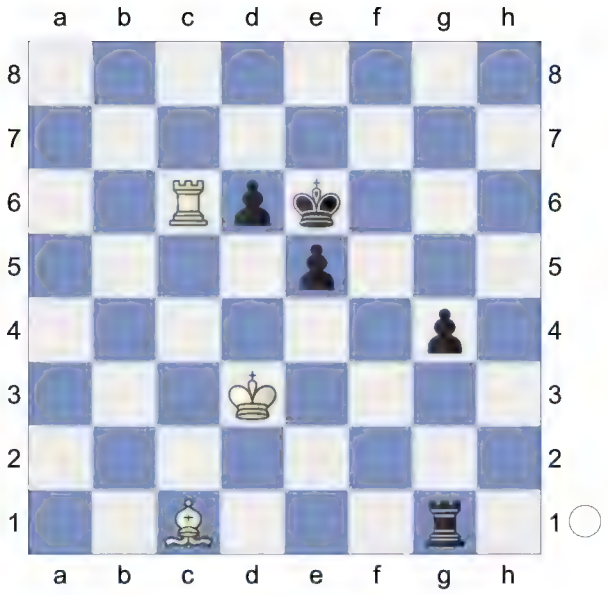


The position is equal. **46.Kb4 Ba5+ 47.Ka4** Hoping for Rb5. **47...Rxd5 48.c7 Bxc7 49.Rxc7** KRB-KR **49...g5 50.Rc4 Kf7**



51.Kb3 Rd2 52.Bc1 Rg2 53.Kc3 g4 54.Kd3 Ke6 55.Rc6 Rg1

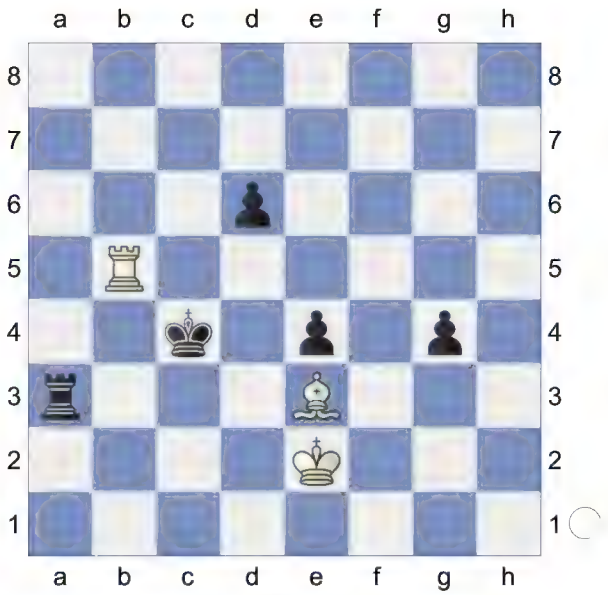
(Diagram)



56.Be3 Ra1 57.Rb6 Ra3+ 58.Ke2 Kd5 59.Rb4 e4

[But not 59...Ra2+? 60.Bd2+-]

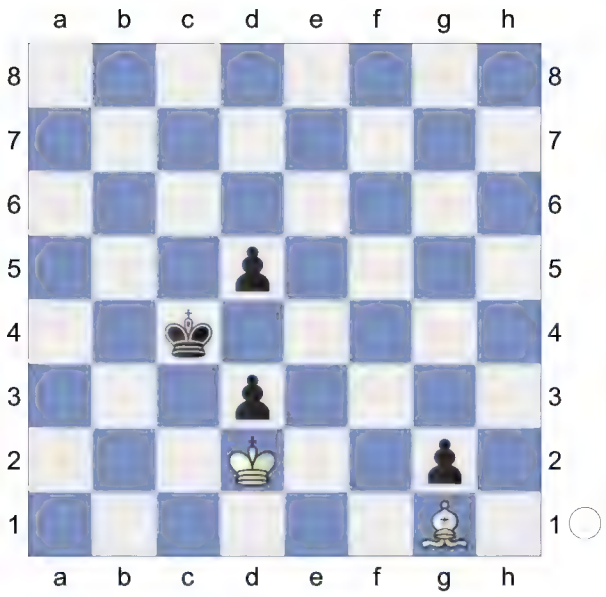
60.Rb5+ Kc4



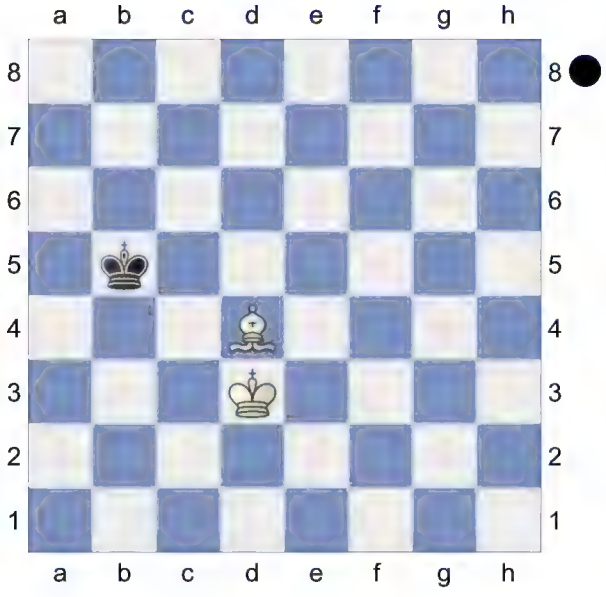
61.Rb2 Wards off Ra2 **61...d5** Hoping for ...d4. **62.Rd2 Rd3 63.Rxd3 exd3+** KB-K3P **64.Kd2 g3 65.Bg1 g2**

[65...d4!?]

(Diagram)



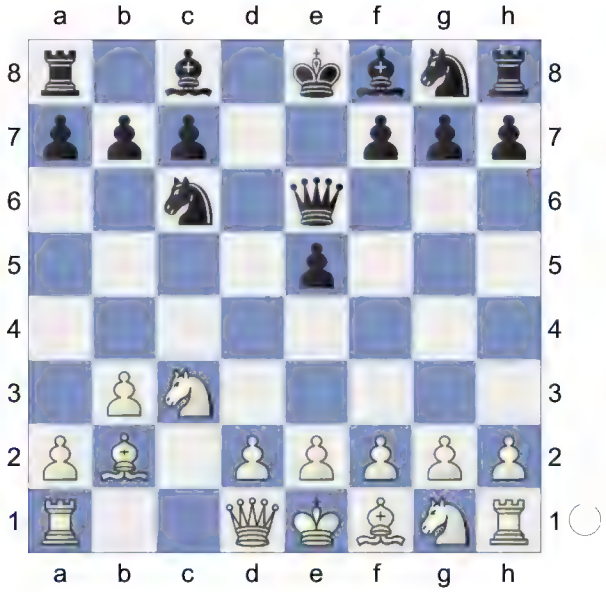
66.Bf2 g1B 67.Bxg1 Kb5 68.Kxd3 d4
Black escapes into a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)
69.Bxd4



½-½

165 **A01**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2853**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
11th Norway Blitz 2023 (2.1) 29.05.2023
[Kitty Kat]

A01: Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening
1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.c4 d5 4.cxd5 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qe6



6.Nf3N
[6.Rc1 Nf6 7.e3 Bd6 8.Nb5 a6 9.Nxd6+ Qxd6 10.Be2 0-0 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.0-0 e4 13.Nd4 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 The Brave and The Bold: 1. b3-3.c4 d5 #5]
[6.g3 Bd7 7.Bg2 0-0-0 8.Nf3 Nge7 9.Rc1 f5 10.0-0 h6 11.Na4 e4 12.Ne1 Be8 13.d3 Nd5 14.Nc5 Qf7 15.Qc2 Ndb4 16.Qb1 b6 17.Na4 exd3 18.Nxd3 Nxd3 19.exd3 Nd4 20.Bxd4 Rxd4 0-1 (64) Arpith S Bijoy (2234)-Sathvik Adiga (2395) 15th Chennai Open 2025 (5.9)]
6...Bd7 7.e3 0-0-0 8.Be2 -0.62/19
[8.Rc1= -0.02/20]
8...f5 0.86/22
[8...Qg6∓ -0.62/19 keeps the upper

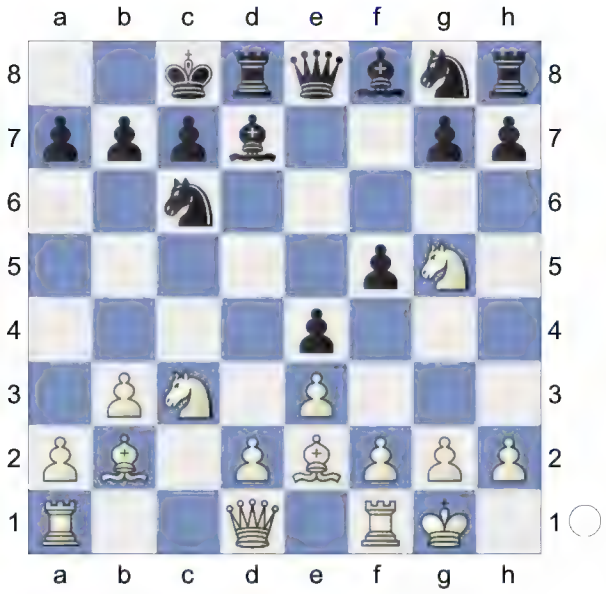
hand.]

9.0-0 -0.39/21

[Only move: 9.d4± 0.86/22]

9...e4∓ 10.Ng5 Qe8 0.20/21

[10...Qf6∓ -0.51/21 11.Nh3 Ne5]

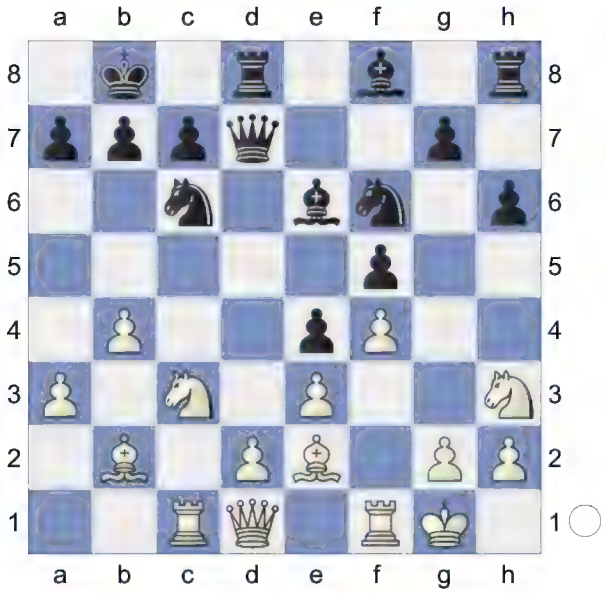


11.f4 -1.03/22

[11.d4= 0.20/21]

11...h6∓ 12.Nh3 Nf6 13.Rc1 Kb8 14.a3 Be6 15.b4 Prevents Bc5.

15...Qd7



16.Nb1 Ne7 17.Be5 Nfd5

[17...Ned5 keeps more tension.

18.Qc2 Bd6 19.Bd4 Rhg8]

18.Bc4 Ka8 -0.34/20

[18...a6∓ -0.78/21 19.Qe2 b5 *(19...Nc6 20.Ba1∓)* 20.Bxd5 Nxd5]

19.Qb3 -1.26/21

[19.Qe2∓ -0.34/20]

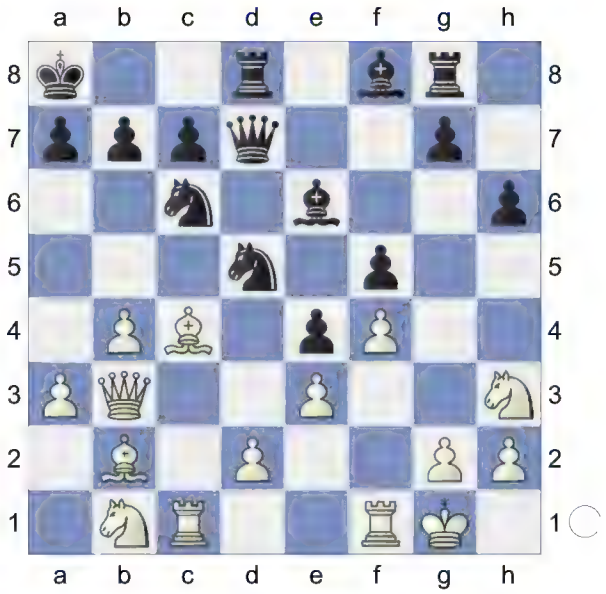
19...Nc6 0.10/20

[19...b5∓ -1.26/21 20.Bxd5+ Bxd5]

20.Bb2 -0.30/22

[20.Nc3 0.10/20]

20...Rg8



21.Nc3 g5 0.51/23

[21...Nce7!= -0.15/22]

22.Bxd5 0.10/19

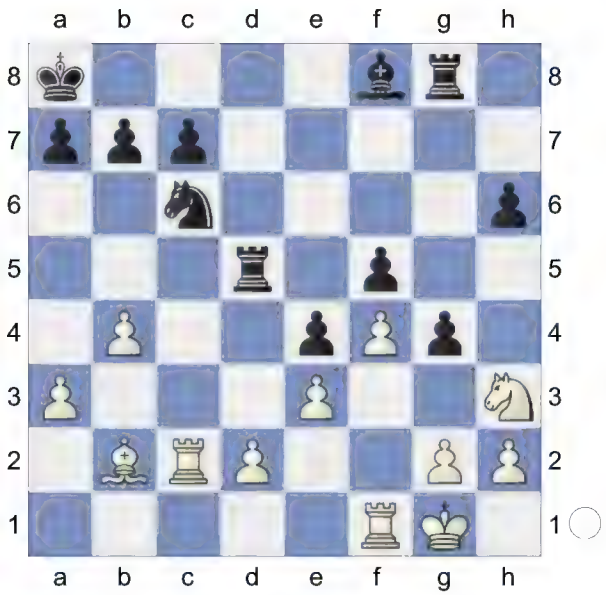
[22.Rcd1± 0.51/23]

22...Bxd5= 23.Qxd5 Qxd5 24.Nxd5 Rxd5 25.Rc2 -0.46/23

[White should play 25.fxg5!= 0.20/23 hxg5 *(25...Rxd2 26.Bc3±)* 26.Bf6]

25...g4∓

(Diagram)



26.Nf2 a5 27.bxa5 Rxa5 28.Ra1 Bg7 -0.23/21

[28...Bd6∓ -0.68/20 deserves consideration.]

29.Bxg7 Rxg7 30.Nh1 -1.09/24

[30.d3= -0.25/21]

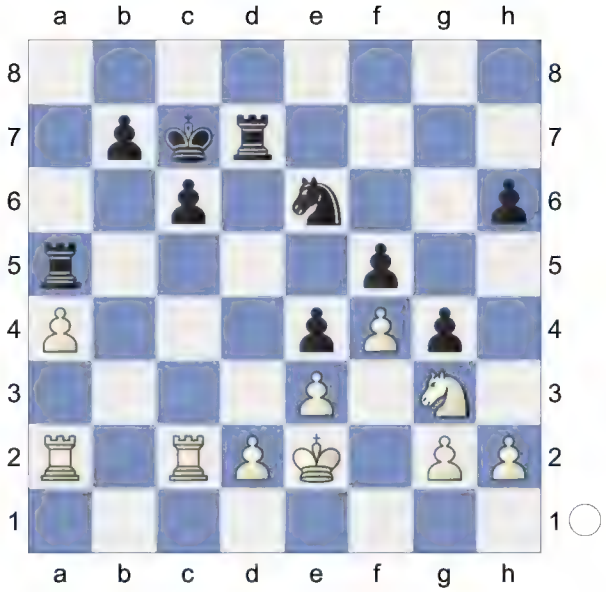
30...Rd7 -0.35/22

[Black should play 30...h5!∓ -1.09/24 31.Nf2 Rd7]

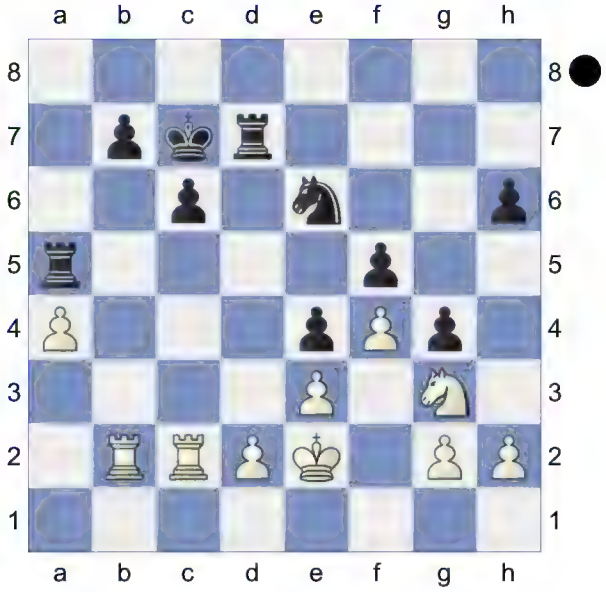
31.Ng3 Kb8 32.Raa2 Nd8 33.Kf2 Ne6 34.Ke2 c6 35.a4 -1.27/22

[35.Kf2∓ -0.69/20]

35...Kc7



Black is much more active. **36.Rab2**



Rdd5! Against Rb5

[36...Rxa4 37.Rb5±]

37.Rb4 Nc5 38.Rcb2? -3.05/25

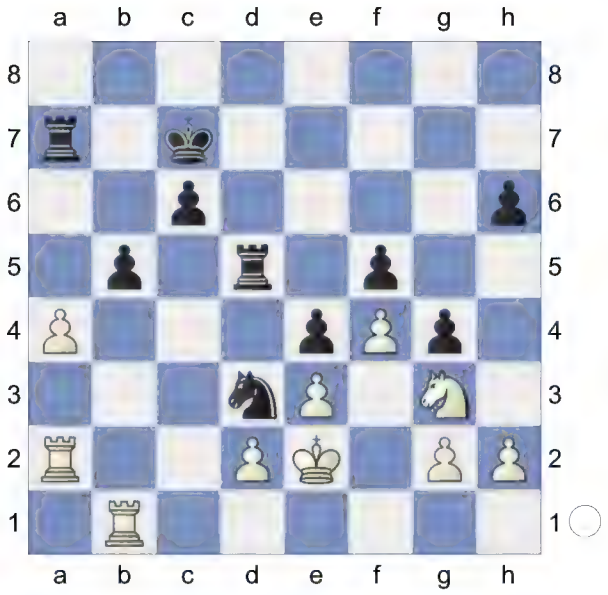
[38.Rcc4∓ -0.96/18 is the only way for White.]

38...Ra7

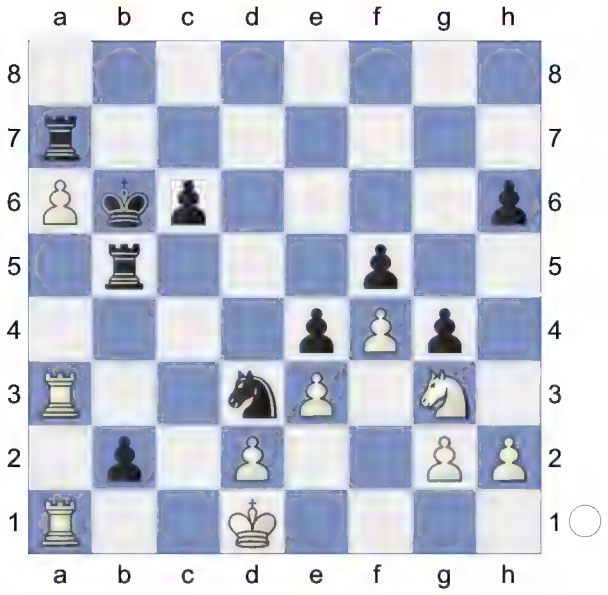
[38...Nxa4 39.Rxb7+ Kd6 40.R2b4±]

39.Ra2 Nd3 40.Rb1 b5

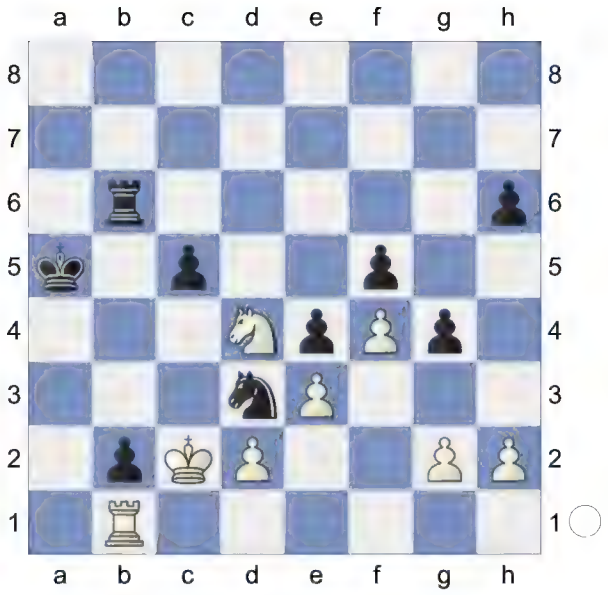
(Diagram)



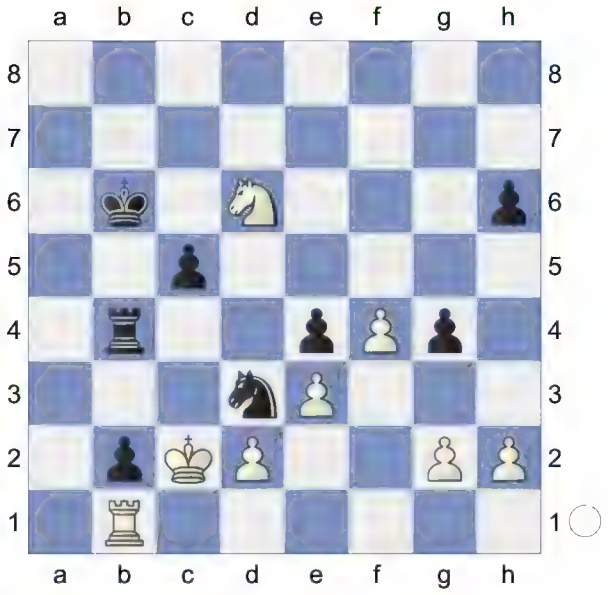
41.a5? -3.97/20
[41.Kd1 -2.43/18 is a better defense.]
41...b4-+ 42.a6 Kb6 43.Rba1 Rb5 44.Kd1? -6.55/24
[44.Ra4 -3.71/20]
44...b3 45.Ra3 b2



46.Rb1 Rxa6 47.Rxa6+ Kxa6 Endgame KRN-KRN. Black is a pawn up. **48.Ne2 Ka5 49.Nd4 Rb6 50.Kc2 c5?** -0.30/19
[50...Ka4-+ -5.46/20 51.Ne2 Ka3 *(51...Rb3? 52.Nc3+ Ka3 53.Kd1-+)*]

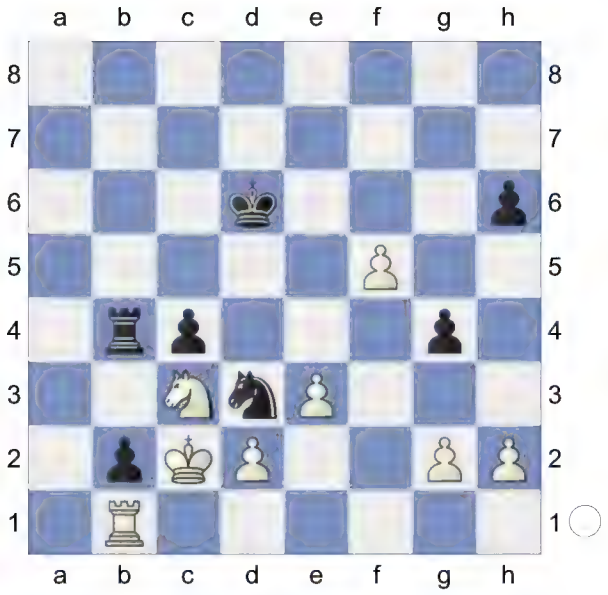


51.Nxf5= Rb4 52.Nd6 Against Rc4+ **52...Kb6** 0.93/26
[52...Ka4= -0.10/26 remains equal. 53.Nxe4 Remove Defender Rxe4 54.Kxd3 Rb4]

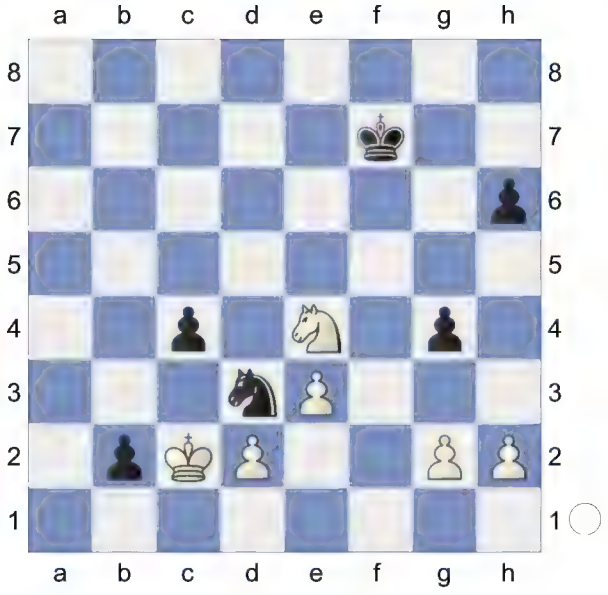


53.Nxe4!± Remove Defender **53...c4 54.Nc3** 0.05/26
[54.Nf6± 0.93/23 And now Nd5+ would win. Rb3 55.Nxg4]
54...Kc5 55.f5 Kd6!

(Diagram)

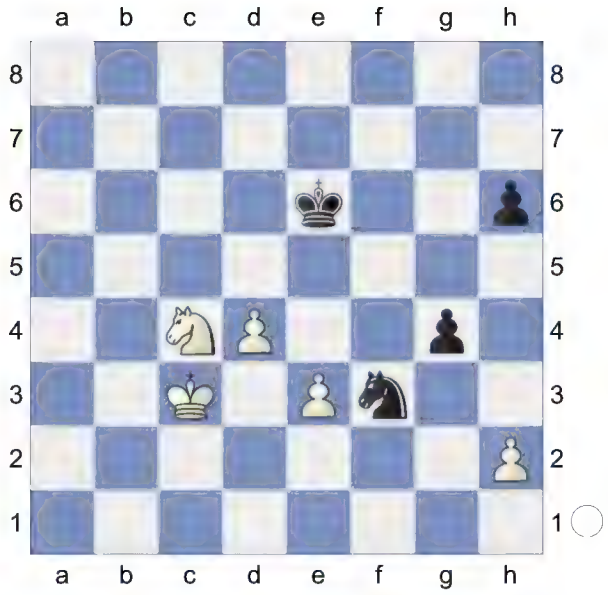


56.f6 0.00/27
[56.Nd1± 1.30/21]
56...Ke6= 57.Rf1 Rb7⇄ Black is fighting back **58.Ne4 Ra7 59.f7** Decoy **59...Rxf7 60.Rxf7 Kxf7**

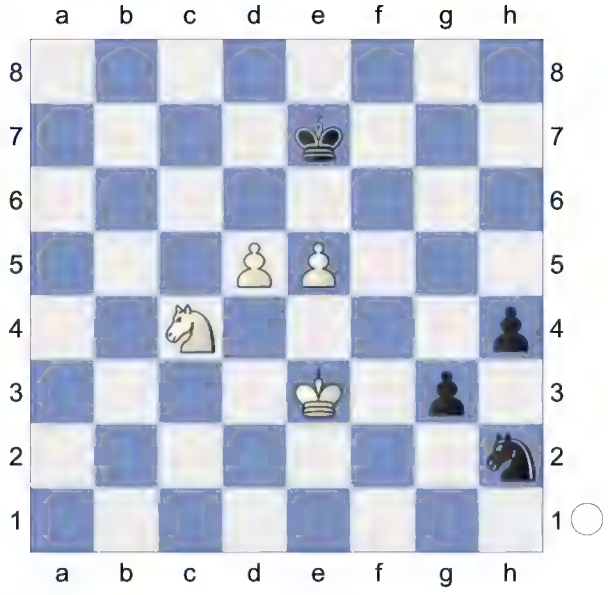


KN-KN **61.Nd6+ Ke6 62.Nxc4 Ne1+ 63.Kxb2 Nxg2 64.Kc3 Ne1 65.d4 Nf3**

(Diagram)

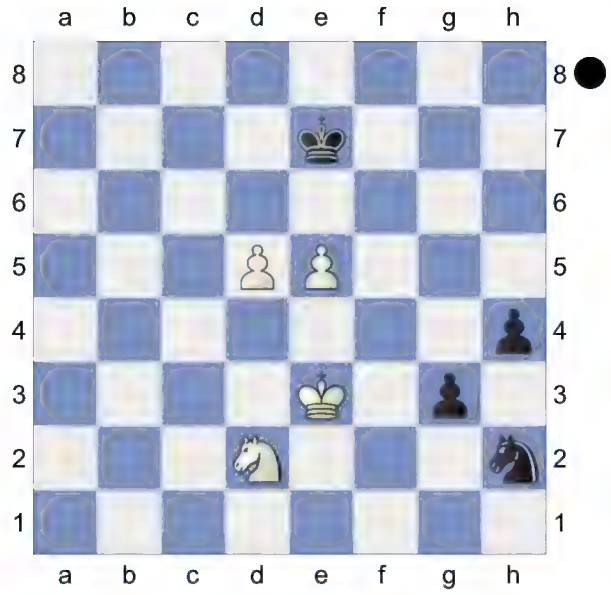


Wards off Ne5 **66.e4 h5**
[66...Nxh2 67.d5+ Kf7 68.Nd6+ Kf6 69.Kd3]
67.d5+ Ke7 68.Kd3 h4 69.Ke3 Nxh2 70.e5 g3

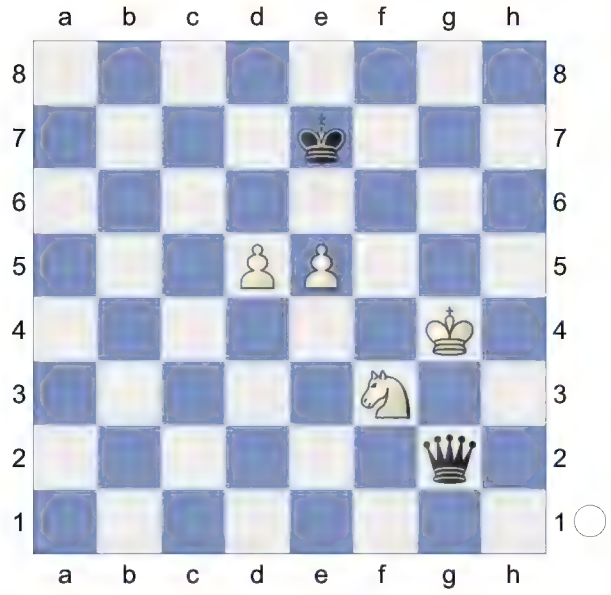


Black keeps a firm grip on the game.
71.Nd2? -7.83/28
[71.d6+= -0.06/22 Ke6 72.Nd2]

(Diagram)

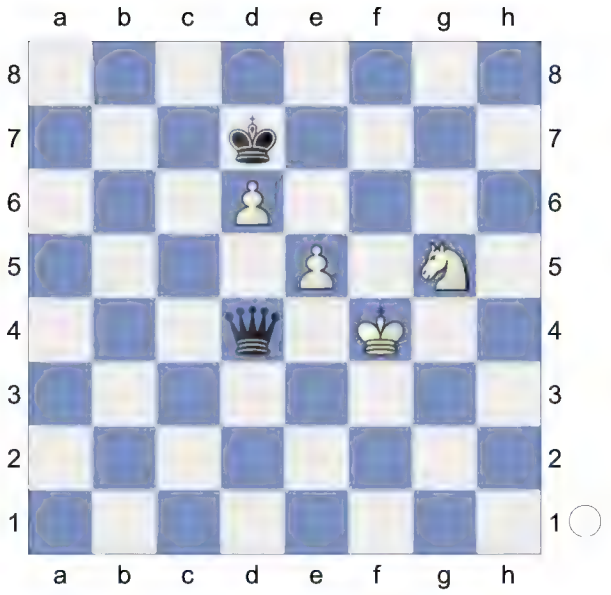


71...h3!-+ Black is clearly winning.
72.Nf3 Ng4+ 73.Kf4 h2 74.Kxg3 h1Q
[74...h1B? is the wrong capture.
75.d6+ *(75.Kxg4 Bg2+-)* 75...Ke6
76.Kxg4+-]
75.Kxg4 Qg2+

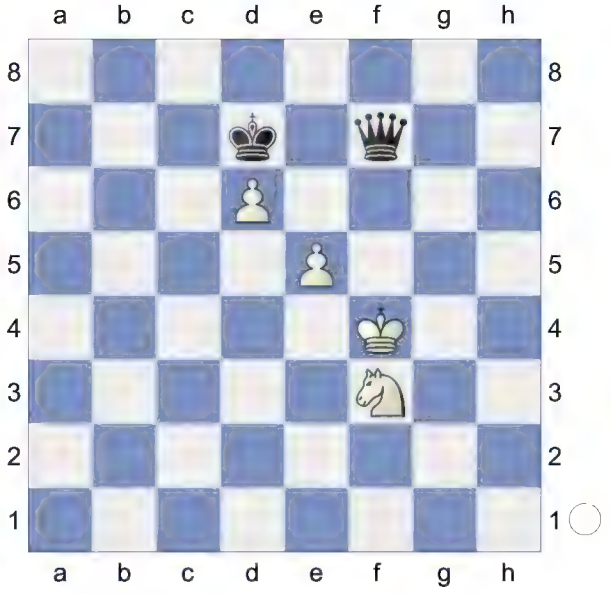


76.Kf4 Qf2 77.Ke4 Qe2+ 78.Kf4 Qd3
79.d6+ Kd7 80.Ng5 Qd4+

(Diagram)

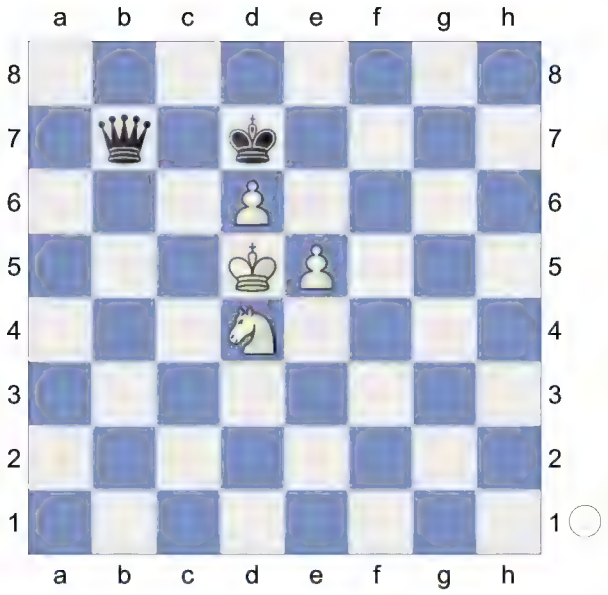


81.Kf5 Qf2+ 82.Ke4 Qh4+ 83.Kf5
Qh5 84.Kf4 Qg6 85.Nf3 Qf7+

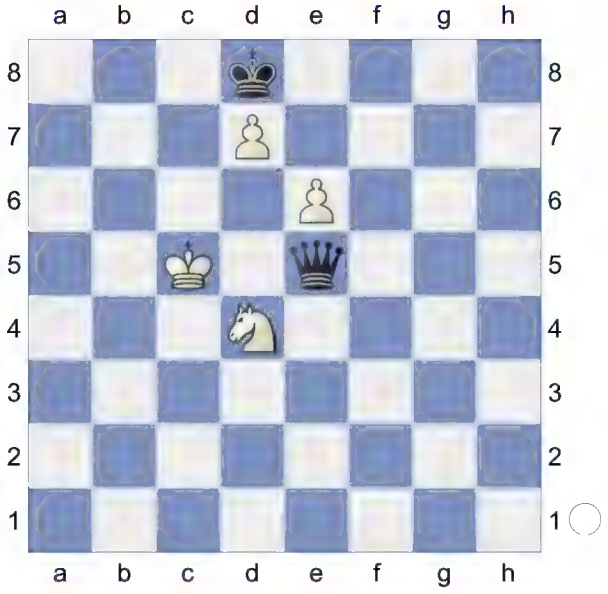


86.Ke4 Qh7+ 87.Kf4 Qf7+ 88.Ke4
Qc4+ 89.Nd4 Qb4 90.Kd5 Qb7+

(Diagram)



91.Kc5 Qe4 92.e6+ Kc8 93.d7+ Kc7 94.Nb5+ Kd8 Strongly threatening ... Qc2+. **95.Nd4 Qe5+**

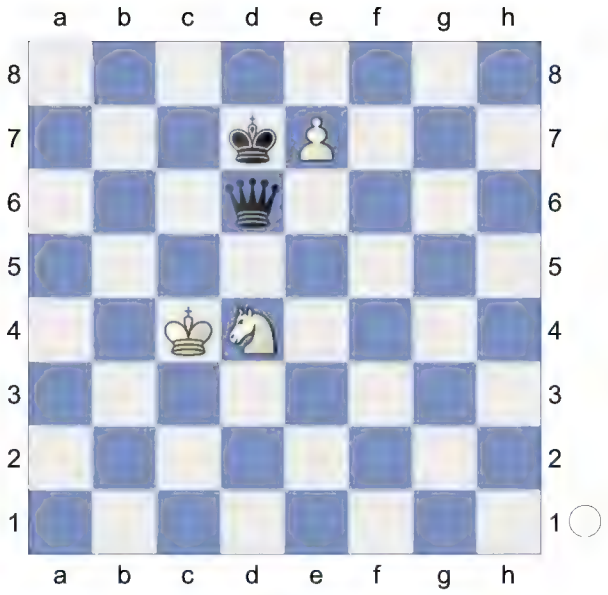


96.Kc4 Qd6 97.e7+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.44

97...Kxd7

(Diagram)



0-1

166 **D12**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**

■ **Aravindh,Chithambaram VR** **2633**

6th Sharjah Masters 2023 (5.6) 21.05.23

[TA]

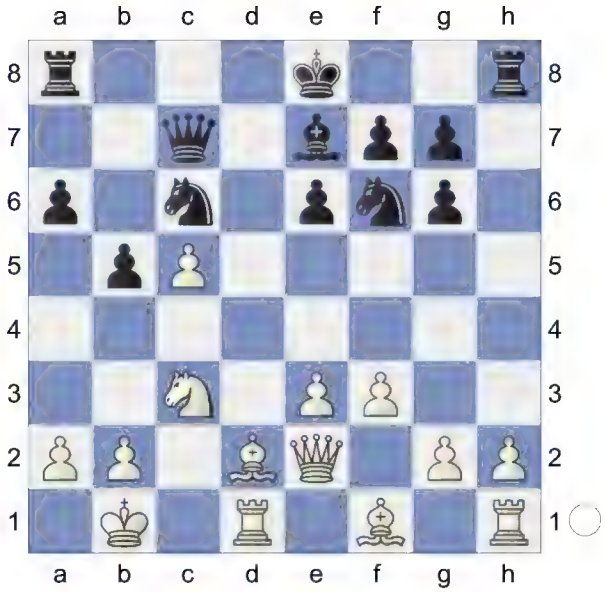
D12: Slav Defence: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 Bf5

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6

6.Nh4 Be4 7.f3 Bg6 8.Bd2 Be7 9.Qb3 Qc7 White is slightly better. **10.0-0-0 dxc4**

11.Qxc4 a6 12.Nxg6 b5 13.Qe2 hxg6 14.Kb1 c5 15.dxc5 Nc6N 0.97/18

[15...Nbd7± 0.49/19 16.Rc1 Ne5 17.g4 *(17.f4 Nc4 18.Be1 Bxc5 19.Qf3 0-0 20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.Ne4 Be7 22.Nd2 Qd7 23.Nxc4 Qd3+ 24.Rc2 Rac8 25.e4 Qxe4 26.Qxe4 Nxe4 27.Ba5 g5 28.fxg5 Bxg5 29.Rd1 f5 30.Nd6 Rxc2 31.Kxc2 Nf6* ½-½ (58) Sikorova,J (2732)-Grube,J (2768) WCC 2004 (6) *32.Re1 Nd5 33.g3 f4 34.gxf4 Bxf4 35.Rxe6 Rf6 36.Rxf6 Nxf6 37.Nb7 Bxh2 38.Nc5 g5 39.Nxa6 g4 40.Kd3 Be5 41.b3 Kf7 42.Bb6 g3 43.Bg1 Bd6 44.Nc5 Bxc5 45.Bxc5 g2 46.b4 Ke6* ½-½ (58) Gukesh,D (2732)-Giri,A (2768) Norway Chess 11th 2023 (6)) 17...Nc4 18.Qg2 Qxc5 19.Bxc4 Qxc4 20.Rc2 Rc8 21.Rhc1 Qd3 22.Be1 Qxe3 23.g5 Nd7 24.Nd5 Rxc2 25.Qxc2 exd5 26.Qc8+ Bd8 27.Bb4 Qd3+ 28.Ka1 Qe3 29.Re1 Qxe1+ 30.Bxe1 Rxh2 ½-½ (41) Bellmann,H (2237)-Kunze,J (2098) corr 29. DSFC/V08-S 2023]



16.g4!± Bxc5 1.29/22

[⌓16...Na5 0.93/18]

17.f4 Ne7 18.Bg2 Rd8 19.h4 Nfd5 1.64/18

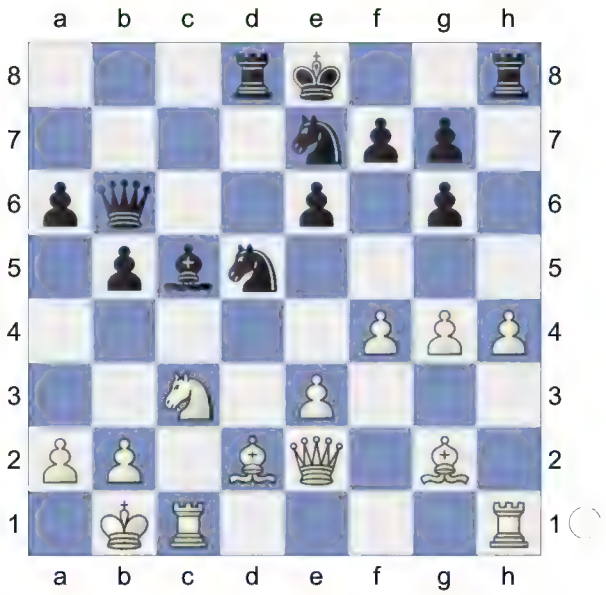
[19...Bb6± 1.15/21]

20.Rc1 0.94/20

[20.Nxd5+- 1.64/18 Nxd5 21.h5]

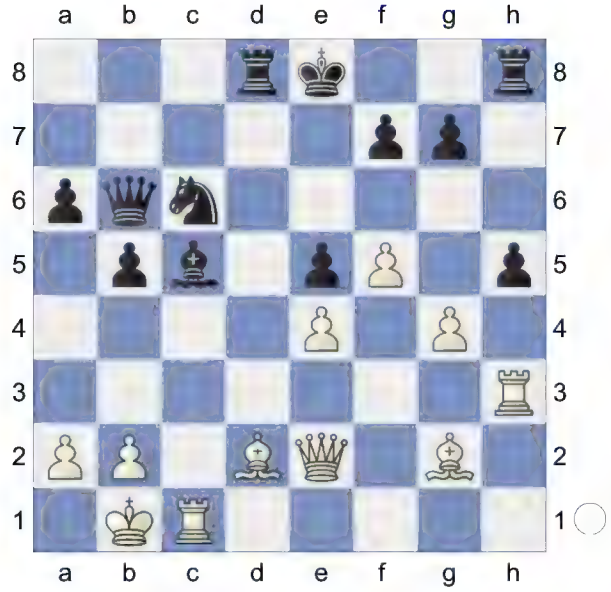
20...Qb6 1.50/19

[Black should play 20...Nb6 0.94/20]



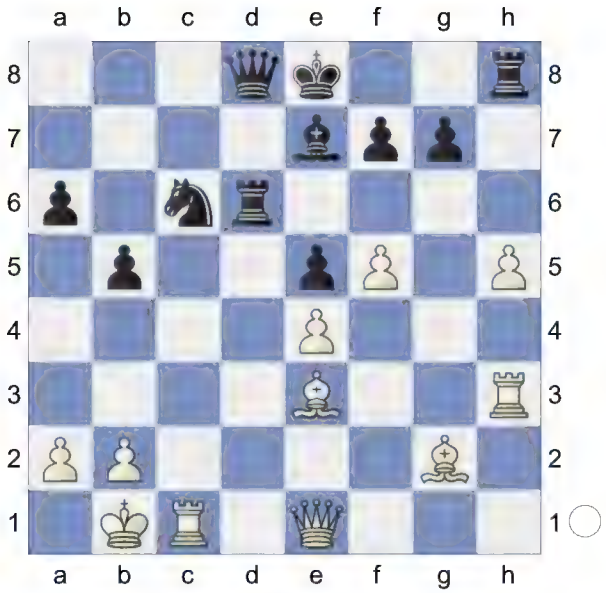
21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.e4 Ne7 23.Rh3 e5

24.f5
[24.fxe5 Bd4]
24...Nc6 1.78/19
[24...Qd6± 0.97/18 25.Ba5 Bb6 26.Bxb6 Qxb6]
25.h5 gxh5

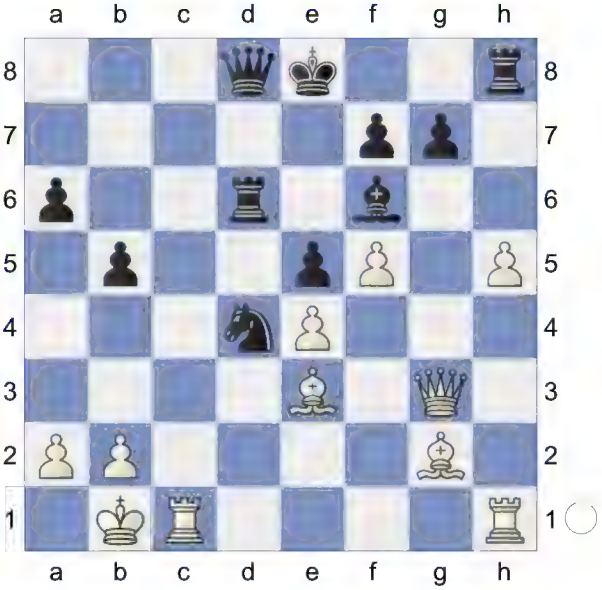


26.gxh5
[26.Rxh5?! Rxh5 27.gxh5 Be7±]
26...Be7 27.Qe1 0.39/19
[27.h6 gxh6 28.Rxh6 *(28.Bxh6 Nd4±)* 28...Rxh6 29.Bxh6 Nd4=]
[White should play 27.Rhc3± 1.57/20 Nd4 28.Qg4]
27...Rd6 1.31/19
[27...Qd4!± 0.39/19 28.Bc3 *(28.Rxc6 Qxd2 29.Qxd2 Rxd2=)* 28...Qd6]
28.Be3 Qd8 1.36/19
[⌓28...Nd4 0.99/19]

(Diagram)



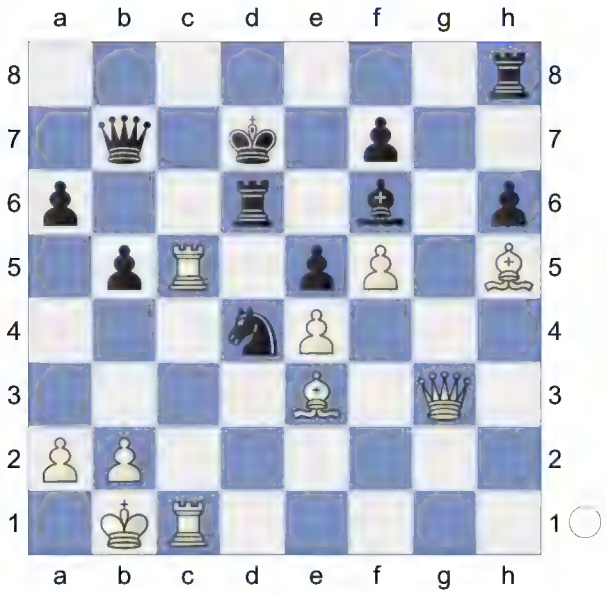
29.Qg3 0.78/20
[⌓29.Bc5! 1.36/19]
Loses the game. **29...Bf6** 2.03/21
[29...Rd1± 0.78/20 30.Qxg7 Bf6]
30.Rhh1 Nd4 1.87/19
[30...Na5± 1.41/18 was called for.]



31.Bf3+- Ke7 2.65/18
[⌓31...Kf8 1.69/16 32.Qg2 Ke7]
32.Rc5 Qb6 4.02/17
[⌓32...Re8 2.56/17 33.Rhc1 Kf8]
33.Rhc1 Kd7 34.h6 Strongly threatening Bh5. **34...gxh6** 5.77/17

[⌓34...Qb7 3.85/16 35.hxg7 Rg8 36.Bxd4 Rxd4]

35.Bh5 Qb7



36.Ka1 Qxe4? 7.38/18

[36...Rf8 3.61/15 37.Bxh6 Rd8 38.Bxf7 Rh8]

37.Rc7+

[37.Bxf7 Nc6 38.Be6+ Ke7]

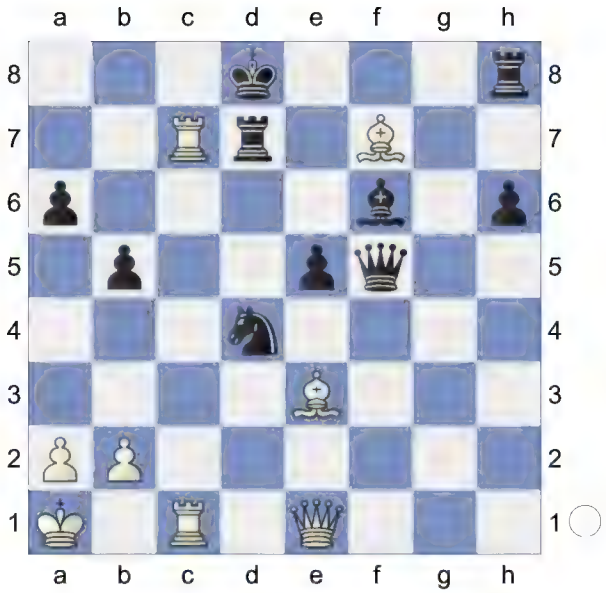
37...Kd8 38.Qe1

[38.Rxf7? Nc2+ *(38...Nxf5? too greedy. 39.Qf2+-)* 39.Rxc2 Qxc2-+]

38...Qxf5 39.Bxf7 Rd7 5.59/18

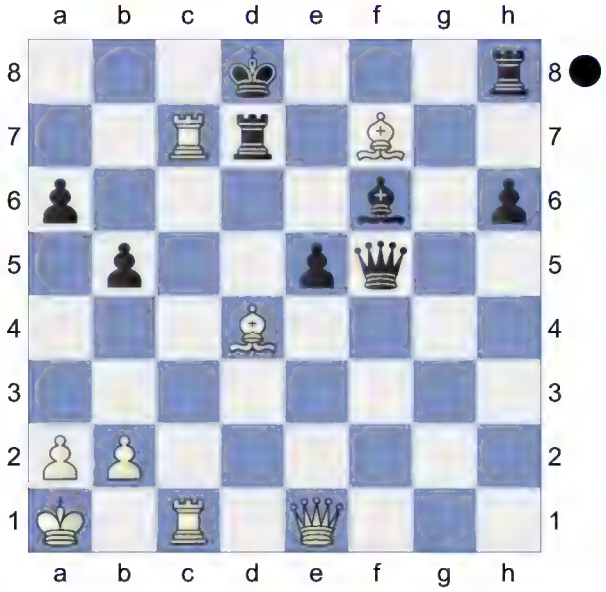
[⌓39...Rf8 3.69/17]

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.29 (precise) /Black=0.56

40.Bxd4!

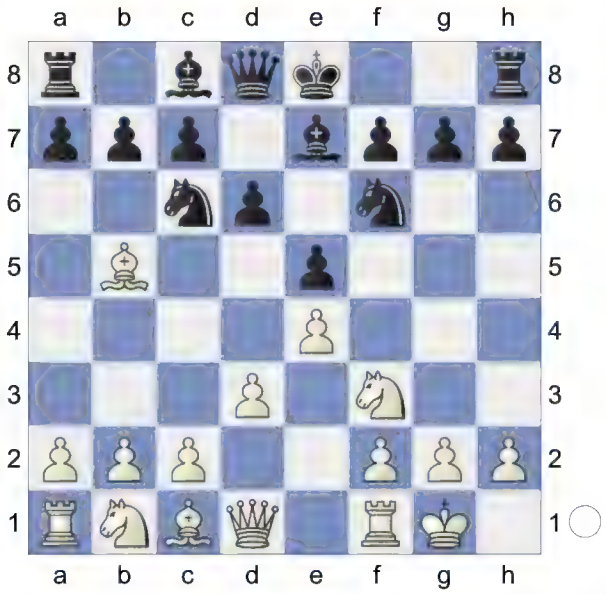


1-0

167 **C65**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
■ **Vescovi,G** **2606**
6th Sharjah Masters 2023 (1.2) 17.05.23
[TA]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 d6 5.0-0 Be7

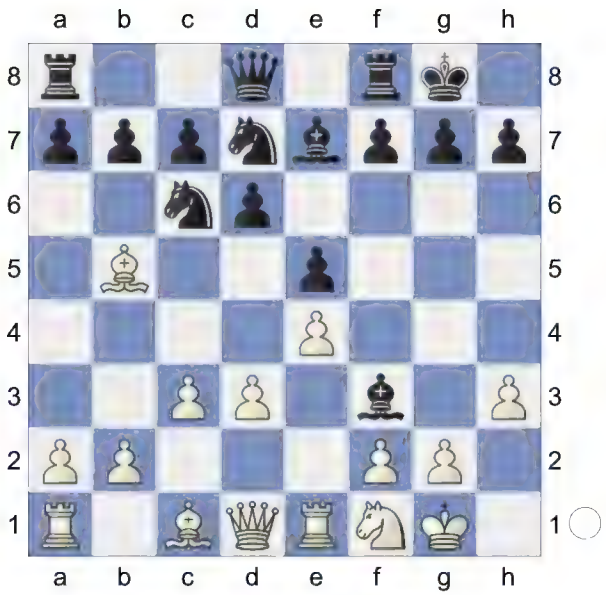


6.c3 0-0 7.Nbd2 Bg4 8.Re1 Nd7 9.h3 Bh5 White is better. **10.Nf1 Bxf3N**

[10...Nb6 11.Ng3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Bg5 13.d4 27. Ruy Lopez Anti-Berlin-Anti Berlin Be7]

[10...a6 11.Ba4 b5 12.Bc2 f5 13.exf5 d5 14.a4 4...d6 Pin Variation: 5.O-O B-4...d6 Pin Variation: 5.O-O B]

(Diagram)



11.Qxf3 Bg5 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Nxe3 Nb6 14.Rad1 a6 15.Bxc6 bxc6

16.d4 f6 1.08/16

[16...Re8± 0.70/18]

17.Qg3 0.57/19

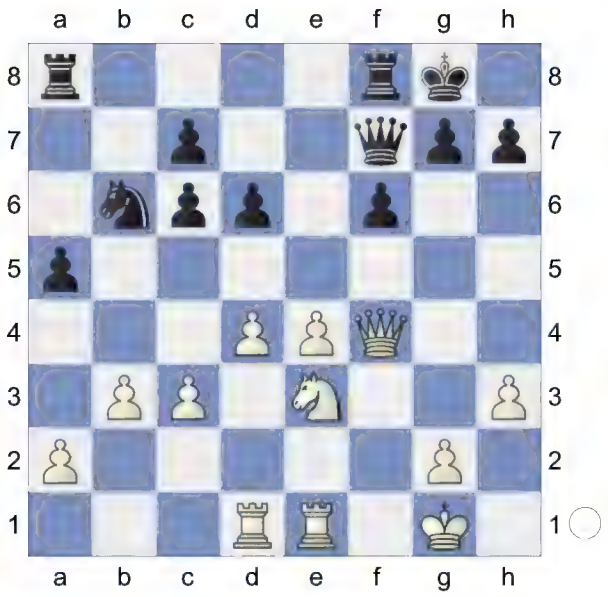
[Better is 17.h4± 1.08/16]

17...Qe8 18.f4

[18.Nf5 feels hotter. g6 19.f4 exf4 20.Nh6+]

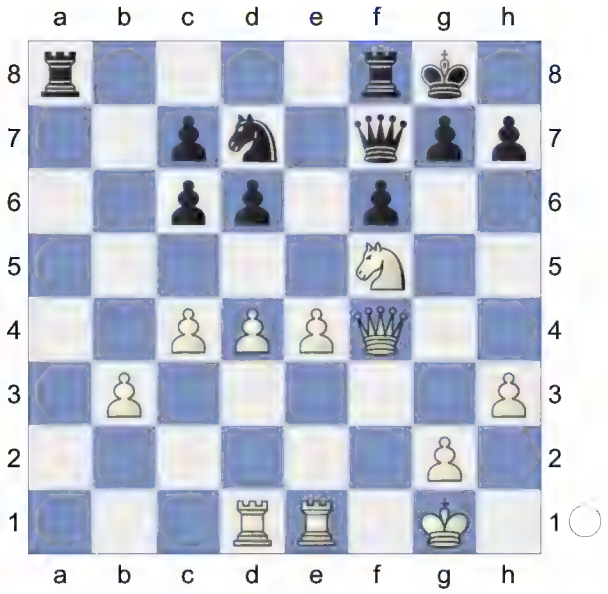
18...exf4 19.Qxf4 Qf7 20.b3 a5

(Diagram)



21.Nf5 a4 22.c4 axb3 23.axb3 Nd7 1.07/19

[23...Nc8± 0.53/19]



24.b4!± White is much more active.

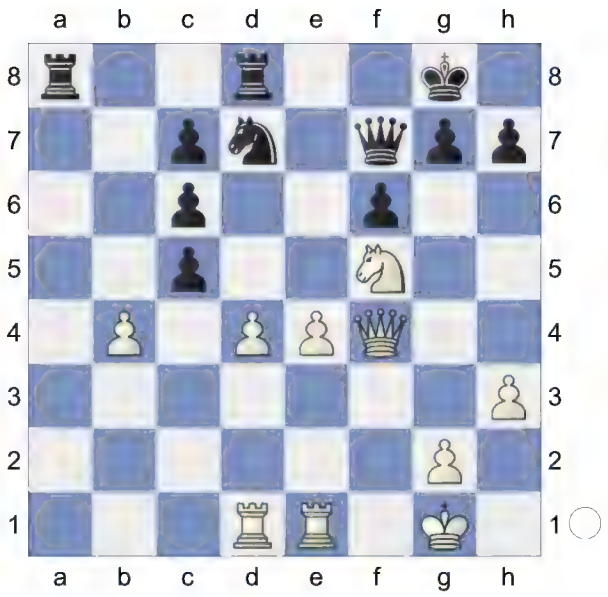
24...Rfd8 1.83/20

[24...Qxc4? 25.Qg4 Rf7 26.Nh6+ *(26.Rc1 Qxb4 27.Nh6+ Kf8+-)* 26...Kh8 27.Qe2+- *(27.Nxf7+ Qxf7 28.Ra1 Rf8+-)*]

[24...Rfb8± 1.03/19]

25.c5+- dxc5

(Diagram)



26.Qg3

[26.dxc5 Ne5=]

[26.Qxc7 cxb4 27.Rb1 *(27.Qxc6 b3±)* 27...Nf8 28.Qxc6 Rab8]

[26.bxc5?! Nf8±]

This move loses the game for Black.

26...Qf8 1.94/18

[26...Kh8± 0.68/20]

27.bxc5

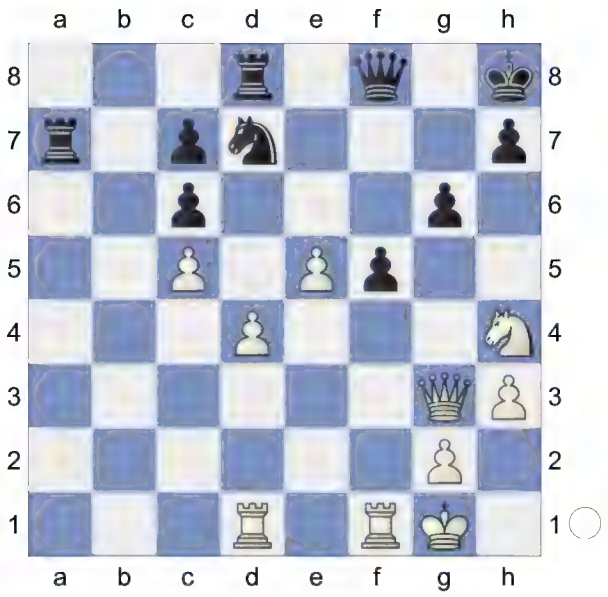
[Stronger than 27.dxc5 Ne5=]

27...Ra7 4.37/24

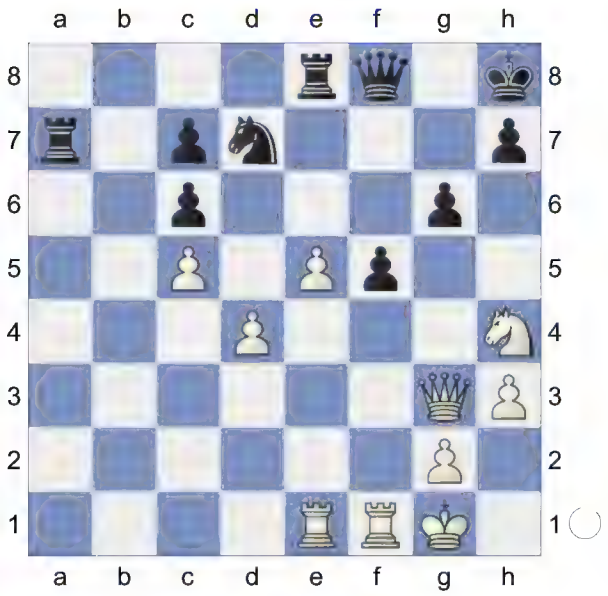
[27...g6 1.81/17 might work better. 28.Ne3 Ra7]

28.Rf1 g6 29.e5 Kh8 30.Nh4 f5

(Diagram)

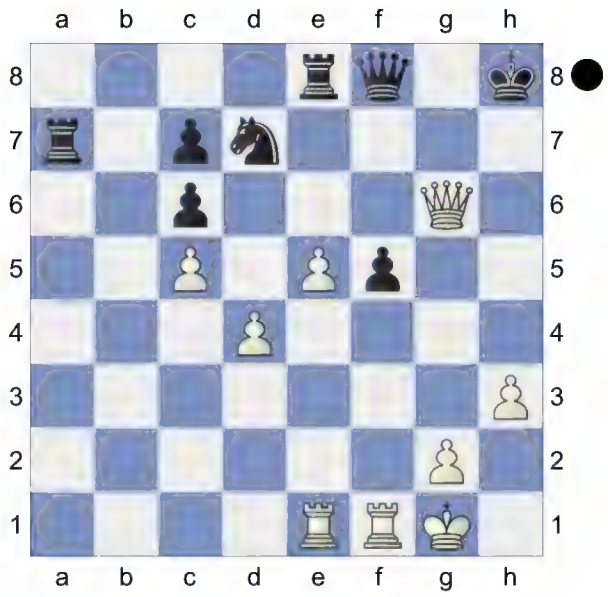


31.Rde1 e6 would now be deadly.
31...Re8 5.05/22
[31...Qg8 1.93/17 32.Nf3 Re8]



32.Nxg6+! Demolition **32...hxg6**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.47
33.Qxg6

(Diagram)



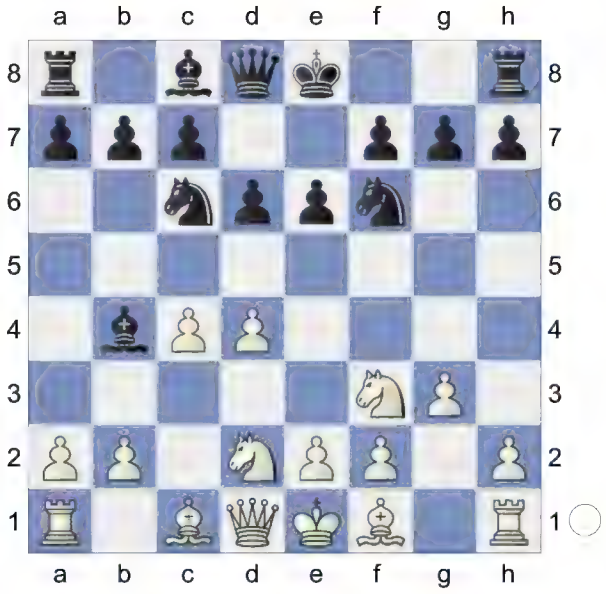
1-0

168 **A50**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2730**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2691**
Titled Tue 21st Mar Early blitz (8)
[Kitty Kat]

E11: Bogo-Indian
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.g3 Bb4+N
[4...g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 d6 8.b3 Re8 9.Bb2 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Rxe5 12.Nb5 Re8 13.e3 h5 14.h3 a6 15.Nc3 c6 16.Qd2 Qe7 17.Rad1 Rd8 18.Rfe1 Be6 19.Ne2 0-1 (44) Gukesh,D (2736)-Pranav,V (2608) Chess.com U20 Speed blitz 2023 (2.15) d5 20.Qc1 dxc4 21.bxc4 Qb4 22.Nf4 Bxc4 23.Bc3 Qa4 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Qa1 Ne8 26.Bxg7 Nxg7 27.Qf6 Rd1 28.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 29.Kh2 Bxa2 30.Be4 Qd7 31.Qe5 Qe8 32.Qd4 c5 33.Qd3 b5 34.Bb7 0-1 (44) Sikorova, J (2736)-Schmucker,R (2608) Baku

op 2010 (2.15)]

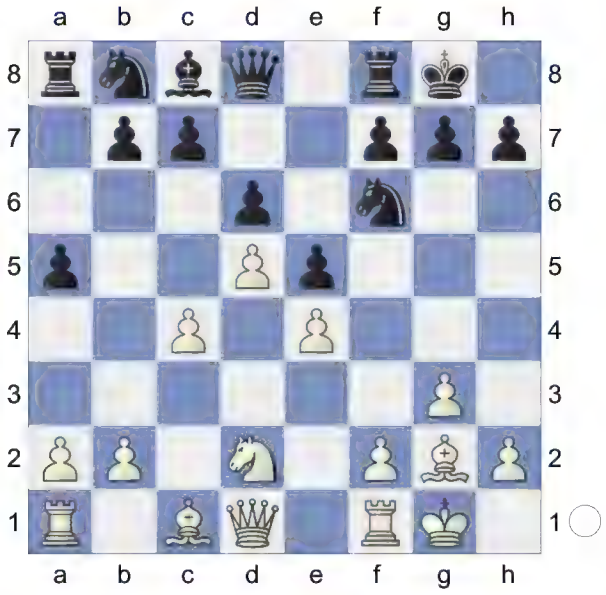
5.Nbd2 d6



6.Bg2 0-0 0.66/21

[6...a5!= 0.26/22]

7.0-0!± e5 8.d5 Bxd2 9.Nxd2 White is better. **9...Nb8 10.e4 a5**

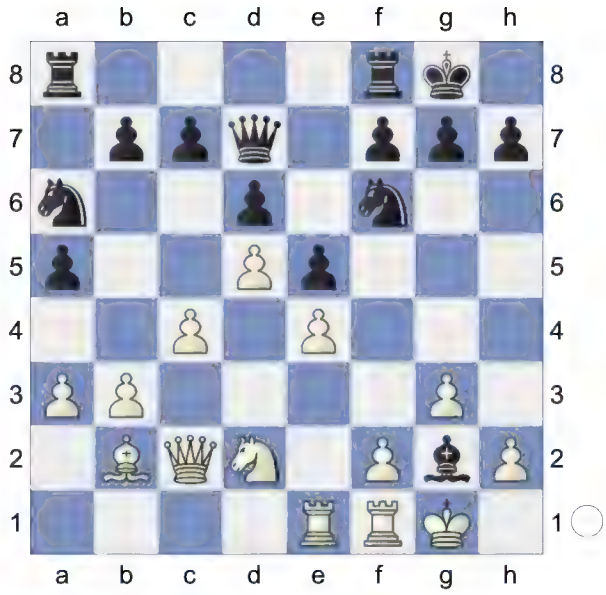


11.b3 Na6 12.a3 Bg4 13.Qc2 Qd7 1.03/25

[13...Bh5± 0.63/21]

14.Bb2± Bh3 15.Rae1 Bxg2

(Diagram)

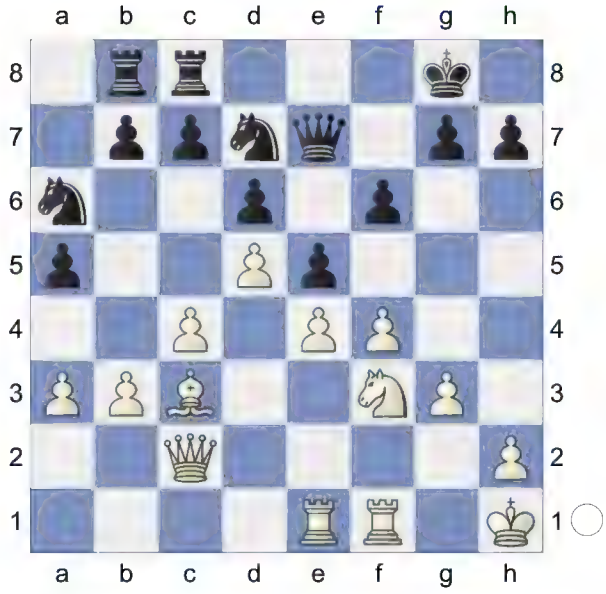


16.Kxg2 Qe7 17.f4 Nd7 18.Nf3 f6 19.Kh1 Rab8 1.39/21

[19...Nac5± 0.70/20]

20.Bc3 White is more active. **20...Rfc8** 2.01/20

[20...b6± 1.25/18 is a better defense. 21.Nh4 Nac5]



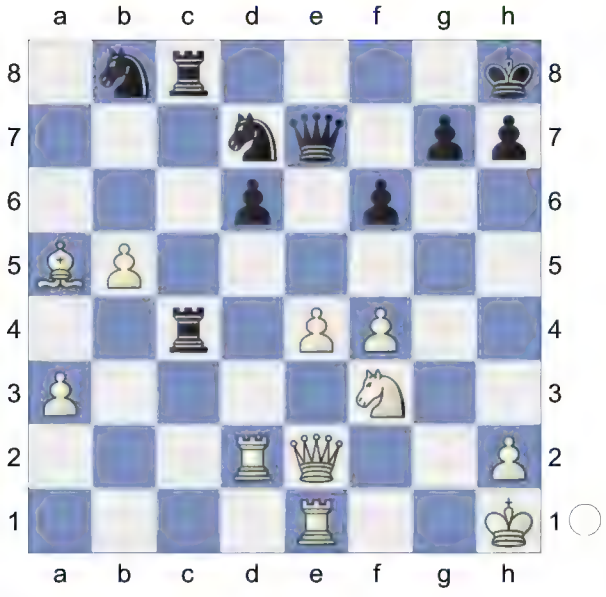
21.Bxa5+- c6 22.Qd1 Kh8 23.Rf2 b5 2.53/20

[23...Nac5± 1.57/20]

24.dxc6 Rxc6 25.cxb5 Rxb5

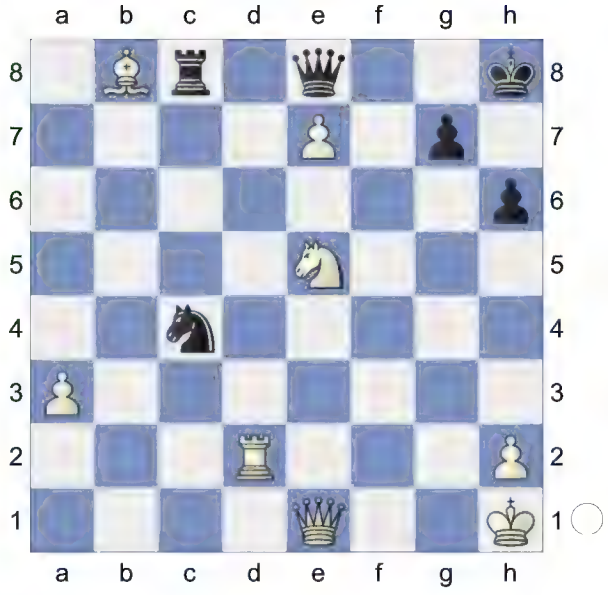
(Diagram)

26.b4 Rb8 27.Rd2 exf4 3.57/22
[⌓27...Nc7 2.16/21 28.a4 Ne8]
28.gxf4 Rbc8 29.Qe2 b5 would now be deadly. **29...Rc4 30.b5** 1.67/20
[⌓30.Nd4 3.24/18 And now Nf5 would win. Rc1 31.Nf5]
30...Nab8? 3.73/20
[30...Ra4 1.67/20 was necessary.]



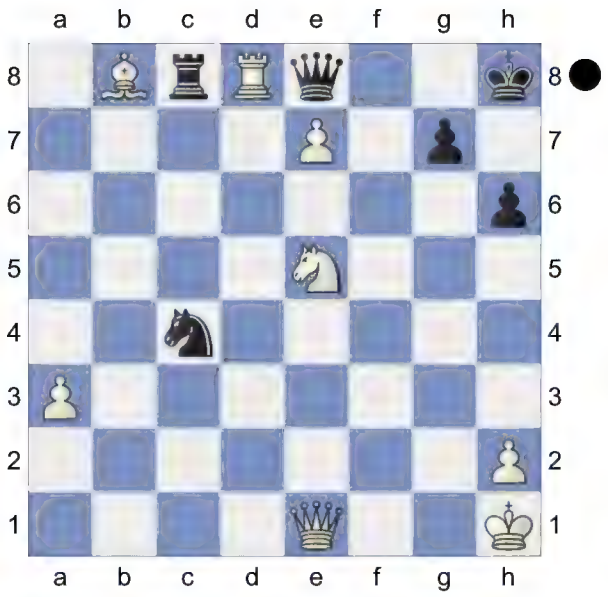
31.Bb4 Qe8 32.Bxd6
[Don't do 32.Rxd6 Rc2+-]
32...h6 33.e5 White is clearly winning.
33...fxe5 34.fxe5 Nb6 35.e6
Prevents N8d7. **35...Qxb5**

Black is weak on the dark squares **36.e7 Qe8 37.Ne5** Prevents N8d7. **37...Rc1 38.Bxb8** Strongly threatening Rd8!
38...Rxe1+ 39.Qxe1 Nc4



40.Rd8!

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.50
1-0

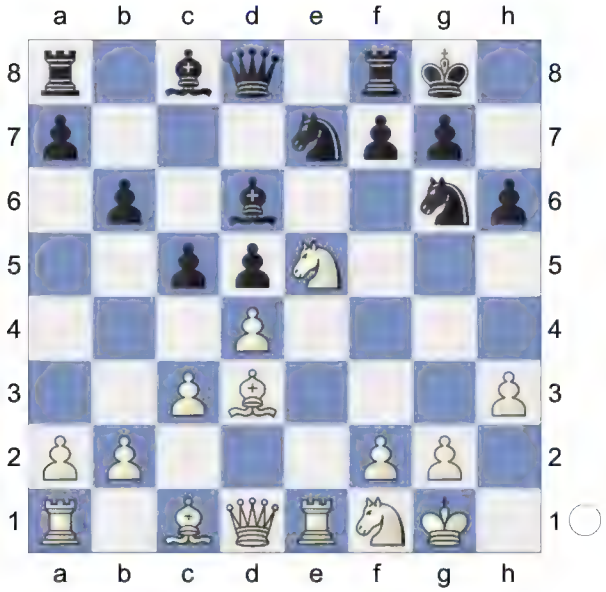
169 **C01**
□ **Harika,Dronavalli** **2507**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2730**
PRO League Prelim rapid (3.1) 02.03.23
[TA]

C01: French: Exchange Variation
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Bd3 Nc6

(Diagram)

6.c3 Nge7 7.h3 -0.16/22
[7.0-0± 0.53/19]
7...0-0= 8.0-0 Ng6!? Against Nh4 Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.
[8...Bf5 9.Re1 Re8 *(9...Qd7 10.Qc2 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Qf5 12.Qxf5 Nxf5 13.g4 Nfe7 14.Ne5 f6 15.Nd3 b6 16.Bf4 Rad8 17.Nd2 Ng6 18.Bxd6 Rxd6 19.f4 Kf7 20.f5 Nh4 21.Kf2 g6 22.Kg3 g5 23.Re3 Re8 24.Rxe8* 1-0 (49) Stamatiou,R (2274)-Santos,I (1980) Titled Tuesday intern op 21st Jan Late blitz 2025 (4)*)* 10.Bg5 f6 11.Be3 Qd7 12.Bxf5 Nxf5 13.Qd3 Nxe3 14.Rxe3 Rxe3 15.fxe3 Ne7 16.Nbd2 f5 17.c4 c6 18.Rc1 Re8 19.Nb3 dxc4 20.Qxc4+ Nd5 21.Re1 Qf7 22.Nc5 Bxc5 23.Qxc5 1-0 (28) Tregubov,P (2553)-Gutkin,I (2240) Titled Tuesday intern op 15th Nov Early blitz 2022 (3)]
9.Re1N
[9.Qc2 Nce7 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Be6 12.Nh2 Qd7 13.f4 Nf5 14.Bc1 Ngh4 15.Qf2 1-0 Massot,J-Roos,J FRA-ch 52th Le Touquet 1977 (11)]
9...h6 The position is equal. **10.Na3N**

[Predecessor: 10.Nbd2 Nce7 11.Nf1 b6 0.57/19 *(11...Bf5= 0.12/19)* 12.Ne5 c5 0.88/19 *(12...Bf5= 0.29/18)*

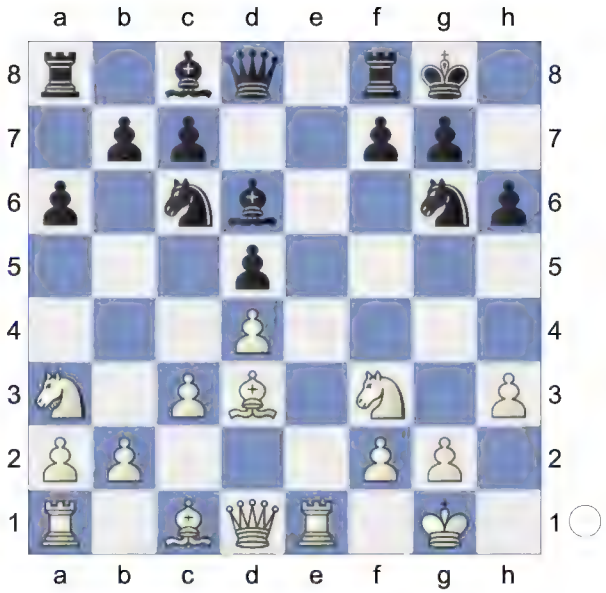


13.Nxg6 0.40/21 *(13.Ng3!± 0.88/19)* 13...Nxg6± 14.Be2 -0.41/18 *(14.dxc5± 0.51/19 Bxc5 15.Ng3)* 14...Bb7 0.13/19 *(14...Be6∓ -0.41/18)* 15.dxc5 -0.35/19 *(15.Ne3= 0.13/19)* 15...bxc5∓ 16.Bf3 1-0 (43) Cibulskyte,S (1085)-Mikulinaite,M (1136) Plateliai 2022]

10...a6 0.45/19

[10...Nce7= 0.00/20 deserves consideration.]

(Diagram)



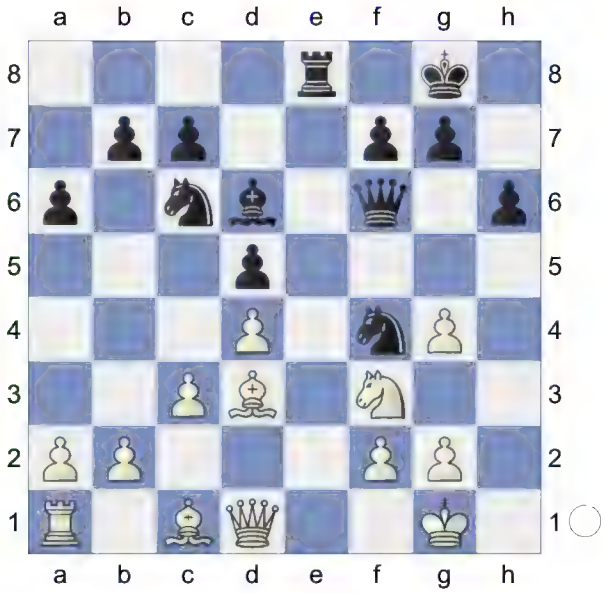
11.Nc2± Qf6 12.Ne3 Nf4 13.Ng4 0.05/20

[13.Bc2± 0.97/20]

13...Bxg4= 14.hxg4 Rae8 0.52/20

[14...Nxd3= 0.04/21 15.Qxd3 Rfe8]

15.Rxe8 Rxe8



16.Bf1 Qe6 17.Bxf4 Bxf4 18.Nh4 -0.06/21

[White should try 18.Qb3± 0.60/21 Rb8 19.Re1]

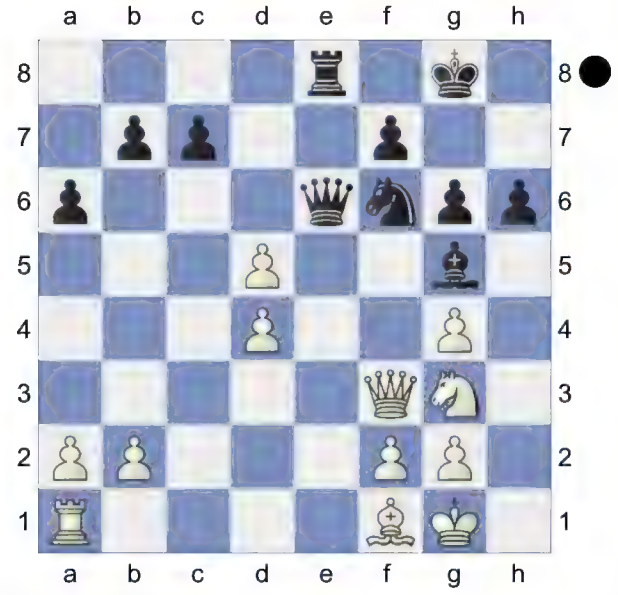
18...Bg5 19.Nf5 -0.81/22

[19.Nf3= 0.09/21]

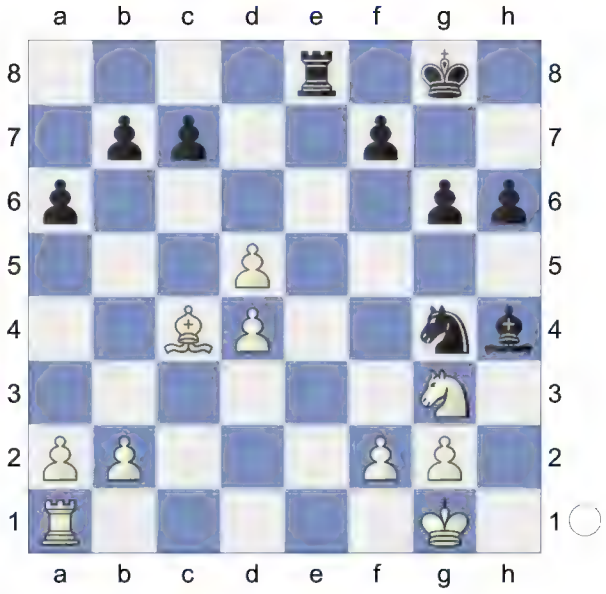
19...g6↑ Black is more active. **20.Ng3**

Nb8

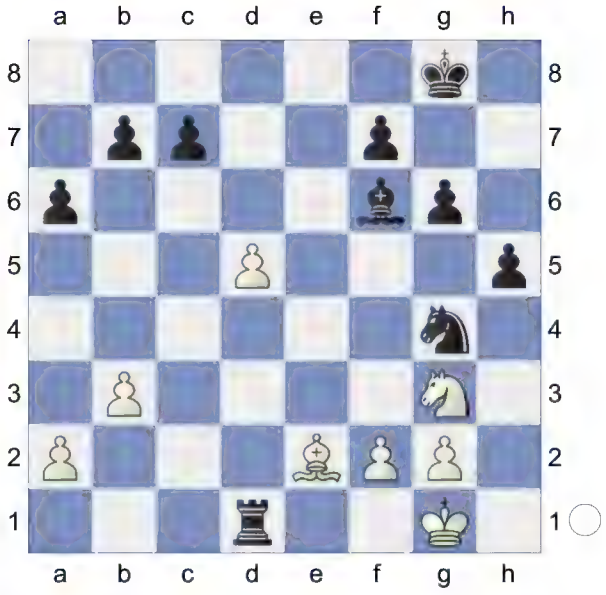
21.Qf3 Nd7
[21...Kg7 with more complications. 22.Rd1 Qd6 23.c4 c6]
22.c4 -1.30/20 White is weak on the dark squares **22...Nf6∓**
[22...dxc4 23.Qxb7 Bf6 *(23...Qxg4 24.Bxc4 Qxd4 25.Qxc7∓)* 24.Qxc7]
23.cxd5



Qxg4 -0.97/19
[Black should play 23...Qb6! -1.37/20 24.b3 Qxd4]
24.Qxg4 Nxg4 25.Bc4 -1.74/20
[25.Be2∓ -0.97/22 Nf6 26.d6]
25...Bh4-+

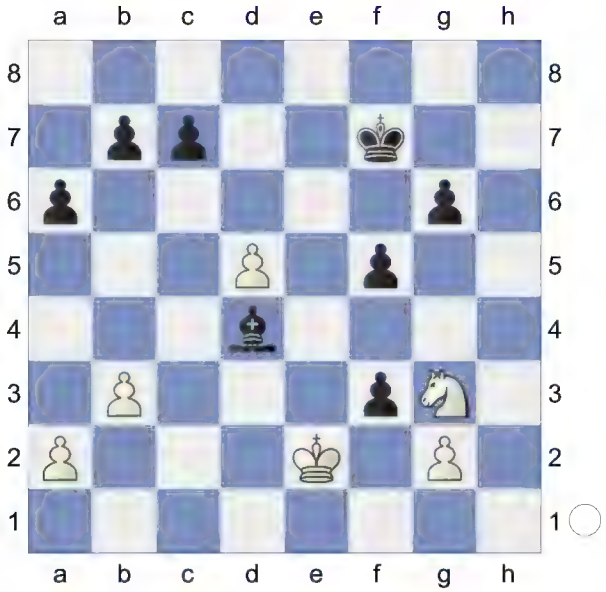


26.Nh1 -2.47/21
[⌓26.a4 -1.67/21]
26...Bf6 27.Rd1 Re4 28.Ng3 -2.70/22
[28.d6∓ -1.58/22 cxd6 29.Bd5 Rxd4 30.Rxd4 Bxd4 31.Bxb7]
28...Rxd4 29.Be2 Strongly threatening Rxd4. **29...h5 30.b3 Rxd1+**

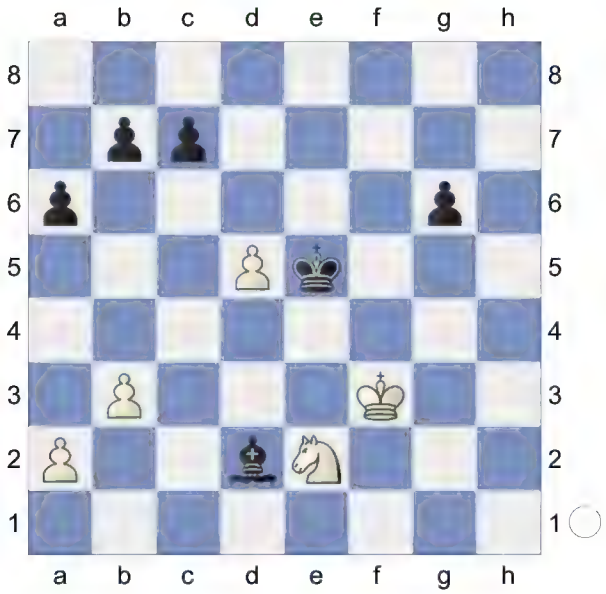


31.Bxd1 Bd4 32.Bxg4 hxg4
Endgame KB-KN. Black is a pawn up.
33.Kf1 f5 34.Ke2? -5.64/21
[34.Ne2 -3.00/22 Be5 35.Nc1]

34...Kf7 Black is clearly winning. **35.f4 gxf3+**

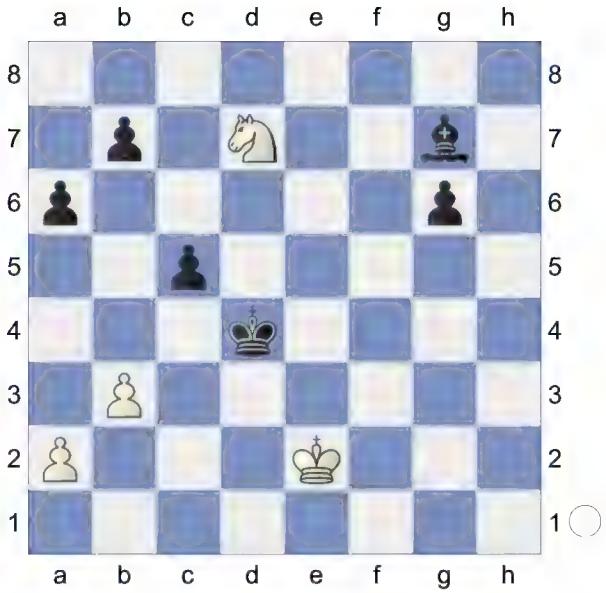


36.Kxf3 Kf6 37.Ne2 Ke5 38.g4 fxg4+
[Not 38...Kxd5 39.Nf4+ Kd6 40.Nxg6=]
39.Kxg4 Be3
[Less strong is 39...Kxd5 40.Kg5∓]
40.Kf3 Bd2

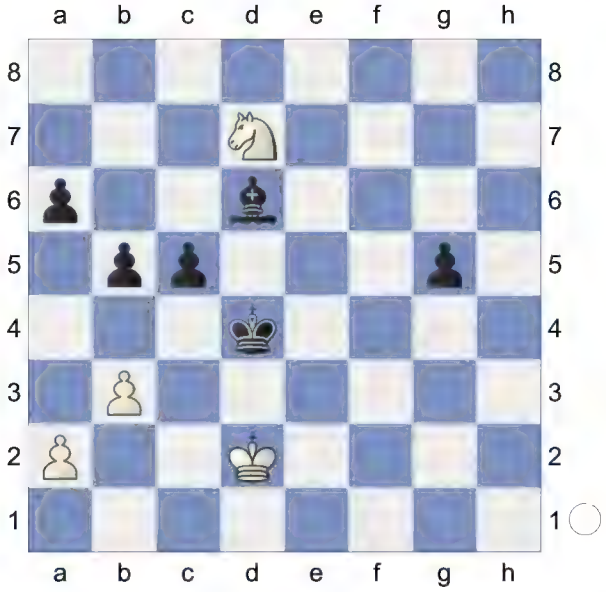


41.Ng3 Kxd5 42.Ne4 Bh6 43.Nf6+ Kd4 44.Ke2 c5 45.Nd7 Bg7

(Diagram)

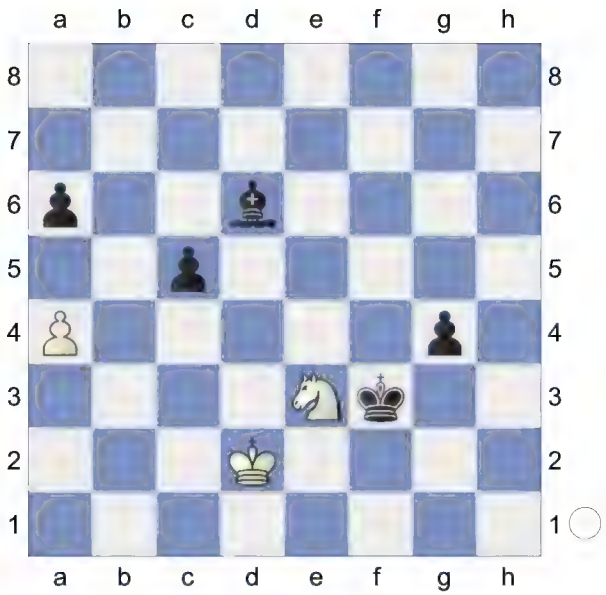


46.Nb6 Be5 47.Kf3 Bc7 48.Nd7 b5 49.Ke2 Bd6 50.Kd2 g5

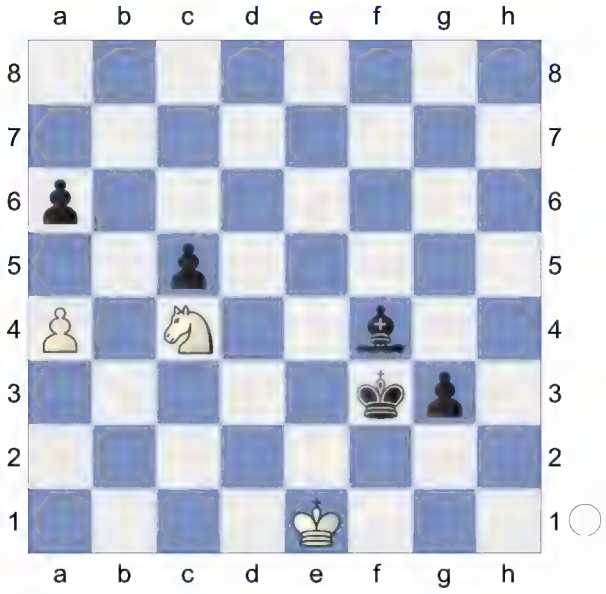


51.Nf6 Ke5 52.Ng4+ Kf4 53.Ne3 g4 54.a4 bxa4 55.bxa4 Kf3

(Diagram)



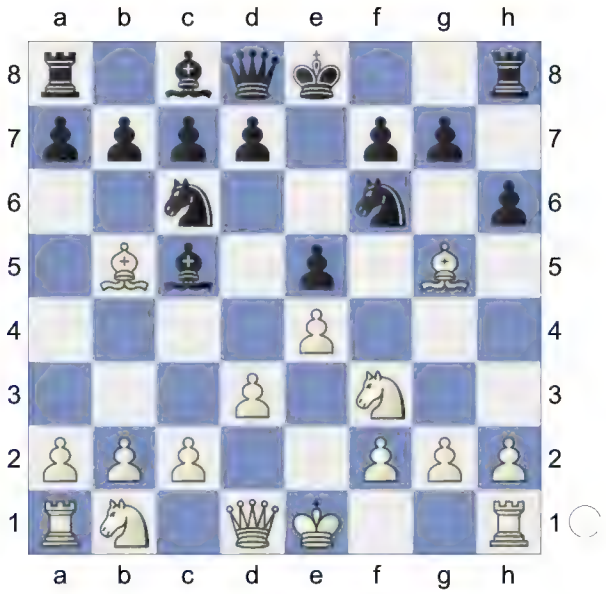
and ...Bf4 should not be overlooked
56.Nc4 Bf4+ 57.Ke1
Weighted Error Value: White=0.51/ Black=0.15 (very precise)
57...g3 -29.48/22
[⌓57...a5 -18.96/20 58.Nxa5 g3]



0-1

170 **C65**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2718**
■ **Aronian,Levon** **2736**
Dusseldorf WR Masters playoff (4.1)
[TA]

C65: Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (3...Nf6), unusual lines and 4 0-0 Bc5
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bg5 h6



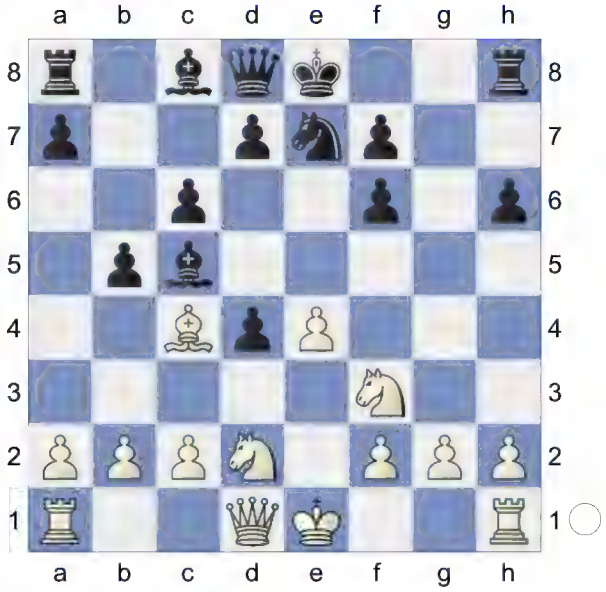
6.Bh4 Ne7!? 6...Be7 gains popularity. A promising side line. 6...Le7 wird beliebter. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante. **7.Bxf6 gxf6 8.d4** Black is slightly better. **8...exd4 9.Nbd2N**
[Vorgänger: 9.0-0 c6 10.Bc4
A) 10...d6= -0.30/18;
B) 10...Rg8 11.Kh1 Qb6 *(11...b5 12.Be2 Qb6 13.Nbd2 d6 14.Nb3 f5 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Nfxd4 Be4 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Nxf3 0-0-0 19.a4 b4 20.c3 Nd5 21.Qc2 Kb8 22.a5 Qc7 23.cxb4 Nxb4 24.Qc4 Qd7 25.Rac1 Qg4 26.Qxg4* ½-½ (75) Gukesh,D (2758)-Wei,Y (2726) Asian Games tt 2023 (6.5)) 12.Bb3 d6 13.Nbd2 Bg4 14.Qe2 Ng6

15.Qc4 Qc7 16.Nxd4 b5 17.Qc3 Nf4 18.f3 Bc8 19.g3 b4 20.Qe3 Ne6 21.c3 h5 22.Ba4 h4 23.g4 Bd7 24.N2b3 bxc3 25.Nxe6 0-1 (62) Vokhidov,S (2586)-Lou,Y (2492) PRO League KO Stage rapid 2023 (3.3);

C) 10...0-0 0.42/18 11.Nxd4± d6 12.c3 f5 13.Nd2 Kg7 0.79/19 *(13...Bxd4= 0.15/19 14.cxd4 d5 15.exd5 Nxd5)* 14.Bd3± f4 15.N2f3 0.45/18 0-1 (71) Saric,I (2680)-So,W (2773) Zagreb 2022 *(15.Qh5± 0.93/17)*]

9...c6 10.Bc4 b5 0.67/18

[10...d6= -0.24/17]



11.Bd3± White has compensation.

11...d6 12.a4 b4 1.02/18

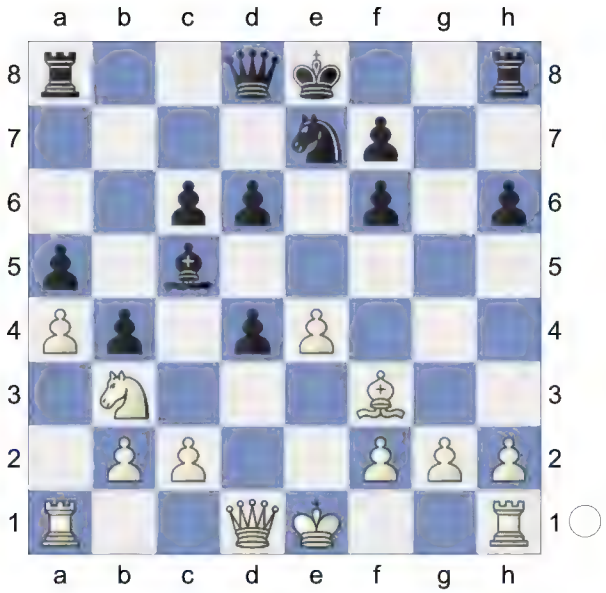
[12...Rg8± 0.54/18]

13.Nb3± Bg4 14.Be2

[14.Nbxd4? Bxd4 15.Rb1 Bc5-+]

14...Bxf3 15.Bxf3 a5

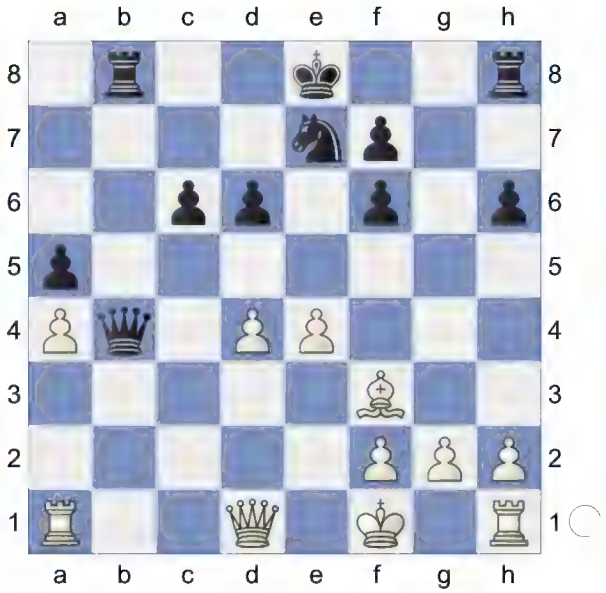
(Diagram)



16.Nxd4 0.22/18

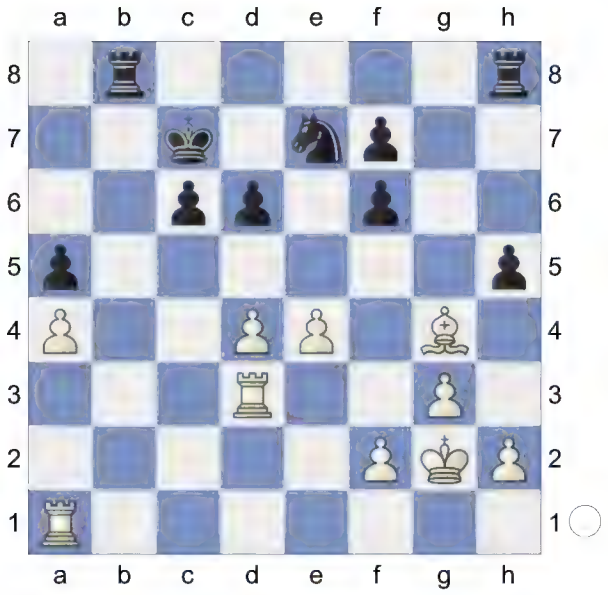
[16.Qd2± 1.48/19]

16...Qb6= 17.c3 bxc3 18.bxc3 Bxd4 19.cxd4 Qb4+ 20.Kf1 Rb8



21.g3 Qb3 22.Kg2 Qxd1 23.Rhxd1 Kd7 24.Bg4+ Kc7 25.Rd3 h5

(Diagram)



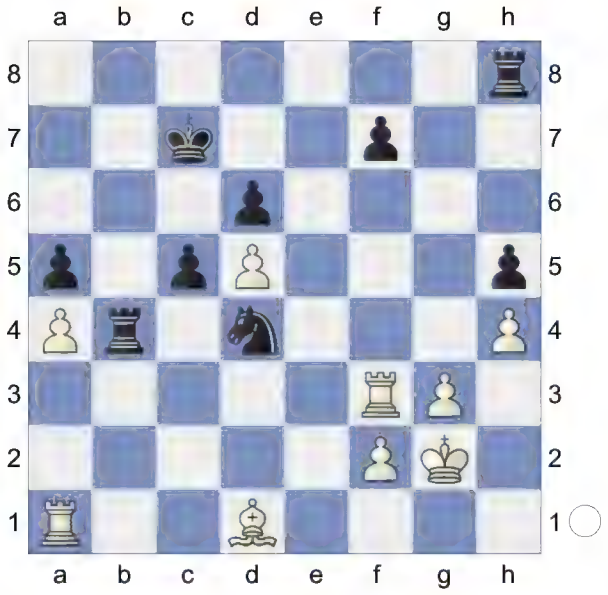
26.Bd1 Rb4 27.h4 f5 28.exf5 Nxf5 1.38/27

[28...d5= 0.07/21]

29.d5!±

[29.Rf3?! Nxd4 30.Rxf7+ Kb6±]

29...c5 30.Rf3 Nd4

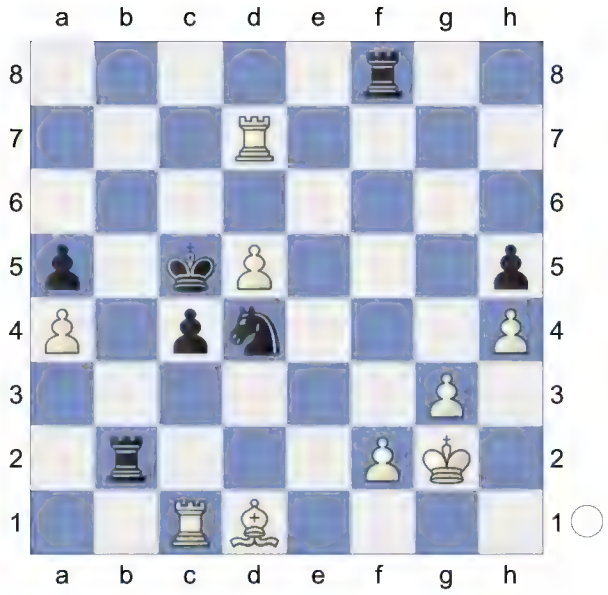


31.Rxf7+ Kb6 32.Rd7 0.92/24

[32.Rf4 1.49/22]

32...c4 33.Rxd6+ Kc5 34.Rd7 Rb2 35.Rc1 Rf8

(Diagram)

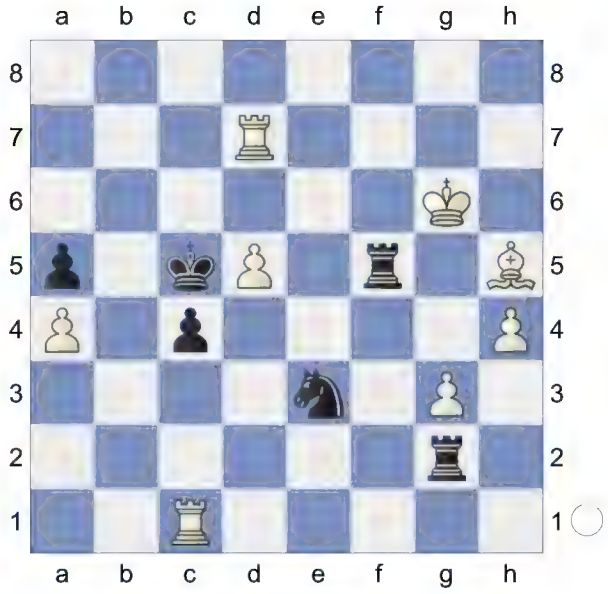


36.Bxh5 Rfxf2+ 37.Kh3 Nf5 38.Kg4 0.37/18

[38.Rc7+ Kd6 39.Ra7 *(39.R1xc4 Ne3=; 39.Rc6+ Kxd5 40.Rc7 Ne3±)* 39...Ne3]

[White should try 38.Rd8± 1.15/19]

38...Ne3+ 39.Kg5 Rf5+ 40.Kg6 Rg2!



41.g4 Rxd5 1.26/24

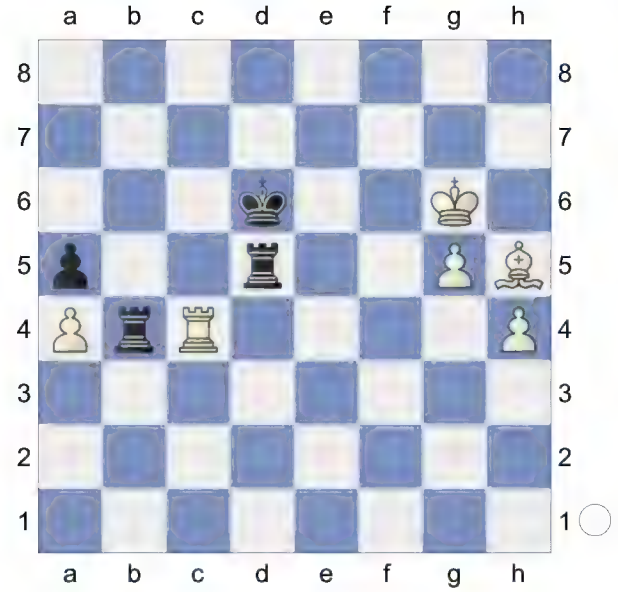
[41...Rf4!= 0.27/19]

42.Rc7+ 0.18/15

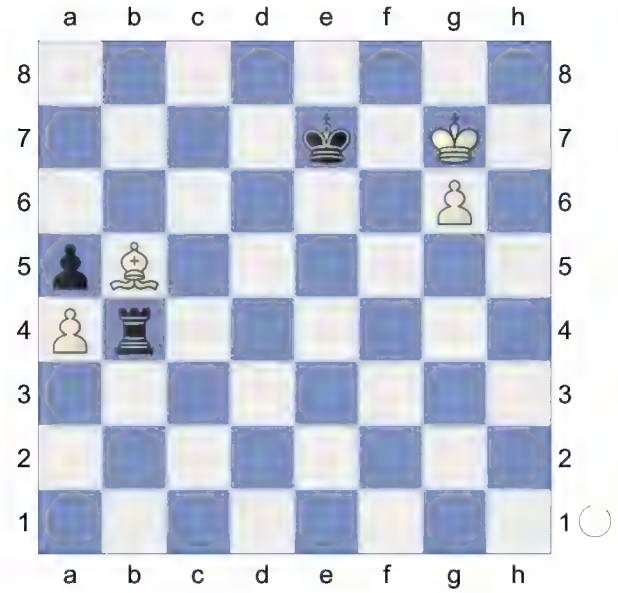
[42.Rxd5+± 1.26/24 Nxd5 43.Kf5]

42...Kd6= 43.R7xc4 Nxc4 44.Rxc4 Endgame KRR-KRB **44...Rb2 45.g5**

Rb4

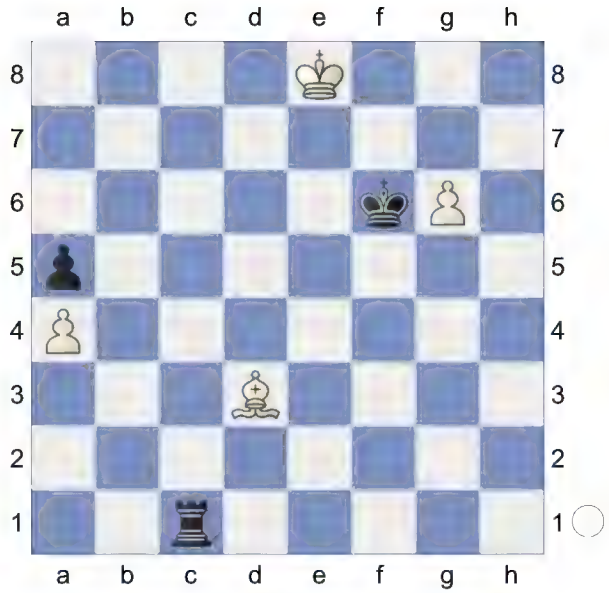


46.Be2 Rxc4 47.Bxc4 KR-KB **47...Rd4**
48.Bb5 Threatens to win with h5.
48...Rxh4 49.Kg7 Ke7 50.g6 Rb4

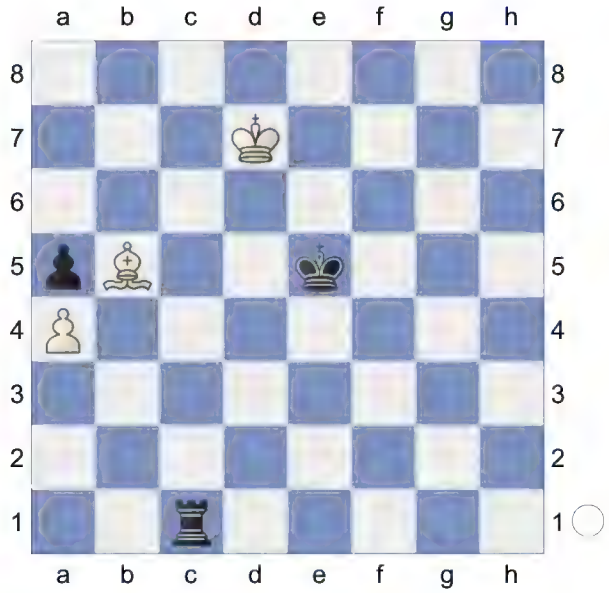


51.Bc6 Rc4 52.Bb5 Rc7 53.Bd3 Ke6+ 54.Kf8! Kf6 55.Ke8! Rc1

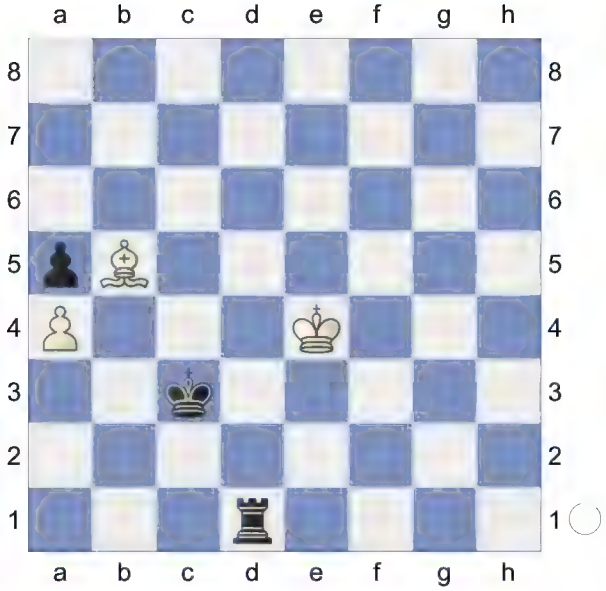
(Diagram)



56.Bb5! Rd1
[Much less strong is 56...Kxg6 57.Kd7∓]
57.Bd7? -11.47/27
[57.g7= -0.07/23 Kxg7 58.Ke7]
57...Kxg6 -4.99/27
[⌓57...Rg1 -11.47/27 58.Kd8 Rxg6 *(58...Kxg6 59.Kc7∓)*]
58.Kd8 Rc1 -0.07/24
[58...Kf6-+ -6.46/29 59.Kc7 Ke5]
59.Bb5? -13.70/27
[59.Ke7= -0.07/24]
59...Kf6-+ 60.Kd7 Ke5!

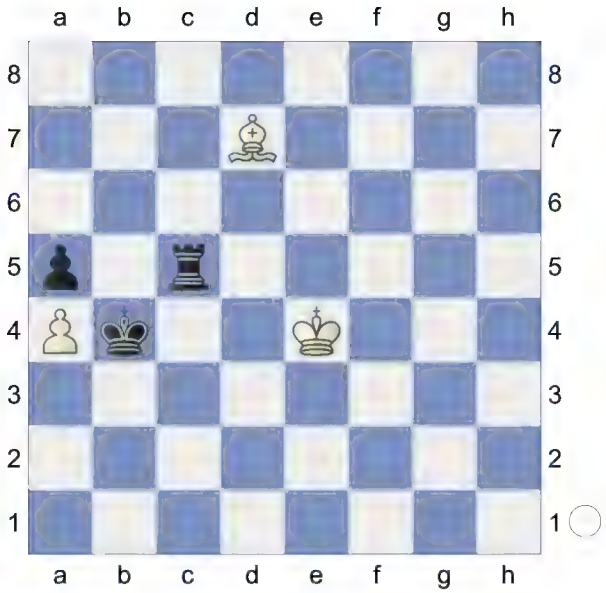


61.Bc6 Kd4 62.Kd6 Kc4? -3.18/25
[62...Rg1 -10.66/27 63.Be8 Rf1]
63.Bb5+? -8.39/37
[63.Ke5 -3.18/25]
63...Kb4? -0.07/46
[63...Kd4!-+ -8.39/37 64.Bd7 Rg1]
64.Kd5 Rd1+ 65.Ke4 Kc3

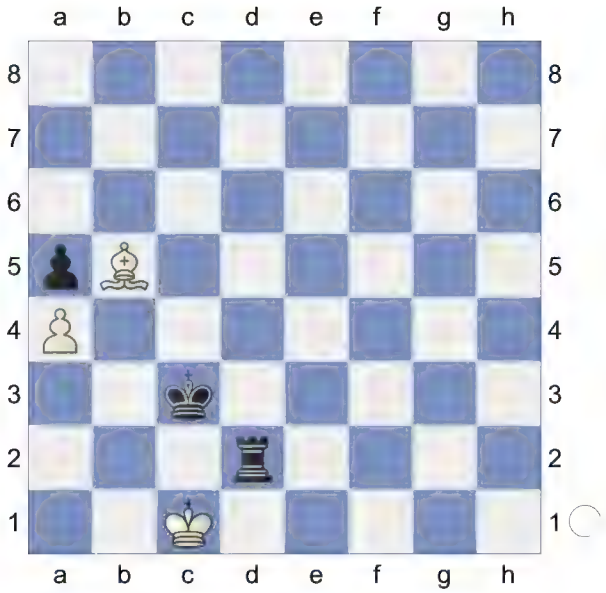


66.Ke5? -10.65/39
[66.Bc6= -0.07/45]
66...Rd4! 67.Be8 Rh4? -0.07/44
[67...Kc4-+ -9.59/36 68.Bb5+ Kc5]
68.Bb5? -8.31/36
[68.Kd5= -0.07/44]
68...Rh5+? -0.07/48
[68...Rd4-+ -8.31/36 69.Bc6 Kc4 70.Bb5+ Kc5]
69.Ke4= Rc5 70.Bd7 Kb4

(Diagram)

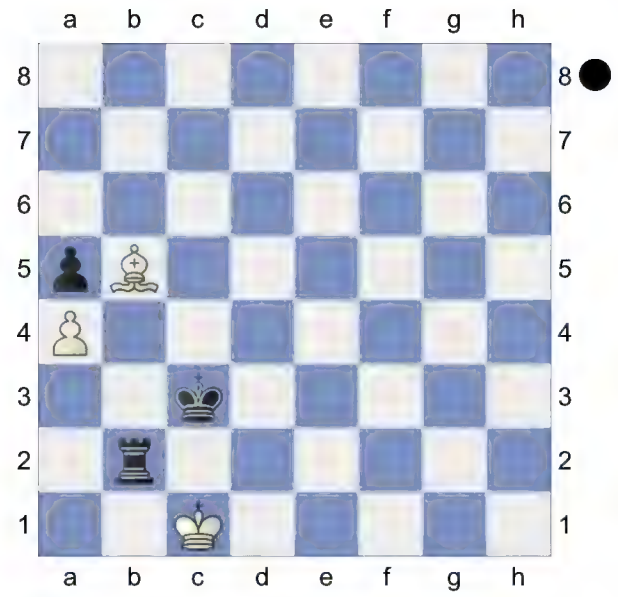


71.Bb5 Rc1 72.Kd3 Rd1+ 73.Kc2? -13.90/30
[73.Ke4= -0.07/41]
73...Rd8 74.Kb2 Rd2+ 75.Kc1 Kc3

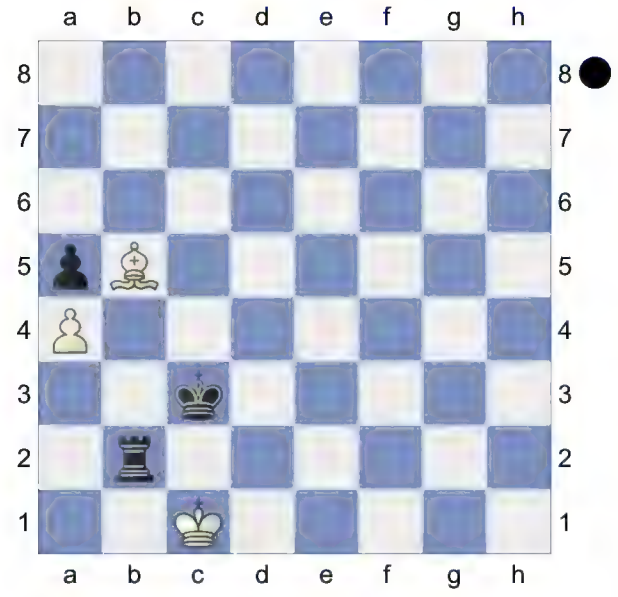


76.Kb1 Rb2+ 77.Kc1

(Diagram)

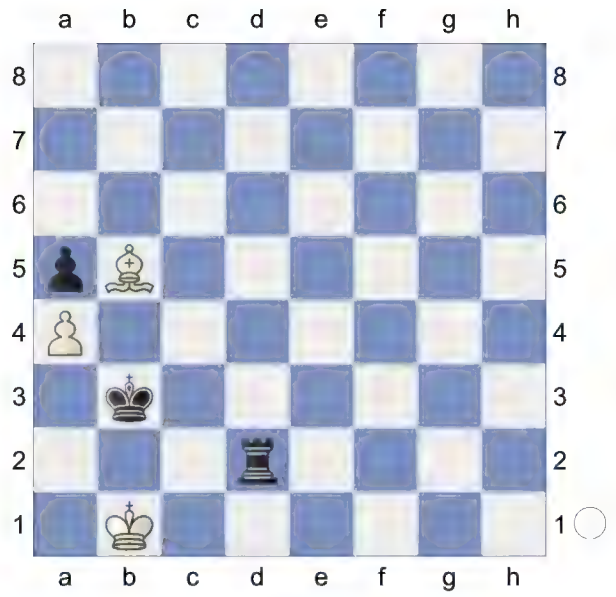


Rb4? -0.07/28
[Better is 77...Rd2!-+ -12.06/39 78.Bc6 Rd8]
78.Kd1! Rb2 79.Kc1? -11.37/34
[79.Be8= -0.07/36]

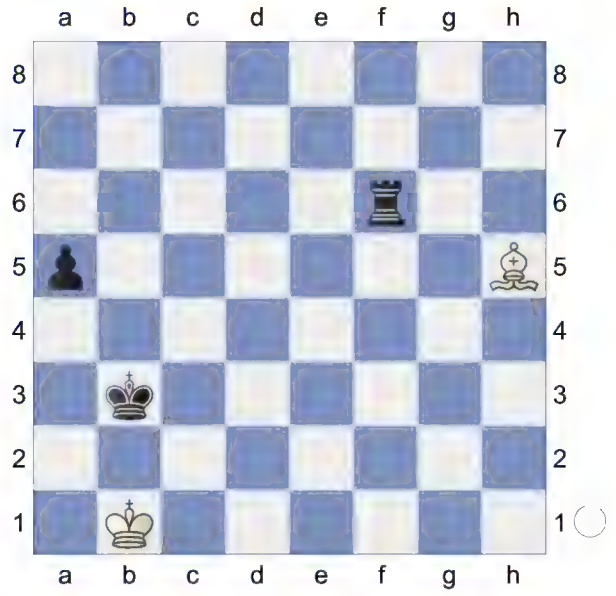


79...Rd2!-+ 80.Kb1 Kb3

(Diagram)



81.Kc1 Against Rd1+ **81...Rd8 82.Be2 Kxa4 83.Kb1 Kb3 84.Bg4 Rd6** (-> ...a4) **85.Bh5 Rf6**

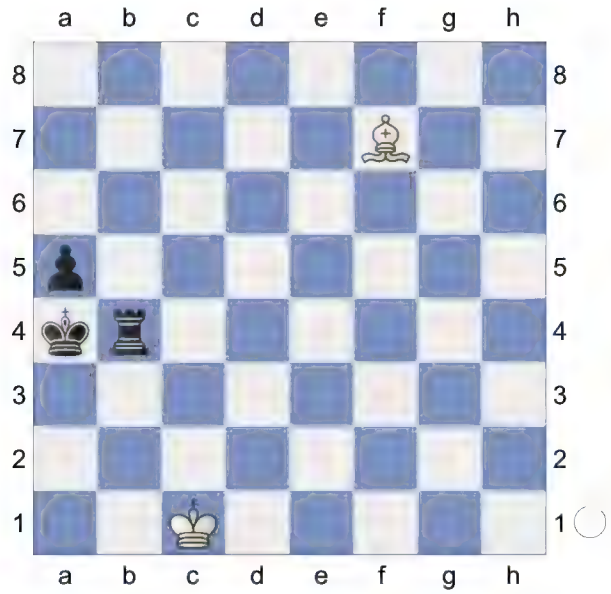


(-> ...Rf1+) **86.Bd1+ Ka3 87.Bh5 Rb6+** -14.20/22
[⌓87...a4 -#25/24 88.Bg4 Kb3 89.Bd1+ Kb4 90.Bg4 a3 91.Bh3 Rg6 92.Bf5 Rg1+ 93.Ka2 Rg2+ 94.Ka1 a2 95.Bh3 Rd2 96.Be6 Ka3 97.Bb3 Rg2 *(97...Rb2 98.Bc2=)* 98.Bxa2 Rxa2+ 99.Kb1 Rd2 100.Kc1 Rd8 101.Kc2 Kb4 102.Kb2 Rc8 103.Ka1 Rc2 104.Kb1 Kb3

105.Ka1 Rc1#]

88.Kc2 Black is clearly winning.

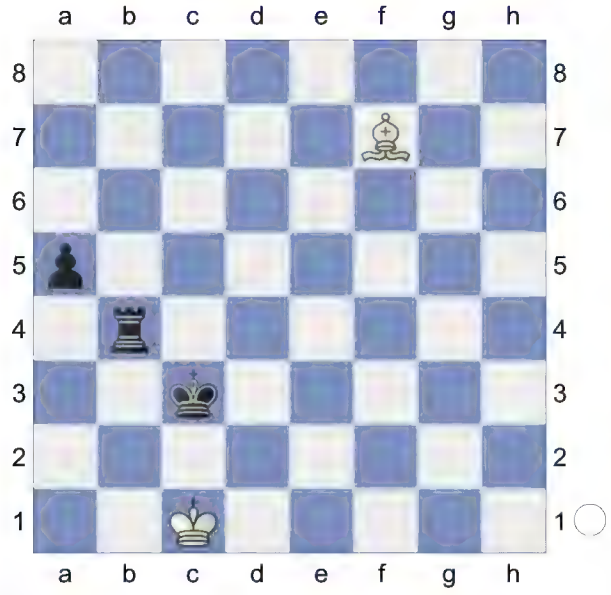
88...Rb2+ 89.Kc1 Rb4 90.Bf7 Ka4



Threatens to win with ...Kb5. **91.Be8+ Kb3 92.Bf7+** Quite a comeback for Black.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.33

92...Kc3



0-1

171 **E10**

□ **Esipenko,Andrey** **2675**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2718**

WR Chess Masters 2023 (7.2) 23.02.23

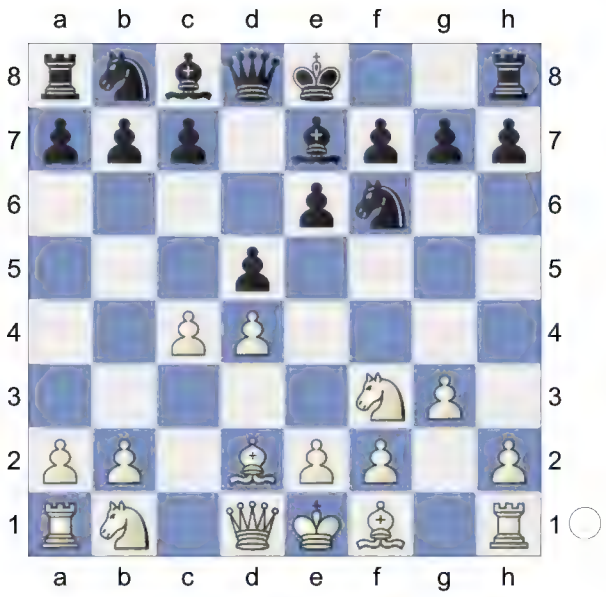
[Gukesh,Dommaraju]

E11: Bogo-Indian

This was the 7th round and I was trailing Levon by 1 point so I was quite eager to play a fighting game nowEs war die 7. Runde und ich lag 1 Punkt hinter Levon zurück, also war ich sehr erpicht darauf, jetzt eine Kampfpartie zu spielen **1.d4** Gukesh,Dommaraju **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3** Catalan was expected as Andrey had mostly done the same lately Katalanisch war zu erwarten, da Andrey in letzter Zeit meistens das Gleiche getan hatte. **4...Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7**

[5...Bd6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Qc2 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Rd1 Ne4 10.Nc3 f5 11.e3 Qe7 12.Ne2 Nxd2 13.Rxd2 Nf6 14.Rdd1 Bd7 15.Nf4 Be8 16.a3 Ne4 17.Ne5 g5 18.Nfd3 h5 19.b4 Kh8 20.f3 1-0 (51) 11...♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2813)-Warlick,J (2727) (m/ 2) 94/(448) 2005 (6)]

(Diagram)



6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0N

[7.Qc2 Ne4 8.0-0 c6 9.Nc3 f5 10.Bf4 Nd7 11.Ne5 Qe8 12.f3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd7 15.Rab1 b5 16.c5 Qg6 17.e4 fxe4 18.fxe4 Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1 Rf8 20.Rxf8+ Bxf8 21.Qe2 Be8 ½-½ (68) Grigorjev,I (2426)-Filgueira,H (2283) Titled Tuesday intern op 11th Apr Late blitz 2023 (3) 22.h4 Qh5 23.Bf3 Qh6 24.Bf4 Qg6 25.Kh2 h5 26.Bg5 Bf7 27.Qe3 Qh7 28.Qf4 Bg6 29.exd5 exd5 30.Qc7 Be4 31.Be2 Qf5 32.Qf4 Qg6 33.Kg1 Bd3 34.Bf3 Bc4 35.a3 Qb1+ 36.Kf2 Qc2+ ½-½ (68) Hampton,S (2426)-Kolb,W (2283) 103/229 London 2008 (3)]

7...c6 8.Qc2 Nbd7 till now everything is quite standardbis jetzt ist alles ganz normal **9.b3** Raven Sturt: 'We have never analyzed this move before. While the d2-bishop is far from being fianchettoed, this move reinforces c4 therein preparing Nc3.'I knew this move but did not check it in my prep for this game and I was not really confident about my memory so I decided to start thinking herelch kannte diesen Zug, hatte ihn aber in meiner Vorbereitung auf diese Partie nicht überprüft und war nicht wirklich zuversichtlich, was mein Gedächtnis anging, also beschloss ich, hier mit dem Nachdenken zu beginnen.

[9.Bf4 a5 was Pechac -- Keymer, 1/2, 2022, check the archives.]

9...b6

[9...Ne4!? Is another tested idea which transposes to a game I played against Wesley So in the Pro Chess League.

A) 10.Bf4 f5 11.Nc3 g5 12.Bc1 Bf6? 0.69/20 was Abel -- Hakobyan, 0-1, 2019. A common theme in these games seems to be Black taking on some strategic risk in order to outplay lower rated players in murky stonewall-esque positions. *(12...b6!; ⌓12...b6* 0.31/19 *)* 13.Bb2!± g4 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Nxe4 fxe4 16.dxe5 Bg7 Black was definitely worse after 17.f3! but nonetheless went on to victory somehow.;

B) 10.Rd1 f5 11.Bc1?! 0.03/17 *(11.Nc3* would make more sense.*; 11.Nc3±* 0.42/18 *)* 11...g5? 0.58/18 Normally this move comes with a tempo on a bishop on f4, and so for that reason it should be dubious. At this point White could get an advantage against Black's stonewall using the thematic plans such as Ne1-d3, or Nbd2, followed by Nf3-e1-d3 and Nd2-f3. Alas, I got crushed by So because he's a much better player than I. And so went the game Sturt -- So, 0-1, 2019. *(11...b5=* 0.03/17 *)*]

10.Nc3 Ba6 I thought this was quite logical but I also knew that he would have something prepared here

Ich fand das ziemlich logisch, aber ich wusste auch, dass er hier etwas vorbereitet haben würde.

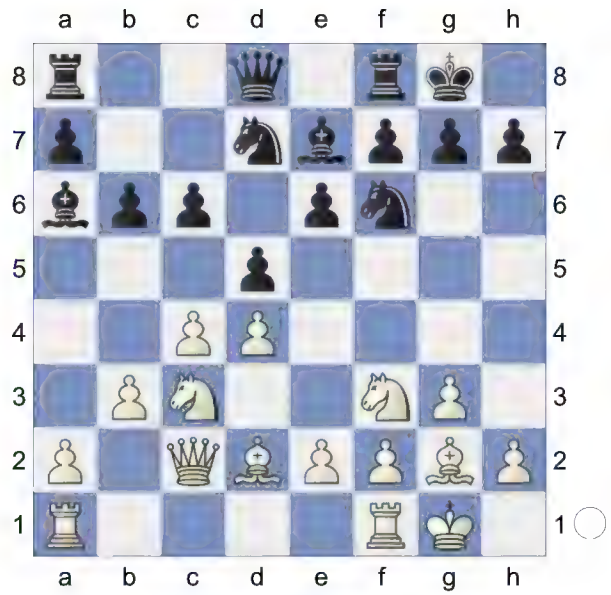
[10...Bb7 11.Rfd1 Rc8 12.e4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Qxe4 Nf6 0.82/20 *(14...Ba8± 0.39/21)* 15.Qe2!± *(15.Qc2?! 0.22/16* 15.Qe2 0.79 Placing the queen here seems second rate for a few reasons. The rook is on c8 and the bishop will be able to come to e4 with a tempo, to name a few slight problems. *c5 16.dxc5 Be4 17.Qb2 bxc5 18.Ne5 Bxg2 19.Kxg2* was Baryshpolets -- Salgado Lopez, 1-0, 2018. *)* 15...c5

A) 16.dxc5! From what I understand this correct move has only been played by a Greek 1600 against a 1300. Bxc5 17.b4 Bxf3 1.35/22 *(17...Be7 18.Bf4* Against Qc7 *Qe8 19.a3±* With the queen so misplaced on e8, White is comfortably better.*;* Black should try *17...Be7±* 0.52/21 *)* 18.Bxf3± was Apostolokaki -- Pasaglou, 1-0, 2022.;

B) 16.dxc5!± 0.58/23 Bxc5 17.b4;

C) 16.Bc3?! 0.20/20 16...Qc7± White still holds a slight edge, but he missed his best chance to pose Black problems (as shown above).]

(Diagram)



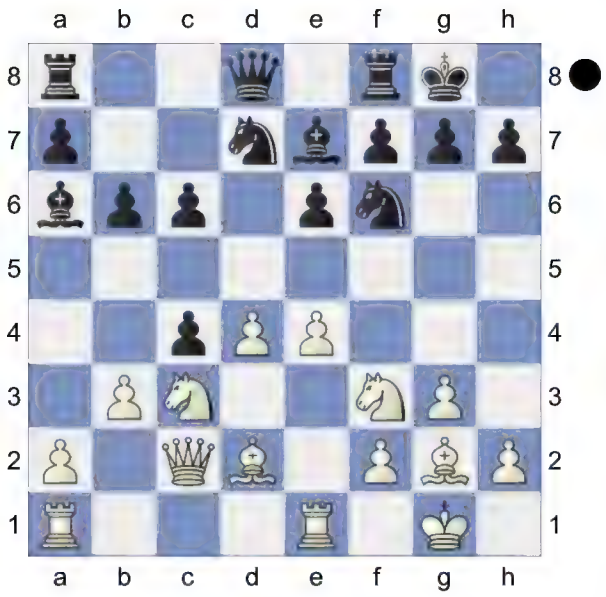
11.e4!? is the new trend. ist der neue Trend.

[11.cxd5! has been tried at lower levels with considerable frequency but it is obviously toothless. After cxd5 Black has no strategic problems.]

[11.Rfd1 -0.24/18 11.cxd5 0.12 The following game where White stumbled quickly is a good example of what can happen if one isn't adequately prepared. dxc4 12.bxc4?! *(12.e4* would be the last chance to transpose to similar positions as the game.*)* 12...Bxc4 13.e4? *(13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6! Bxf6 15.Rac1!⩱* When White has some (though inadequate) compensation due to his coordination and Black's weak c-pawn. *)* 13...b5 14.Bf4∓ White went on to lose in Zwirs -- Sharan, 0-1 2023. Black has simple play involving Nd7-b6, b5-b4 and Bc4-b5 followed by Rc8 and c6-c5. White has nothing to show for the pawn minus.]

11...dxc4 12.Rfe1

(Diagram)



Black is slightly better.A very interesting idea but also quite standard, lately giving up the c4 ♙ for the center in Catalan has been quite popular thanks to Dubov, Magnus etc.Eine sehr interessante Idee, aber auch ziemlich standardmäßig. In letzter Zeit ist das Aufgeben des c4-Bauern für das Zentrum im Katalanisch dank Dubov, Magnus usw. ziemlich populär geworden. **12...e5?!** 0.64/20 A very logical move but there is a problem here. I realized this move must not be precise when my opponent looked surprised and started thinking but I also thought its good that he is out of prep and how bad can a logical move like e5 can be?!Ein sehr logischer Zug, aber es gibt hier ein Problem. Ich erkannte, dass dieser Zug wohl nicht präzise sein muss, als mein Gegner überrascht aussah und anfing nachzudenken, aber ich dachte auch, dass es gut ist, dass er nicht mehr vorbereitet ist und wie schlecht kann ein logischer Zug wie e5 sein?! **13.Ne2!±** Raven Sturt: 'I'm a bit confused here. A few games have reached this position meaning it should it be decent but Stockfish just hates Black's prospects, claiming it be a clear ±. Even more confusing, Gukesh is one of Indian's rising youngsters and is certainly no novice in openings.'I had missed this move and I realized it is very strong once he played itIch hatte diesen Zug übersehen und erkannte, dass er sehr stark ist, als er ihn spielte

[13.bxc4 0.10/19 13.Ne2 0.71 I had mainly focused on this Ich hatte mich hauptsächlich hierauf konzentriert exd4! *(13...Bxc4 14.Nd1!)* 14.Nxd4 Ne5 15.Nf5 Re8! *(15...Bc5* 1.00/17 15...Re8 -0.12 *16.Na4)*]

[13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Ng4=]

[13.dxe5 Ng4=]

13...Ng4!?N Gukesh,Dommaraju: '!?' Raven Sturt: '?'I was very happy to find this idea. I want to get the ♘ to e5 and this is the only way to do itIch war sehr froh, diese Idee zu finden. Ich möchte den Springer nach e5 bringen und das ist der einzige Weg, es zu tun

[Vorgänger: 13...cxb3 14.axb3 Bxe2 15.Rxe2 Qc7 16.Bc3! Bd6 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nd4 0.57/18 *(18.Nh4±* 0.94/19 *)* 18...Rfd8± 19.Rd1 Bf8 ½-½ (35) Panjwani,R (2436)-Lee,M (2377) Charlotte 2022]

[13...b5 this is one of the comp's suggestions but I didnt really take it seriously dies ist einer der Compvorschläge, aber ich habe ihn nicht wirklich ernst genommen 14.h3 Bd6! 15.Rad1± White clearly has enormous compensation with his much better pieces.]

[13...exd4 1.40/18 13...Qc7 0.75 14.Nexd4]

14.bxc4?! 0.65/19 Andrey spent a long

time after ♘g4 and couldn't come up with a convincing ideaAndrey überlegte lange nach Sg4 und konnte keine überzeugende Idee finden

[14.Bc3! I had considered this move but my reply to this is not correct Ich hatte diesen Zug in Erwägung gezogen, aber meine Antwort hierauf ist nicht korrekt.

A) 14...f6 this ugly move is the best chance for Blackdieser hässliche Zug ist die beste Chance für Schwarz 15.bxc4 Nh6! Black is worse but still fighting. One point of Black's last mysterious move was to take the sting out of Bh3 ideas. Meanwhile White can't scoop e5 up yet, for instance *(15...Bxc4 16.h3 Nh6 17.dxe5±* White regains his pawn with a huge initiative in the center. *)* 16.dxe5 fxe5 17.Nxe5? -0.48/18 *(17.Rad1± 0.79/18 Qe8 18.Nc1)* 17...Nxe5∓ 18.Bxe5 Bc5!∓ Dodges Bd4;

B) 14...Qc7 15.h3 exd4 16.Nfxd4

B1) 16...Nge5 17.Nf5 Bf6 18.f4! Nd3 19.e5 One cool tactical point is that Nxe1? 3.17/19 *(19...N7xe5±* 1.37/17 keeps fighting. *20.fxe5 Nxe1 21.Rxe1 Bxe5)* 20.exf6! And the queen is untouchable on pain of Ne7 and fxg7 mate!;

B2) 16...Nh6 17.Bd2 White has the center superior pieces and can destroy Black's kingside with Bxh6 whenever he so chooses. Huge compensation!;

C) 14...exd4 15.Nexd4 Qc7 16.e5 There are so many threats and Black has a difficult path of precise moves ahead of him.;

D) 14...Bf6?! this is what I had in mind Das hatte ich im Sinn 15.h3 exd4 16.Nfxd4! but this is very strong aber dies ist sehr stark Nge5 17.f4 Nd3 18.Red1 Bxd4+ 19.Nxd4 b5 20.a4± 1.17/19 White has a commanding center and my ♗ is not the best piece Weiß hat ein beherrschendes Zentrum und mein Läufer ist nicht die beste Figur. *(⌓20.e5* 0.78/18 *)*]

[14.h3 0.64/19 14.Bc3 1.03 exd4! I get my ♘ to e5 by tactical means Ich bringe meinen Springer mit taktischen Mitteln nach e5]

[14.Bc3± 1.03/18]

14...exd4± 15.Nexd4 Nde5

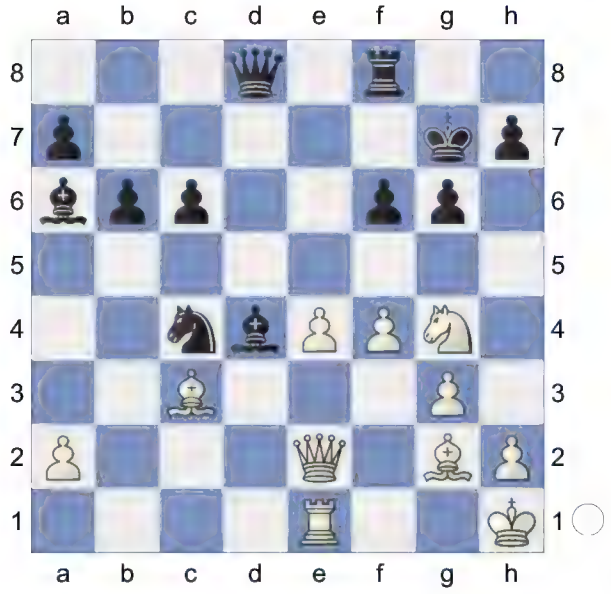
16.Nxe5 0.13/18 Raven Sturt: '?'

[16.Bf4 Raven Sturt: '!' Raven Sturt: 'was White's last chance to hold an edge. This way the knight on g4 continues to sit uncomfortably.' would have posed more problems hätte mehr Probleme aufgeworfen Nxf3+! 17.Nxf3 Bc5 18.Re2 Raven Sturt: ' ±' Raven Sturt: 'Black is gonna have to get creative here as h3 is threatened when Nf6 can be met

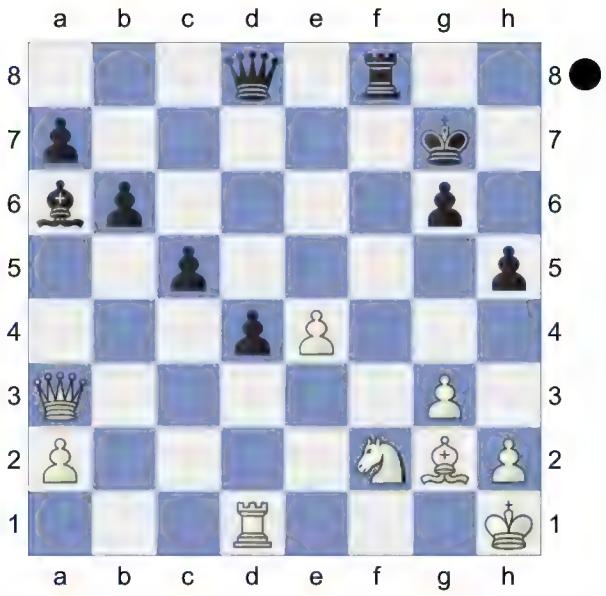
with e5 and the fianchettoed bishop coming to life.']
[White should play 16.Bf4± 0.85/22 Nxf3+ 17.Nxf3]
16...Nxe5= Raven Sturt: '=' Raven Sturt: 'The rest of the game sees Gukesh outplay his opponent and go on to win.'
17.Bc3 what Andrey did after ♘g4 is humanly very logical but a bit soft and not enough for an advantage, the long time he spent on these last few moves also had an impact surelyWas Andrey nach Sg4 gemacht hat, ist menschlich sehr logisch, aber ein bisschen weich und nicht genug für einen Vorteil; die lange Zeit, die er für diese letzten Züge gebraucht hat, hatte sicher auch einen Einfluss. **17...Bc5** I was already quite optimistic about my chances as I could not see what White's plan was and his c4 ♙ is under fire and also the trend of the game is in my favourIch war schon recht optimistisch, was meine Chancen anging, da ich nicht sehen konnte, was Weiß vorhatte und sein Bauer c4 unter Beschuss steht und auch der Trend der Partie zu meinen Gunsten ist **18.Rad1**
[18.Nf5 f6 19.Rad1 Inhibits Qd3. Qc7]
[18.Nb3 he probably should have already tried to fizzle out but it is quite hard to know when to stopEr hätte wahrscheinlich schon versuchen sollen, die Reißleine zu ziehen, aber es ist schwer zu wissen, wann man aufhören muss. Qe7! 19.Nxc5 Qxc5 20.Bxe5 Qxe5 21.c5]
[18.Nf5 keeps more tension. Re8 19.Rad1 Qc7 20.Bd4]
18...Qc7 19.f4
[19.Nb3 he could have done the same here as wellEr hätte das Gleiche auch hier tun können Be7 20.c5 bxc5 21.f4 c4 22.Bxe5 cxb3 23.axb3 Qb6+=]
19...Nxc4 Threatening ...Na3. **20.Kh1 Rad8**

21.Nf5 f6 22.Rxd8
[22.Bf1! a tricky move to spot especially since he was looking for ways to attac kein schwierig zu erkennender Zug, zumal er nach Möglichkeiten suchte, anzugreifen
A) 22...b5?! 23.e5 Rxd1 24.Qxd1 fxe5 1.20/20 *(24...Bc8!= 0.00/22 25.e6 Nd6)* 25.Bxc4+± bxc4 26.Rxe5;
B) 22...Rxd1 23.Rxd1 *(23.Qxd1* Threatens to win with Qa4. *Qf7)* 23...b5 Wards off Qa4 24.e5 fxe5 25.Bxc4+ bxc4 26.Bxe5 Qf7 27.Nxg7 Bc8∞ Prevents g4;
C) 22...Qf7 I would have probably gone here Ich wäre wahrscheinlich hierher gegangen 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.Bxc4+ Bxc4 25.Qxc4+ Qf7!]
22...Qxd8 23.Qe2? -1.00/17 this is a serious mistake, there is no attack on the ♔ side and he is a ♙ down Dies ist ein schwerer Fehler, es gibt keinen Angriff am Königsflügel, und er

hat einen Bauern weniger.
[23.Bf1= 0.00/18 keeps the balance. b5 24.Rd1]
23...g6!∓ looks like I'm weaking my ♔ but once I drive away the ♘ and play ♗d4 I'm just better Es sieht so aus, als würde ich meinen König schwächen, aber sobald ich den Springer vertreibe und Ld4 spiele, stehe ich einfach besser.
24.Nh6+ Kg7 25.Ng4 Bd4!↑

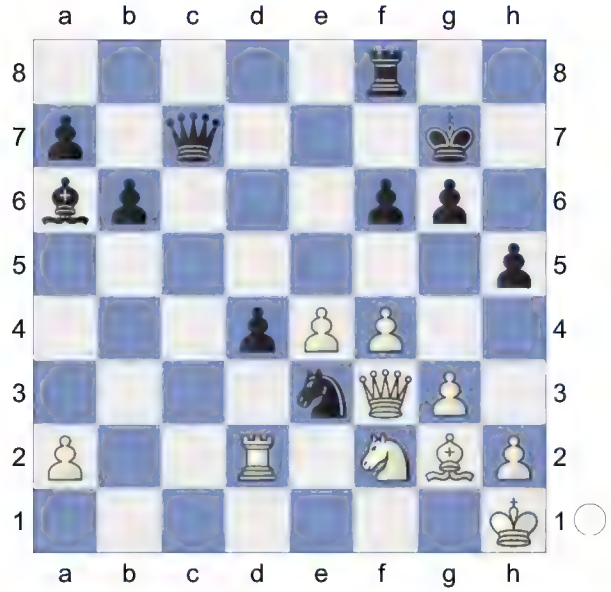


Black is in control. **26.Rd1** -1.56/20
[26.Bxd4 Qxd4 27.Rd1 Qc5 -1.02/18 my intention but there is something stronger meine Absicht, aber es gibt etwas Stärkeres *(27...Nb2 28.Rxd4* White threatens Rd7+ and mate. *Bxe2-+ 29.Nxf6 Kxf6 30.Rd2 Bd3! 31.Rxb2 c5; 27...Nb2-+* -1.69/20 *28.Rxd4 Bxe2 29.Nxf6 Kxf6)* 28.Rd7+∓ Rf7 29.Rxf7+ Kxf7]
[⌓26.Bxd4 -1.18/20 Qxd4 27.Rd1]
26...c5 This costs White the game.
27.Qf3? -3.70/19 Andrey was already quite low on time and it is quite a difficult positionAndrey war schon ziemlich knapp an Zeit und es ist eine ziemlich schwierige Position
[27.Bxd4 cxd4 28.Qf2
A) 28...d3!-+;
B) 28...d3!-+ -2.23/22 and Black stays clearly on top. Threatens to win with ...Qc8. 29.e5 *(29.Kg1 Qc8)* 29...fxe5 30.Nxe5 Nxe5 Pin;
C) 28...Ne3 -0.93/18 29.Nxe3∓ dxe3 30.Qe1 e2! 31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.Bf3 Rd1 33.Qxd1 exd1Q+ 34.Bxd1 Bd3 I thought this must be winning but the comp doesn't think it is so clearIch dachte, das muss gewonnen sein, aber der Comp hält es für nicht so klar.]
[27.h3∓ -1.56/18]
27...h5-+ 28.Nf2 Ne3 -2.13/17
[28...Ne5! I actually spotted this idea but I didnt really think there was any need for fancy stuff especially since what I did in the game felt simpler Ich habe diese Idee tatsächlich entdeckt, aber ich dachte nicht wirklich, dass es eine Notwendigkeit für ausgefallene Sachen gibt, zumal sich das, was ich der Partie tat, einfacher anfühlte 29.fxe5 fxe5 30.Bxd4 exd4 31.Qa3

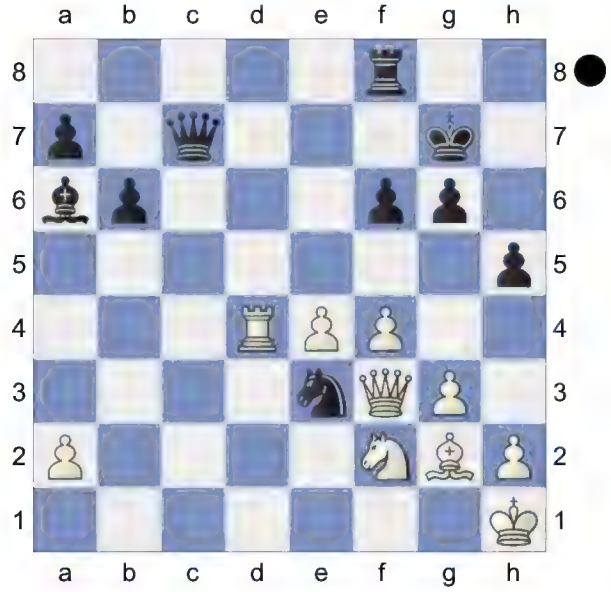


Be2! It's quite clear now that I think

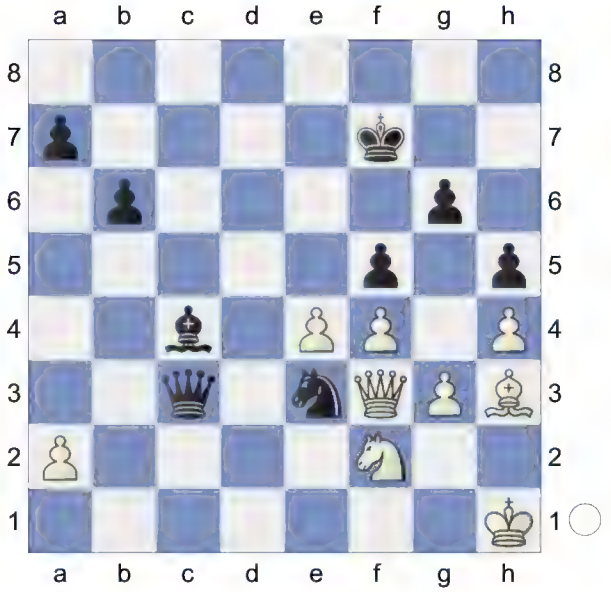
about it about I didnt want any unpleasant surprises otbJetzt, wo ich darüber nachdenke, ist mir klar, dass ich am Brett keine unangenehmen Überraschungen erleben wollte]
[⌓28...Ne5 -4.54/21 29.fxe5 fxe5 30.Bxd4 exd4]
29.Rd2 Qc7 I thought this was clear cut Ich dachte, dies sei glasklar. **30.Bxd4 cxd4**



31.Rxd4

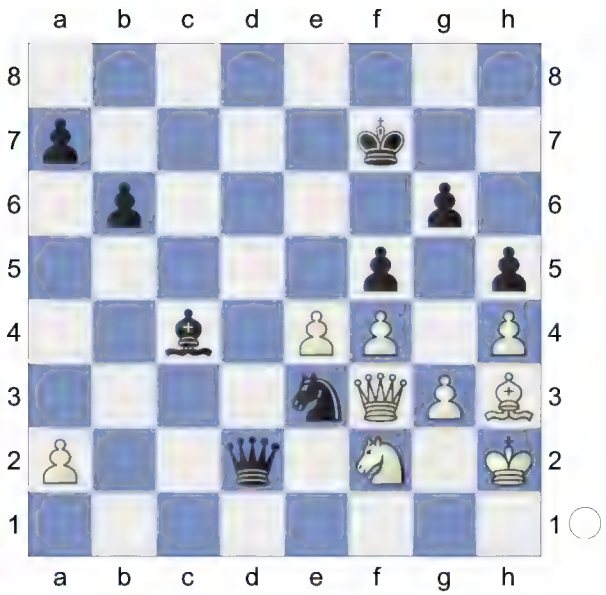


Qc3 (-> ...Qe1+)
[31...Qc1+? -0.42/21 31...Qc3 -1.59 32.Nd1]
[31...Qc1+ 32.Nd1 Nxg2 33.Kxg2∓]
32.Rd7+ Rf7 33.Rxf7+ Kxf7
White is completely paralyzed Weiß ist völlig gelähmt **34.h4 Bc4**
35.Bh3? -6.03/20
[35.f5 -2.14/17]
35...f5!
[35...Bxa2? 36.f5-+]



36.Kh2
Weighted Error Value: White=0.58/ Black=0.19 (very precise)
36...Qd2

(Diagram)



overall a very interesting game where I took some good practical decisions after I was outprepared and a much needed win as I caught Levon in the lead with 2 rounds to go after Levon lost a very tough game against NepoInsgesamt eine sehr interessante Partie, in der ich einige gute praktische Entscheidungen traf, nachdem ich in punkto Vorbereitung ins Hintertreffen geriet, und ein dringend benötigter Sieg, denn ich konnte Levon 2 Runden vor Schluss noch einholen, nachdem dieser eine sehr schwierige Partie gegen Nepo verloren hatte.
0-1

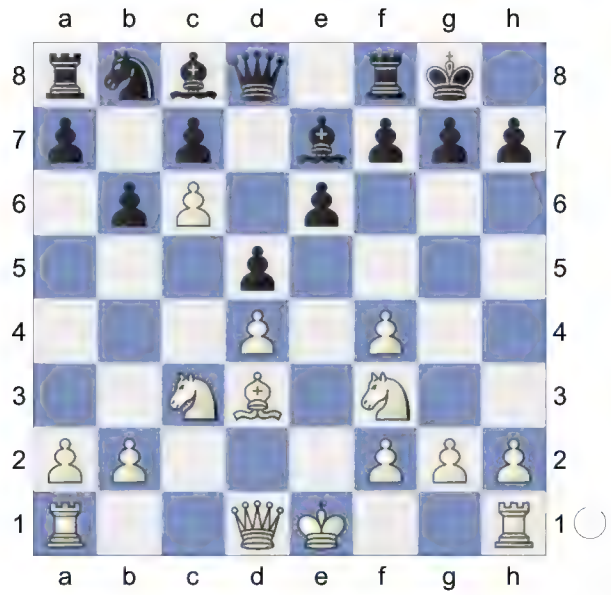
172 **D37**
□ **Esipenko,Andrey** **2675**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2718**
Dusseldorf WR Masters_877 (7) 23.2.23
[Gukesh, Dommaraju]

This was the 7th round and I was trailing Levon by 1 point so I was quite eager to play a fighting game nowEs war die 7. Runde und ich lag 1 Punkt hinter Levon zurück, also war ich sehr erpicht darauf, jetzt eine Kampfpartie zu spielen **1.d4** Gukesh,Dommaraju **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3** Catalan was expected as Andrey had mostly done the same lately Katalanisch war zu erwarten, da Andrey in letzter Zeit meistens das Gleiche getan hatte. **4...Be7 5.Bf4 0-0**

6.e3 Nbd7 7.c5 Nh5 8.Bd3 Nxf4 till now everything is quite standard bis jetzt ist alles ganz normal **9.exf4** I knew this move but did not check it in my prep for this game and I was not really confident about my memory so I decided to start thinking herelch kannte diesen Zug, hatte ihn aber in meiner Vorbereitung auf diese Partie nicht überprüft und war nicht wirklich zuversichtlich, was mein Gedächtnis anging, also beschloss ich, hier mit dem Nachdenken zu beginnen. **9...b6 10.c6**
[10.b4 a5 11.a3 c6 12.0-0 Qc7 13.g3 Ba6 14.Kg2 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Ra7 16.Rfc1 Rfa8 17.Qd1 b5 18.Rab1 axb4 19.axb4 Ra3 20.Rb3 R3a7 21.Qe2 Bf6 22.h4 h5 23.Rc2 g6 24.Ra2 Rxa2 25.Nxa2 Qa7 26.Rb2 Qa3 27.Qd2 Qa6 28.Nc1

Qb7 29.Nd3 Ra7 30.Nde5 Qa8 31.Qe3 Kg7 32.Rb3 Kg8 33.Ng5 Nxe5 34.fxe5 Bxg5 35.Qxg5 Ra3 36.Rxa3 Qxa3 37.Qd8+ Kg7 38.Qf6+ Kg8 39.Qd8+ Kg7 40.Qf6+ Kg8]

10...Nb8



I thought this was quite logical but I also knew that he would have something prepared herelch fand das ziemlich logisch, aber ich wusste auch, dass er hier etwas vorbereitet haben würde.

11.Ne5!? is the new trend. ist der neue Trend.

[11.Qa4 Qe8 *(11...Qd6 12.Ne5 f6)* 12.Rc1 Qxc6 13.Qc2 h6 14.Ne5 Qb7 *(14...Qe8)* 15.Bh7+ Kh8 16.Bg6 Kg8 17.Bh7+ Kh8 18.Bg6 Kg8]

[11.Qc2

A) 11...Nxc6 12.Bxh7+ Kh8

A1) 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 *(14.fxe5 c5)* 14...g6 15.Bxg6 fxg6 16.Qxg6 Qe8 17.Qh6+ Kg8 18.h4 Qf7 19.Rh3 Qh7;

A2) 13.a3 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Qxg6 Rf6;

A3) 13.Bd3 Nb4 14.Qe2 c5 *(14...Nxd3+)*;

A4) 13.h4

A4a) 13...Nb4 14.Qb1 c5 *(14...f5 15.Bg6)* 15.a3 cxd4 16.Ne2 Nc6 17.Ng5;

A4b) 13...f5 14.Bg6;

A4c) 13...Bd6 14.a3 *(14.Ne2 Nb4 15.Qb1 c5; 14.0-0-0 Nb4)* 14...f5 *(14...Bxf4 15.Ne2)* 15.Ne2 *(15.Bg6 Qf6 16.h5 Nxd4)* 15...Nxd4 16.Nexd4 Kxh7;

B) 11...g6 12.Ne2 a5 13.Rc1 *(13.h4)* 13...Ba6 14.Bxa6 Rxa6 15.a4 Qd6 16.0-0 Ra8 17.Ne5 Bf6 18.Qd1 Qb4 19.Rc3 Bg7 20.Qc2 Qd6 21.Rc1 Na6 22.Qb1 Nb4 23.h4 f6 24.Nd7 Rf7 25.g3 e5 26.f5 gxf5 27.Qxf5 Na2 28.f4 Nxc3 29.Rxc3 Re8 30.Qh5 Qb4 31.Re3 Qxa4 32.dxe5 Qxc6 33.Nd4 Qc1+ 34.Kf2 Qxb2+ 35.Ne2 fxe5 36.Nxe5 Rxe5 37.Rxe5 Bxe5 38.Qg5+ Bg7]

11...Bd6

[11...f6 12.Qh5 g6 *(12...f5)* 13.Bxg6 hxg6 14.Qxg6+ Kh8 15.0-0-0 Ba6 16.Rhe1]

[11...Qe8 12.Nb5 Bd8 13.Qc2 a6 14.Bxh7+ Kh8 15.Na3 Bf6 16.Bd3 Bxe5 17.fxe5 Nxc6 18.Rc1 Bb7 *(18...Nxd4 19.Qxc7)* 19.Qe2]

12.a3 A very interesting idea but also quite standard, lately giving up the c4 ♙ for the center in Catalan has been quite popular thanks to Dubov,Magnus etc. Eine sehr interessante Idee, aber auch ziemlich standardmäßig. In letzter Zeit ist das Aufgeben des c4-Bauern für das Zentrum im Katalanisch dank Dubov, Magnus usw. ziemlich populär geworden.

[12.Qc2 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Nxc6

14.Bxh7+ *(14.a3)* 14...Kh8]
[12.Qh5
A) 12...h6 13.0-0-0 Bxe5 14.dxe5 Nxc6 *(14...Qe7 15.g4)* 15.g4;
B) 12...g6 13.Qh6 f6
B1) 14.Bxg6 Qe7;
B2) 14.h4 fxe5 15.fxe5 Bxe5 16.dxe5 Nxc6
B2a) 17.h5 Nxe5 18.hxg6 *(18.Bc2 Ng4)* 18...Nxd3+ 19.Kd2 Qe7;
B2b) 17.f4 Qe7 18.h5 g5 19.0-0-0 *(19.fxg5 Nxe5)* 19...Qg7;
B3) 14.Nxg6 Rf7]
[12.Rc1 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Nxc6 14.Qh5 h6 15.g4 Nb4 16.Bb1 d4]
[12.h4 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Nxc6 14.Qh5 h6 15.g4 Nb4 16.Bb1 d4 17.Ne4 d3 18.Nf6+ Kh8]

12...Bxe5?! A very logical move but there is a problem here. I realized this move must not be precise when my opponent looked surprised and started thinking but I also thought its good that he is out of prep and how bad can a logical move like e5 can be?!Ein sehr logischer Zug, aber es gibt hier ein Problem. Ich erkannte, dass dieser Zug wohl nicht präzise sein muss, als mein Gegner überrascht aussah und anfing nachzudenken, aber ich dachte auch, dass es gut ist, dass er nicht mehr vorbereitet ist und wie schlecht kann ein logischer Zug wie e5 sein?!

[12...Ba6 13.Bxa6 Nxa6 14.b4 *(14.Rc1)* 14...Nb8 15.b5 a6 16.a4 Bxe5 17.fxe5 f6]
[12...Qe8 13.Rc1 Nxc6 14.Nb5 Bd7 15.Nxd6 cxd6 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Qa4 Rfc8 18.Bb5 *(18.0-0 a6 19.Bxa6 Qe8 20.Rfd1 Nxd4)* 18...Ne7]

13.dxe5! I had missed this move and I realized it is very strong once he played it Ich hatte diesen Zug übersehen und erkannte, dass er sehr stark ist, als er ihn spielte **13...Nxc6!?N** Gukesh,Dommaraju: '!?'I was very happy to find this idea. I want to get the ♘ to e5 and this is the only way to do it Ich war sehr froh, diese Idee zu finden. Ich möchte den Springer nach e5 bringen und das ist der einzige Weg, es zu tun

[13...Ba6 14.Bxa6 Nxa6 15.Nb5 Nc5 16.b4 Ne4 17.0-0]

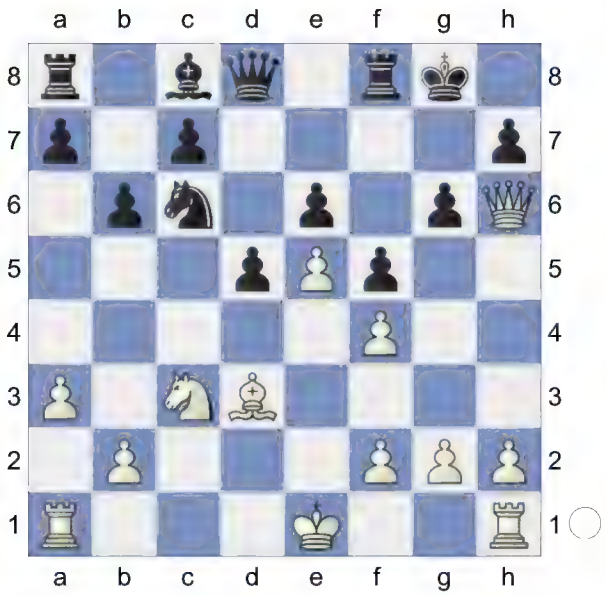
14.Qh5?! Andrey spent a long time after ♘ g4 and couldn't come up with a convincing ideaAndrey überlegte lange nach Sg4 und konnte keine überzeugende Idee finden **14...g6**

[14...h6 15.g4]

15.Qh6 f5

[15...Ne7 16.h4 *(16.g4 f5)*
A) 16...Nf5 17.Bxf5 gxf5 *(17...exf5 18.h5)* 18.0-0-0 Kh8 19.g4;
B) 16...Kh8 17.h5 Nf5 *(17...Ng8 18.Qxh7+ Kxh7 19.hxg6+ Kg7 20.Rh7#)* 18.Bxf5 gxf5 19.Nb5 *(19.0-0-0 f6)* 19...Bd7 *(19...Rg8 20.Nxc7; 19...c5)*
B1) 20.Nxc7 Rc8 *(20...Qxc7 21.Qf6+ Kg8 22.h6)*;
B2) 20.Nd4 Rg8 *(20...c5 21.Nf3)* 21.Nf3 Qf8 22.Qf6+ Qg7 23.Qe7 f6 *(23...Bb5 24.h6 Qg6 25.Ng5)* 24.Qxf6]
[15...Kh8 16.h4 Ne7]

(Diagram)



16.h4 Rf7

[16...Bd7]

[16...Qd7

A) 17.Bb5 Bb7 18.Ne2 Rf7 *(18...Qg7 19.Qxg7+ Kxg7 20.Rc1)*;

B) 17.h5 Qg7 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.0-0-0]

17.h5 what Andrey did after ♘g4 is humanly very logical but a bit soft and not enough for an advantage, the long time he spent on these last few moves also had an impact surelyWas Andrey nach Sg4 gemacht hat, ist menschlich sehr logisch, aber ein bisschen weich und nicht genug für einen Vorteil; die lange Zeit, die er für diese letzten Züge gebraucht hat, hatte sicher auch einen Einfluss.

[17.Ne2 Qf8 18.Qxf8+ Kxf8 19.Rc1 Nd8 20.h5 c5]

[17.0-0-0 Qf8]

17...g5 I was already quite optimistic about my chances as I could not see what White's plan was and his c4 ♙ is under fire and also the trend of the game is in my favourIch war schon recht optimistisch, was meine Chancen anging, da ich nicht sehen konnte, was Weiß vorhatte und sein Bauer c4 unter Beschuss steht und auch der Trend der Partie zu meinen Gunsten ist **18.g4**

[18.fxg5 Nxe5 19.Be2! Qf8 I should have played some prophylactic moves like this stopping e5 ♘d5/ ♘e4- ♘g5 Ich hätte ein paar prophylaktische Züge wie diesen spielen sollen, was:e5 Sd5/Se4-Sg5 verhindert.]

[18.0-0-0!? gxf4 19.Qxf4 Qf8]

18...Qf8

[18...fxg4 my intention but there is something strongermeine Absicht, aber es gibt etwas Stärkeres 19.0-0-0 Qe7 *(19...gxf4 20.Bg6!* but this is very strongaber dies ist sehr stark *Rg7 21.Ne4)*

A) 20.Rdg1 gxf4 21.Rxg4+ Kh8 22.Nxd5 *(22.Rhg1?!* this is what I had in mindDas hatte ich im Sinn *Bd7)* 22...exd5 would have posed more problem shätte mehr Probleme aufgeworfen 23.Qxc6 Qc5+ 24.Qxc5 bxc5 25.Rg5! I had considered this move but my reply to this is not correct Ich hatte diesen Zug in Erwägung gezogen, aber meine Antwort hierauf ist nicht korrekt.;

B) 20.Bg6

B1) 20...Rg7 21.f5 *(21.Rdg1 gxf4 22.Rxg4 Kh8 23.Rxf4* he probably should have already tried to fizzle out but it is quite hard to know when to stop Er hätte wahrscheinlich schon versuchen sollen, die Reißleine zu ziehen, aber es ist schwer zu wissen, wann man aufhören muss. *Bd7)* 21...Nxe5! a tricky move to spot especially

since he was looking for ways to attack ein schwierig zu erkennender Zug, zumal er nach Möglichkeiten suchte, anzugreifen 22.Rhe1 I would have probably gone here Ich wäre wahrscheinlich hierher gegangen d4 *(22...Nf3* he could have done the same here as weller hätte das Gleiche auch hier tun können *23.f6 Qxf6 24.Nxd5; 22...hxg6 23.Rxe5 c6 24.hxg6 Qf6 25.Rh1=)* 23.Rxd4 Nf3 24.Nd5 Qc5+ 25.Kb1 hxg6?! 26.f6 Qf8 27.Ne7+ *(27.fxg7 Qxg7 28.Ne7+ Qxe7 29.Rd8+∞ Qxd8 30.Qxg6+)* 27...Rxe7 28.fxe7 Qxh6 *(28...Qxe7 29.Rd8+ Qxd8 30.Qxg6+ Kh8 31.Qh6+ Kg8)*;

B2) 20...Rf8 21.Rdg1 Qg7 *(21...hxg6 22.hxg6 Qg7 23.Qxg5)* 22.Qxg5-+]

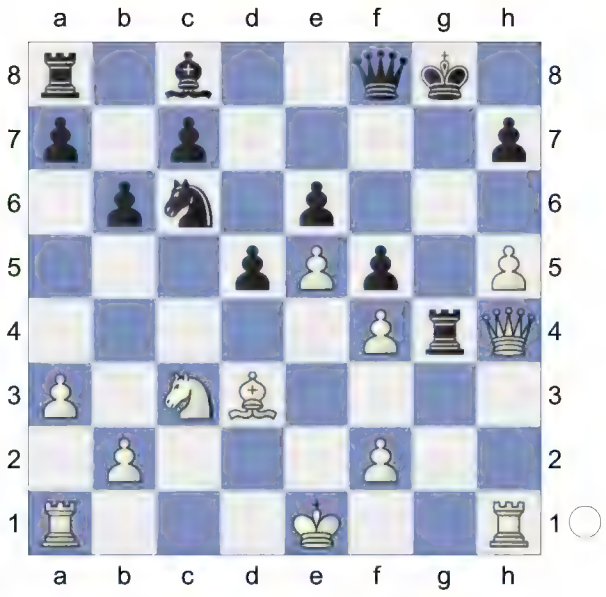
[18...gxf4 19.gxf5 *(19.Qxf4 fxg4 20.Qxg4+ Rg7)* 19...Nxe5 20.fxe6 *(20.0-0-0 Nxd3+* I had mainly focused on this Ich hatte mich hauptsächlich hierauf konzentriert *21.Rxd3 Qf6)* 20...Qe7 *(* Vorgänger: *20...Nxd3+ 21.Kd2 Rg7 22.Rag1 Qf8 23.Nxd5; 20...Nf3+ 21.Kf1 Rg7 22.Qxf4 Qf8 23.Nxd5 Qxf4* ½-½ (35) Panjwani,R (2436)-Lee,M (2377) Charlotte 2022 *24.Nxf4* this is one of the comp's suggestions but I didnt really take it seriously dies ist einer der Compvorschläge, aber ich habe ihn nicht wirklich ernst genommen *Bb7)* 21.0-0-0± White has a commanding center and my ♗ is not the best piece Weiß hat ein beherrschendes Zentrum und mein Läufer ist nicht die beste Figur.

Bxe6 this ugly move is the best chance for Blackdieser hässliche Zug ist die beste Chance für Schwarz 22.Rhe1 Bd7 I get my ♘ to e5 by tactical means Ich bringe meinen Springer mit taktischen Mitteln nach e5]

19.Qxg5+ Rg7 20.Qh4

[20.Qf6 Qxf6 *(20...Rf7!-+ 21.Qg5+ Rg7 22.Qf6)* 21.exf6 It's quite clear now that I think about it about I didnt want any unpleasant surprises otb Jetzt, wo ich darüber nachdenke, ist mir klar, dass ich am Brett keine unangenehmen Überraschungen erleben wollte Rxg4 22.Ne2 Kf7 *(22...Nd8 23.f3 Rg2 24.Kf1 Rxe2 25.Kxe2* I thought this must be winning but the comp doesn't think it is so clear Ich dachte, das muss gewonnen sein, aber der Comp hält es für nicht so klar. *)* 23.Rc1 Bb7 24.Bb5 Nd8 25.Rxc7+ Kxf6 26.Kd2]

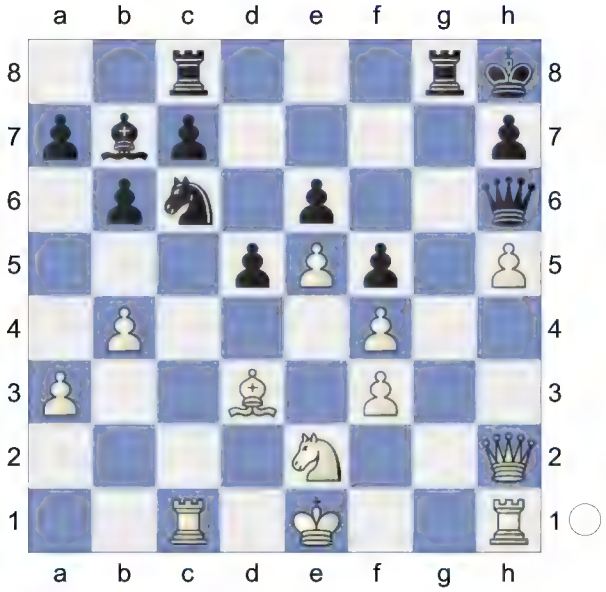
20...Rxg4



21.Qh2 Qh6 22.Ne2 Bb7 23.Rc1?

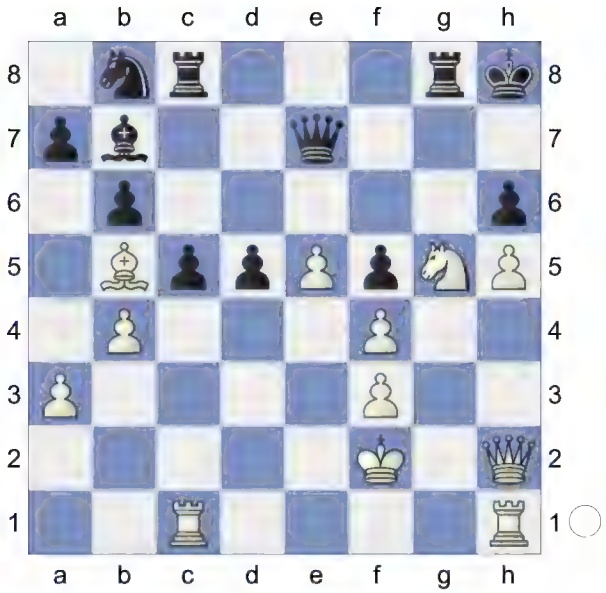
this is a serious mistake, there is no attack on the ♔side and he is a ♙ down Dies ist ein schwerer Fehler, es gibt

keinen Angriff am Königsflügel, und er hat einen Bauern weniger. **23...Rc8!** looks like I'm weaking my ♔ but once I drive away the ♘ and play ♗d4 I'm just better Es sieht so aus, als würde ich meinen König schwächen, aber sobald ich den Springer vertreibe und Ld4 spiele, stehe ich einfach besser. **24.b4 Kh8 25.f3 Rgg8**

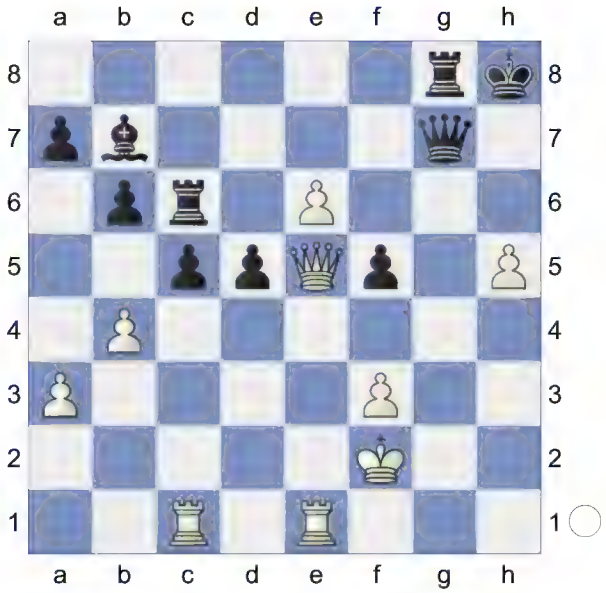


26.Kf2 Qf8 27.Bb5 Andrey was already quite low on time and it is quite a difficult positionAndrey war schon ziemlich knapp an Zeit und es ist eine ziemlich schwierige Position **27...Nb8 28.Nd4 c5 29.Nxe6 Qe7** I thought this was clear cut tIch dachte, dies sei glasklar. **30.Ng5 h6**

(Diagram)

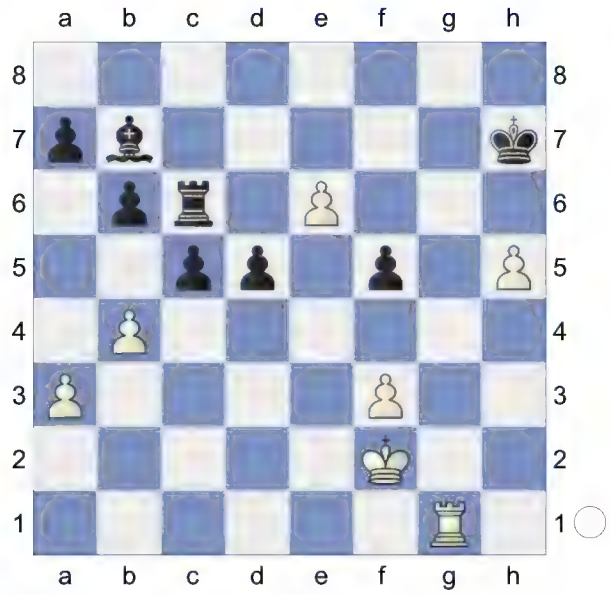


31.e6 hxg5 32.fxg5 Qxg5 33.Qe5+ Qg7 White is completely paralyzed Weiß ist völlig gelähmt **34.Rhe1 Nc6 35.Bxc6 Rxc6!**



36.Qxg7+ Kxg7 overall a very interesting game where I took some good practical decisions after I was outprepared and a much needed win as I caught Levon in the lead with 2 rounds to go after Levon lost a very tough game against Nep olnsgesamt eine sehr interessante Partie, in der ich einige gute praktische Entscheidungen traf,

nachdem ich in punkto Vorbereitung ins Hintertreffen geriet, und ein dringend benötigter Sieg, denn ich konnte Levon 2 Runden vor Schluss noch einholen, nachdem dieser eine sehr schwierige Partie gegen Nepo verloren hatte. **37.Rg1+? Kh7 38.Rxg8!** I actually spotted this idea but I didnt really think there was any need for fancy stuff especially since what I did in the game felt simple rIch habe diese Idee tatsächlich entdeckt, aber ich dachte nicht wirklich, dass es eine Notwendigkeit für ausgefallene Sachen gibt, zumal sich das, was ich der Partie tat, einfacher anfühlte **38...Kxg8 39.Rg1+ Kh7**



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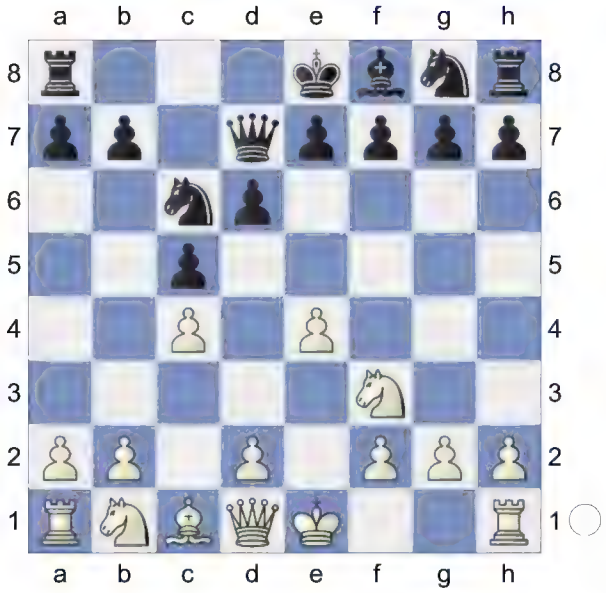
173 **B52**
□ **Esipenko,Andrey** **2675**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2718**
Duesseldorf WR Masters_873 (7)
[Gukesh,Dommaraju]

B52: Sicilian: Moscow Variation with 3... Bd7
This was the 7th round and I was trailing Levon by 1 point so I was quite eager to play a fighting game nowEs war die 7. Runde und ich lag 1 Punkt hinter Levon zurück, also war ich sehr erpicht darauf, jetzt eine Kampfpartie zu spielen **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+**
[3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 b6 5.0-0 Bb7 6.Re1 e6 7.Bc2 Be7 8.d4 0-0 9.Nbd2 Na6 10.Nf1 d5 11.e5 Ne4 12.Ng3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Rc8 14.a3 Qc7 15.Bd3 Nb8 16.Qe2 a6 17.Bd2 Nxd2 1-0 (34) Holliday,B (2440)-4.e3 ♗g4 5. ♗c4 e6 37934 (2270) 28/149 Smederevska Palanka 1979]
[3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 e6 7.c3 Nge7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 h6 11.Nc3 0-0 12.Re1 a6 13.h4 b5 14.Bf4 Nf5 15.Bh3 Kh7 16.Kh2 f6 17.Rc1 fxe5 1-0 (44) Brizzi,M (2114)-Nejanky,M (1928) ARG-ch (Women) 75th 2024 (7)]
3...Bd7N
[3...Nc6 4.b3 Bd7 5.Bb2 a6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.e5 dxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Bxe5 Bc6 10.0-0 e6 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Bb2 Qg5 13.Bf1 Bd6 14.d4 Nf6 15.d5 0-0-0 16.dxc6 Bxh2+ 17.Kxh2 Rxd1 18.cxb7+ Kxb7 0-1 (30) Aarush,R (2097)-Borwell,A (2578) 42/131 Baku 1986 (8) 19.Rxd1 Qh5+ 20.Kg1 Qxd1 21.Na3 Qh5 22.g3 Rd8 23.Bg2+ Kc8 24.Bxf6 Rd1+ 25.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 26.Kh2 gxf6 27.Be4 Qf1 28.Bd3 Qxf2+ 29.Kh3 f5 30.Nc4 Qg1 0-1 Katz,F (2097)-Abbasov,F (2578) Rohde op 08th 2008 (8)]
[3...Nd7]
4.Bxd7+ Catalan was expected as Andrey had mostly done the same lately Katalanisch war zu erwarten, da Andrey

in letzter Zeit meistens das Gleiche getan hatte.

[4.a4]

4...Qxd7 5.c4 Nc6



6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Nf6 8.Nc3 e6 till now everything is quite standard bis jetzt ist alles ganz normal

[8...g6 9.0-0 Bg7 10.Nde2 0-0 11.f3 a6 12.a4]

9.0-0 I knew this move but did not check it in my prep for this game and I was not really confident about my memory so I decided to start thinking herelch kannte diesen Zug, hatte ihn aber in meiner Vorbereitung auf diese Partie nicht überprüft und war nicht wirklich zuversichtlich, was mein Gedächtnis anging, also beschloss ich, hier mit dem Nachdenken zu beginnen. **9...Be7 10.Nc2**

[10.Be3 0-0 11.Qe2 Rfe8± White has a commanding center and my ♗ is not the best piece Weiß hat ein beherrschendes Zentrum und mein Läufer ist nicht die beste Figur.

12.Rfd1 this ugly move is the best chance for Blackdieser hässliche Zug ist die beste Chance für Schwarz a6 13.Rac1 I get my ♘ to e5 by tactical means Ich bringe meinen Springer mit taktischen Mitteln nach e5 b6 this is one of the comp's suggestions but I didnt really take it seriously dies ist einer der Compvorschläge, aber ich habe ihn nicht wirklich ernst genommen 14.f3 Qb7 15.b3 I had mainly focused on this Ich hatte mich hauptsächlich hierauf konzentriert Bd8 16.Rd2 Rc8 17.Nc2 Bc7 18.Rcd1 Ne5 19.Bd4 Nfd7! 20.Ne1 0.33/20 I should have played some prophylactic moves like this stopping e5 ♘d5/ ♘e4- ♘g5 Ich hätte ein paar prophylaktische Züge wie diesen spielen sollen, was:e5 Sd5/Se4-Sg5 verhindert. *(⌓20.Bf2* 0.69/19 *)* 20...Rb8!?± 21.Rc1 Rec8 22.f4 Nc6 23.Be3 Nc5 24.Qg4 -0.38/22 *(24.Qf3±* 0.71/19 *)* 24...b5∓ 25.cxb5 axb5 26.e5 -1.24/22 *(26.Qf3∓* -0.35/21 *)* 26...Bb6∓ 27.Nd1? -3.09/21 *(27.Qe2∓* -1.28/21 *dxe5 28.fxe5)* 27...Ne4-+ 28.Rdc2 d5? -0.95/21 *(28...Bxe3+!-+* -2.64/23 has better winning chances. *29.Nxe3 Nb4 30.Rxc8+ Rxc8 31.Rxc8+ Qxc8 32.exd6 Nxa2)* 29.Nd3? -2.89/23 *(29.Qe2∓* -0.95/21 *)* 29...Bxe3+!-+ 30.Nxe3 Nd4 31.Rxc8+ Rxc8 32.Qd1 -4.78/22 *(32.Rxc8+* -3.01/23 *Qxc8 33.Qh4)* 32...Nc3-+ 33.Qd2 Nce2+ 34.Kf2 Nxc1 35.Nxc1]

[10.b3 0-0 11.Bb2 Rfd8 12.Re1 a6 *(12...Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Ne8 14.Rad1 Qc6 15.Qd3)* 13.Nxc6 Qxc6 14.Rc1]

10...Rc8 I thought this was quite logical but I also knew that he would have something prepared herelch fand das ziemlich logisch, aber ich wusste auch, dass er hier etwas vorbereitet haben

würde.

[10...0-0! a tricky move to spot especially since he was looking for w a y s t o a t t a c kein schwierig zu erkennender Zug, zumal er nach Möglichkeiten suchte, anzugreifen 11.f4 -0.19/22 I would have probably gone here Ich wäre wahrscheinlich hierher gegangen *(11.Qe2± 0.34/20)*

A) 11...a6 would have posed more problems hätte mehr Probleme a u f g e w o r f e n 12.b3 -0.93/20 *(12.Qd3= -0.22/20)* 12...Rab8 -0.17/24 *(12...b5!∓ -0.93/20)* 13.Bb2= *(13.a4!* I had considered this move but my reply to this is not correct Ich hatte diesen Zug in Erwägung gezogen, aber meine Antwort hierauf ist nicht korrekt.*)* 13...b5;

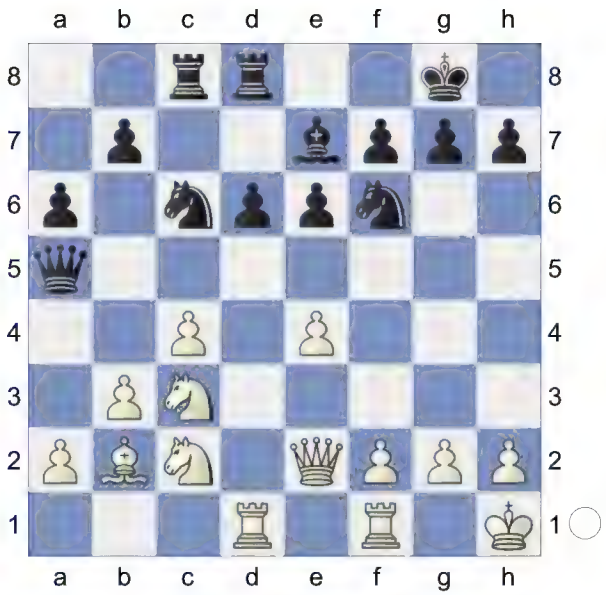
B) 11...Rac8 12.Qd3 Rfd8 13.Rd1 Na5 14.Ne3 Qc6?! 15.b3 a6 16.Bd2 b6 17.Rac1 Qc7 18.Ne2 0.02/21 *(18.Kh1± 0.54/19)* 18...Nc6 19.b4 -0.20/19 *(⌓19.Nd5 0.19/18 exd5 20.cxd5)* 19...Nb8 0.31/19 *(19...Qb7= -0.20/19)* 20.f5 -0.39/19 *(20.g4± 0.31/19)* 20...e5? 2.05/18 *(20...Re8∓ -0.39/19* keeps the upper hand.*)* 21.Nc3+- Qb7 22.Ned5 Nxd5 23.Nxd5 Bf8∞ 3.67/18 *(⌓23...Re8 2.23/19 24.f6 Bd8 25.fxg7 Nc6)* 24.f6+- g6 25.Be3 he could have done the s a m e h e r e a s w e l ler hätte das Gleiche auch hier tun können b5 26.cxb5 Rxc1? 4.17/22 *(26...axb5* 2.20/20 was worth a try. *27.a3 Rxc1)* 27.Rxc1+- axb5 28.Rc7 Qa6 29.Qc2 h5= 30.Qd2 Rc8 31.Ne7+ Bxe7 32.Rxe7? 0.33/22 he probably should have already tried to fizzle out but it is quite hard t o k n o w w h e n t o s t o pEr hätte wahrscheinlich schon versuchen sollen, die Reißleine zu ziehen, aber es ist schwer zu wissen, wann man aufhören muss. *(32.fxe7+-* 4.72/23 aiming for Qxd6!. *Re8 33.h3)* 32...Nc6? 5.61/21 *(32...Qc6!± 0.33/22 33.Qd3 Nd7)* 33.Bc5+- White wants to mate with Qh6!. Nxe7 34.Qh6! Nf5 35.exf5]

[10...a6?! this is what I had in mind Das hatte ich im Sinn 11.Qe2 0-0 12.b3! but this is very strong aber dies ist sehr stark Rab8 13.Rd1 Qc7 14.Bf4]

11.b3!? 0-0 12.Bb2 White is slightly better. A very interesting idea but also quite standard, lately giving up the c4 ♙ for the center in Catalan has been quite popular thanks to Dubov,Magnus etc. Eine sehr interessante Idee, aber auch ziemlich standardmäßig. In letzter Zeit ist das Aufgeben des c4-Bauern für das Zentrum im Katalanisch dank Dubov, Magnus usw. ziemlich populär geworden. **12...Rfd8?!** A very logical move but there is a problem here. I

realized this move must not be precise when my opponent looked surprised and started thinking but I also thought its good that he is out of prep and how bad can a logical move like e5 can be?! Ein sehr logischer Zug, aber es gibt hier ein Problem. Ich erkannte, dass dieser Zug wohl nicht präzise sein muss, als mein Gegner überrascht aussah und anfing nachzudenken, aber ich dachte auch, dass es gut ist, dass er nicht mehr vorbereitet ist und wie schlecht kann ein logischer Zug wie e5 sein?! **13.Qe2!** I had missed this move and I realized it is very strong once he played it Ich hatte diesen Zug übersehen und erkannte, dass er sehr stark ist, als er ihn spielte **13...a6!?** I was very happy to find this idea. I want to get the ♘ to e5 and this is the only way to do it Ich war sehr froh, diese Idee zu finden. Ich möchte den Springer nach e5 bringen und das ist der einzige Weg, es zu tun **14.Rad1?!** Andrey spent a long time after ♘g4 and couldn't come up with a convincing ideaAndrey überlegte lange nach Sg4 und konnte keine überzeugende Idee finden **14...Qc7 15.Kh1 Qa5!**

(Diagram)



16.f4 Qh5 0.75/20

[16...b5= 0.25/18]

17.Rf3 0.21/18 what Andrey did after ♘g4 is humanly very logical but a bit soft and not enough for an advantage, the long time he spent on these last few moves also had an impact surely Was Andrey nach Sg4 gemacht hat, ist menschlich sehr logisch, aber ein bisschen weich und nicht genug für einen Vorteil; die lange Zeit, die er für diese letzten Züge gebraucht hat, hatte sicher auch einen Einfluss.

[17.g4!± 0.75/20 Qxg4 18.Rf3]

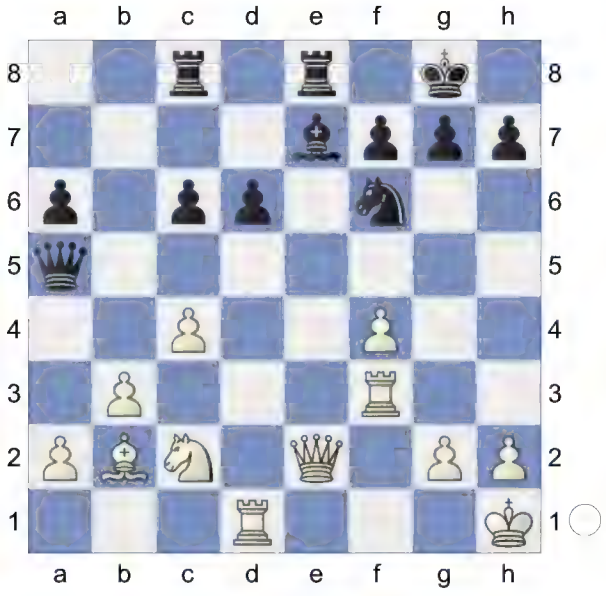
17...Qa5 0.99/17 I was already quite optimistic about my chances as I could not see what White's plan was and his c4 ♙ is under fire and also the trend of the game is in my favourIch war schon recht optimistisch, was meine Chancen anging, da ich nicht sehen konnte, was Weiß vorhatte und sein Bauer c4 unter Beschuss steht und auch der Trend der Partie zu meinen Gunsten ist

[17...b5!]

[17...b5!= 0.21/18 remains equal.]

(Diagram)

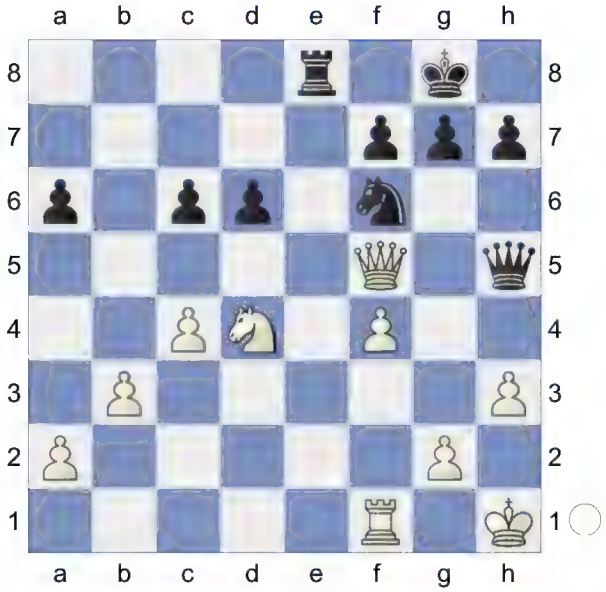
18.Nd5 -0.17/20 **exd5=** **19.exd5** 0.25/17
[⌓19.Bc3 -0.16/19 Qc7 *(19...Qxa2 20.exd5 Nxd5 21.Rxd5=)* 20.exd5]
19...Re8? 1.83/21 **20.dxc6** 0.55/19
[Only move: 20.Re3+- 1.83/21 Kf8 21.dxc6 bxc6 22.Re1]
20...bxc6±



21.Nd4 -0.55/20
[21.Re3± 0.52/18 Qf5 22.Bxf6 *(22.Rxe7 Rxe7 23.Qxe7 Qxc2±)* 22...Qxf6 23.Re1]
21...Bd8
[21...Qxa2? 22.Ra1+-]
[21...Bf8!? 22.Qc2 d5∓ *(22...Qxa2 23.Nf5±)*]
22.Qc2 -0.63/21
[22.Re3= -0.25/19 Bb6 23.Bc3 Rxe3 24.Qxe3]
22...Re1+ 0.16/18
[Black should try 22...Ne4!∓ -0.63/21]
23.Rf1?= this is a serious mistake, there is no attack on the ♔side and he is a ♙ down Dies ist ein schwerer Fehler, es gibt keinen Angriff am Königsflügel, und er hat einen Bauern weniger. **23...Rxf1+** looks like I'm weaking my ♔ but once I drive away the ♘ and play ♗d4 I'm just better Es sieht so aus, als würde ich meinen König schwächen, aber sobald ich den Springer vertreibe und Ld4 spiele, stehe ich einfach besser. **24.Rxf1 Qc5 25.Nf3 Ng4** 1.02/20
[25...Nd7± 0.54/18]

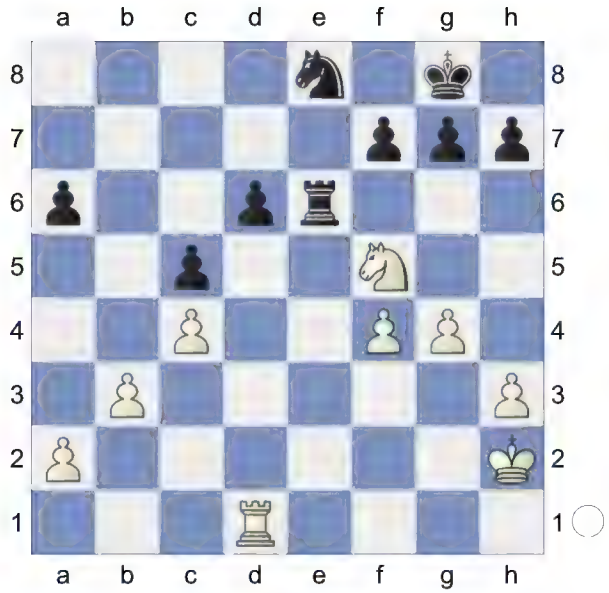
26.Bd4 **Qh5** **27.Qe4** 0.48/19
Andrey was already quite low on time and it is quite a difficult position Andrey war schon ziemlich knapp an Zeit und es ist eine ziemlich schwierige Position
[27.Qd3± 0.90/17]

27...Bf6 1.35/19
[27...Nf6± 0.48/19 28.Qb1 h6]
28.h3± Bxd4 29.Nxd4 0.42/19
[29.Qxd4± 1.35/24 Nf6 30.Qb6 *(30.Qxd6 Ne4±)*]
29...Nf6!± I thought this was clear cut Ich dachte, dies sei glasklar. **30.Qf5→** 0.04/23 White mounts an attack.
[30.Qe7± 0.42/21]
30...Re8=



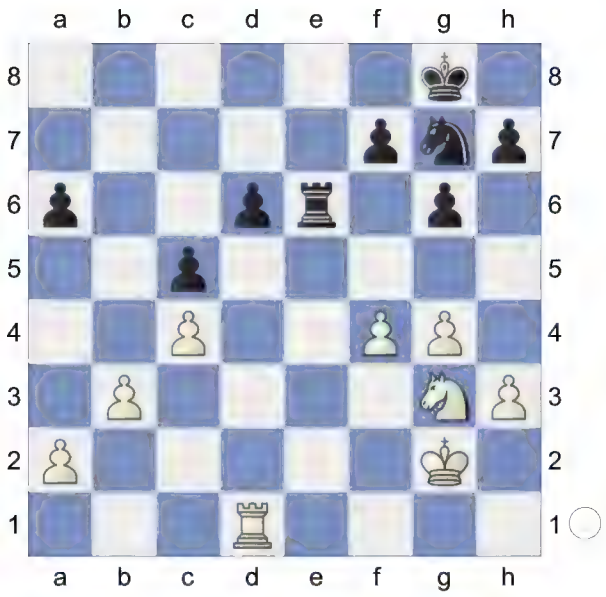
31.Qxh5 Nxh5 Endgame KRN-KRN **32.Kh2** Dodges Ng3 **32...c5**
[32...Rc8 0.87/23 32…c5 0.07 33.g4 0.36/17 *(33.Nf5± 0.87/23 Re8 34.Nxd6)* 33...Nf6± 34.Re1 next Nf5 is good for White. Kf8]
33.Nf5 Re6 White is completely paralyzed Weiß ist völlig gelähmt **34.g4 Nf6 35.Rd1 Ne8**

(Diagram)



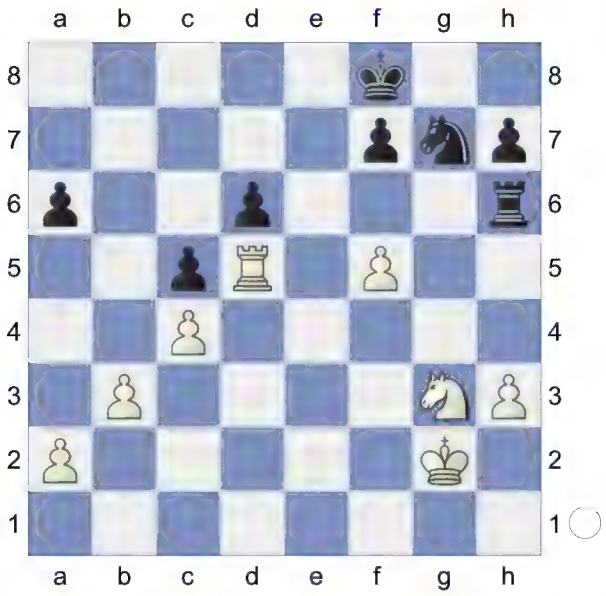
36.Ng3
[36.Rd2 g6-+]
36...g6 overall a very interesting game where I took some good practical decisions after I was outprepared and a much needed win as I caught Levon in the lead with 2 rounds to go after Levon lost a very tough game against Nepo Insgesamt eine sehr interessante Partie, in der ich einige gute praktische Entscheidungen traf, nachdem ich in punkto Vorbereitung ins Hintertreffen geriet, und ein dringend benötigter Sieg, denn ich konnte Levon 2 Runden vor Schluss noch einholen, nachdem dieser eine sehr schwierige Partie gegen Nepo verloren hatte. **37.Kg2? Ng7?** 1.95/20
[37...Re3!= 0.12/22 and Black is okay.]

(Diagram)



38.f5!+- I actually spotted this idea but I didnt really think there was any need for fancy stuff especially since what I did in the game felt simplerIch habe diese Idee tatsächlich entdeckt, aber ich dachte nicht wirklich, dass es eine Notwendigkeit für ausgefallene Sachen gibt, zumal sich das, was ich der Partie tat, einfacher anfühlte **38...gxf5 39.gxf5 Rh6 40.Rd5 Kf8** 2.51/22

[⌓40...Ne8 1.87/26 41.Ne4 Kf8]



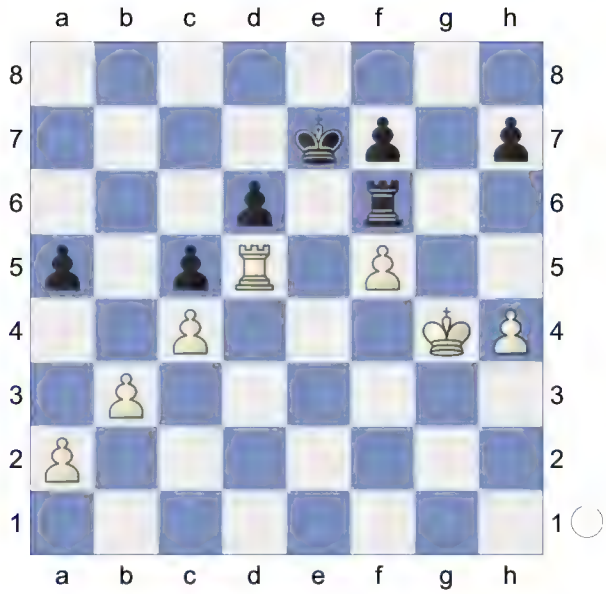
41.Ne4 It's quite clear now that I think about it about I didnt want any unpleasant surprises otbJetzt, wo ich darüber nachdenke, ist mir klar, dass ich am Brett keine unangenehmen Überraschungen erleben wollte **41...Ne8 42.Kg3 Ke7 43.Kg4 a5?** 4.12/25

[43...Nf6+ 2.08/21 44.Nxf6 Rxf6]

44.h4 2.16/19

[⌓44.Rd3 4.12/25]

44...Nf6+ 45.Nxf6 Rxf6

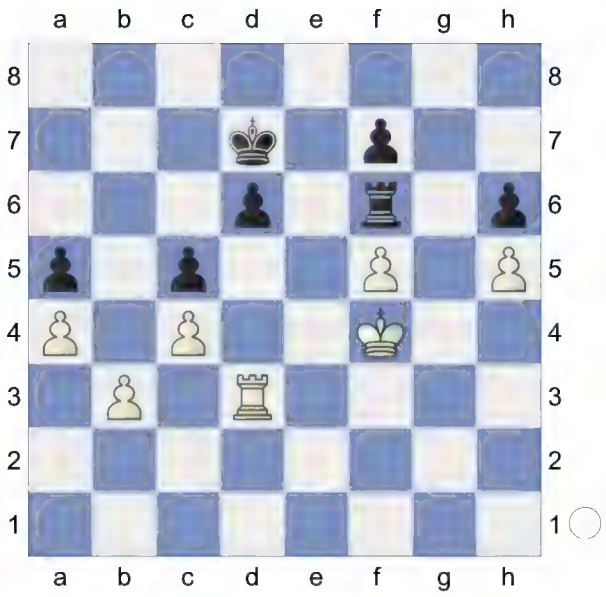


KR-KR **46.Kg5 h6+ 47.Kf4 Kd7 48.a4** 0.79/30

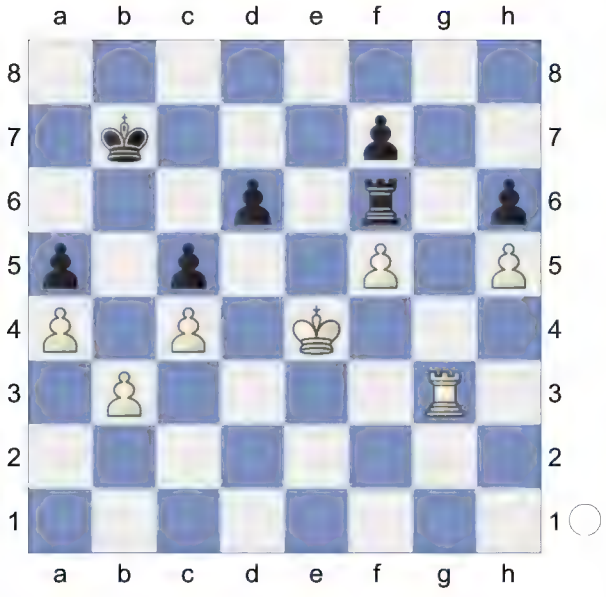
[48.Rd3+- 1.83/24 and White stays clearly on top.]

48...Kc6 49.Rd3 I thought this must be winning but the comp doesn't think it is so clear Ich dachte, das muss gewonnen sein, aber der Comp hält es für nicht so klar. **49...Kc7!-+ 50.h5 Kd7!**

(Diagram)

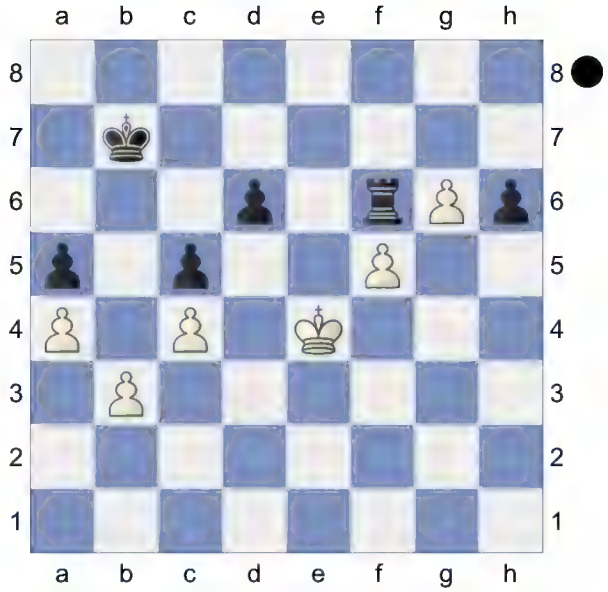


51.Ke4 Kc7 my intention but there is something strongermeine Absicht, aber es gibt etwas Stärkeres **52.Rg3** 1.53/20
[Better is 52.Kf4± 0.51/26]
52...Kb7? 7.30/23
[52...d5+± 1.53/20 53.Ke5 *(53.Kxd5 Rxf5+ 54.Ke4 Rxh5=; 53.cxd5 Rb6±)* 53...Rd6]



53.Rg6!!+- fxg6
[53...d5+ 54.cxd5]
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.45

54.hxg6



Loss on time!?
0-1

174 **A20**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2718**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2734**
WR Chess Masters 2023 (6.2) 22.02.23
[TA]

A20: English Opening: 1...e5
1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.d4 exd4 4.Qxd4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Na6

(Diagram)

6.Bg2 Bc5 7.Qd1N -0.12/20

[Better is 7.Qe5+± 0.39/19 Be7 *(7...Qe7 8.Qxe7+ Bxe7 9.0-0 d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.e4 Ndb4 12.Ne1 Nc5 13.Bd2 a5 14.Bc3 Be6 15.b3 0-0 16.Nd2 Rfd8 17.Nef3 Bg4 18.a3 Bxf3 19.Bxf3 Nc2 20.Ra2 Nd4 21.Bd1 Nb5 22.Ba1* 0-1 (46) Kosten,A (2551)-Collins,A 4NCL 2002 *)*

A) 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 Re8 10.Qd4 Bc5 *(10...Bb4 11.a3 Bxc3 12.Qxc3 Nc5 13.b4 Nce4 14.Qd4 d6 15.Bb2 c5 16.Qd1 Be6 17.Rc1 Rc8 18.Qd3 cxb4 19.axb4 Qc7 20.Nd2 Nxd2 21.Qxd2 Bxc4 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Bd5 b5 24.Qf4 Qe7 25.Bxc4* 0-1 (56) Sjugirov,S (2649)-Ibarra Jerez,J (2556) Titled Tuesday intern op 26th Nov Late blitz 2024 (11)*)* 11.Qd1 d5 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Nd4 Bg4 15.a3 Qf6 16.Be3 Bb6 17.b4 Rad8 18.Qd2 Nb8 19.Rad1 Qg6 20.Rfe1 Nc6 21.Nxc6 Bxe3 22.fxe3 bxc6 ½-½ (52) Sloth,J-Timmerman,G World Champions Jubilee 2001;

B) 8.Nc3]

7...d5= 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.0-0 Qxd1 0.17/15

[9...0-0 -0.19/19 is superior.]

10.Rxd1 Ke7

11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nd4

[12.Bf4 seems wilder. Rhd8 13.Ng5 Bf5 14.Nge4]

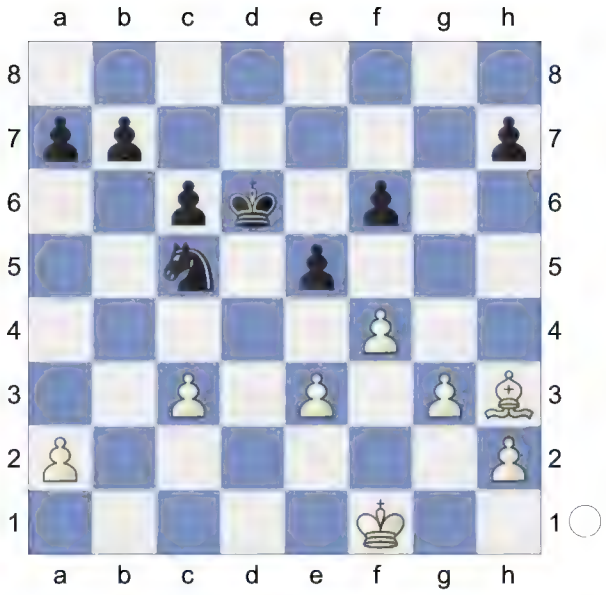
12...Rad8 13.Be3 Ng4! 14.Nxe6

Discovered Attack **14...Rxd1+ 15.Nxd1 fxe6**

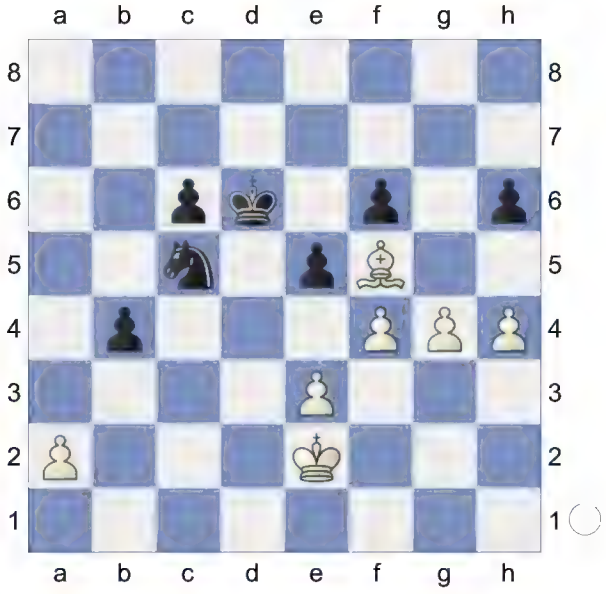
(Diagram)

16.Bg5+ Nf6 17.Nc3 Rd8 18.Rd1 Bd4
[18...Rxd1+ simplifies 19.Nxd1 Bd6 20.Be3 Bc5]
19.e3
[19.Nd5+!? exd5 20.Rxd4±]
19...Bxc3 The position is equal. **20.Rxd8 Kxd8**

21.bxc3 Endgame KBB-KNN **21...Nc5 22.Kf1 e5 23.f4 Kd7 24.Bxf6**
[24.fxe5? Nfe4 25.Bf4 Nxc3 26.Bh3+ Ke7 27.Bg5+ Kf7-+]
24...gxf6 KB-KN **25.Bh3+ Kd6**

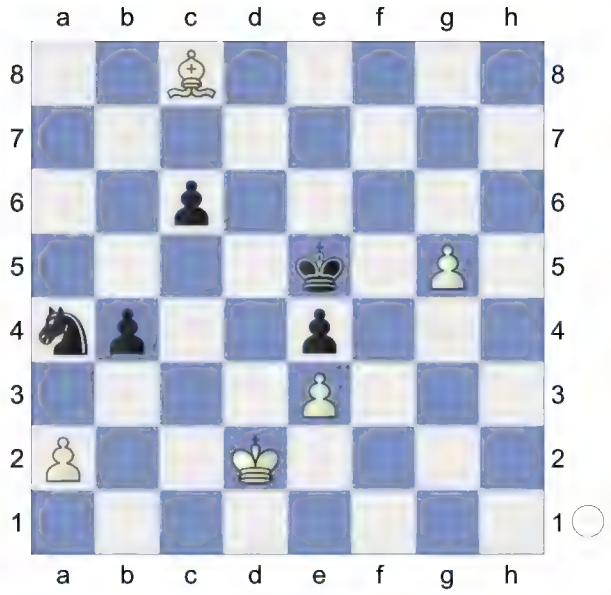


Black wants to play ...Na4. **26.Bf5 h6**
And now ...Na4 would win. **27.Ke2 a5 28.h4 b5 29.g4 b4 30.cxb4 axb4**



31.g5 fxg5 32.fxg5 hxg5 33.hxg5
And now Kf3 would win. **33...e4 34.Kd2**
[34.g6!? Ke7□ 35.Kd2± *(35.g7 Kf7=)*]
34...Ke5 35.Bc8
[35.g6!? Kf6□ *(35...Kxf5?* perishes. *36.g7+-)* 36.Kc2=]
35...Na4

(Diagram)



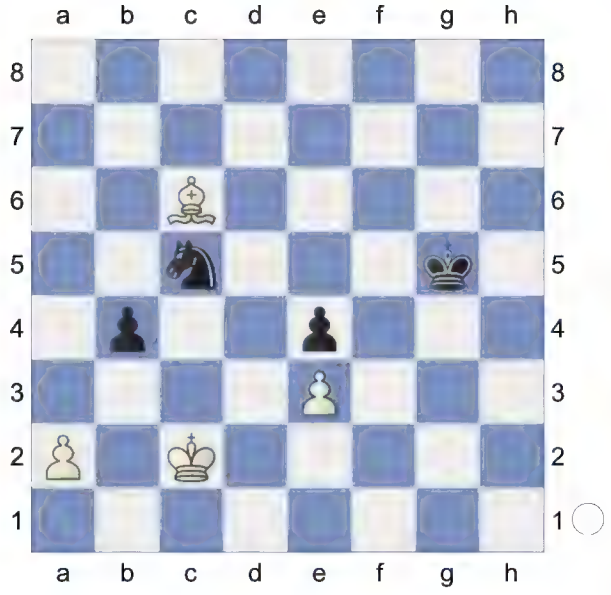
36.Bd7

[36.g6!? Kf6□ 37.Bf5= Promotion]

36...Nc5 37.Bc8 Na4 38.Bd7

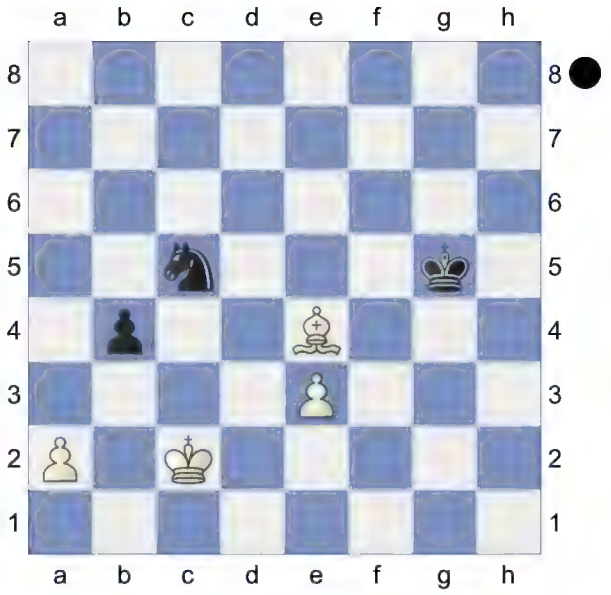
[38.g6!? Kf6□ 39.Bf5= Promotion]

38...Nc5 39.Bxc6 Kf5 40.Kc2 Kxg5



41.Bxe4

(Diagram)

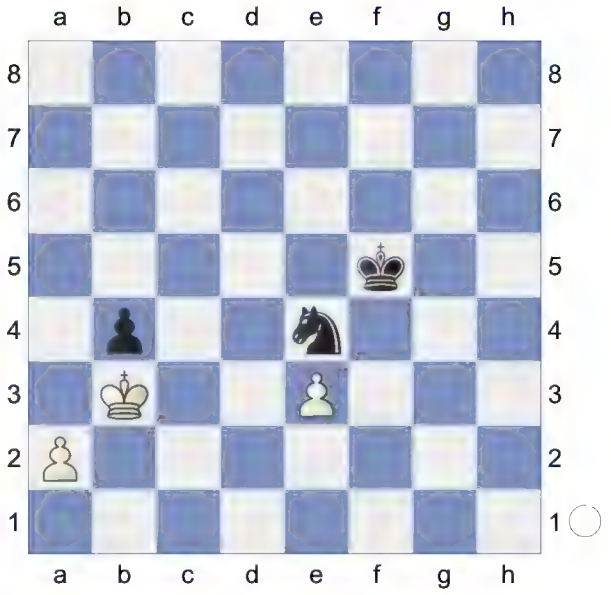


Deflection **41...Nxe4 42.Kb3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

42...Kf5

[42...Nc3!?]



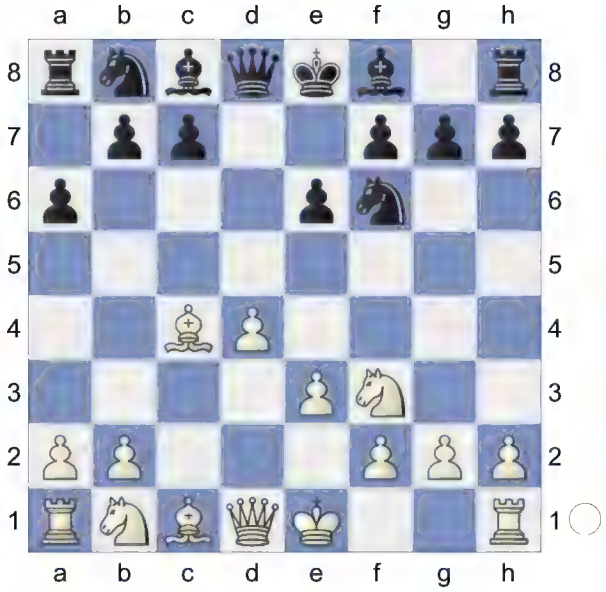
½-½

175 **D26**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2793**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2718**
WR Chess Masters 2023 (5.2) 21.02.2023
[TA]

D26: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 4 e3 e6 5 Bxc5 c5 sidelines

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 a6

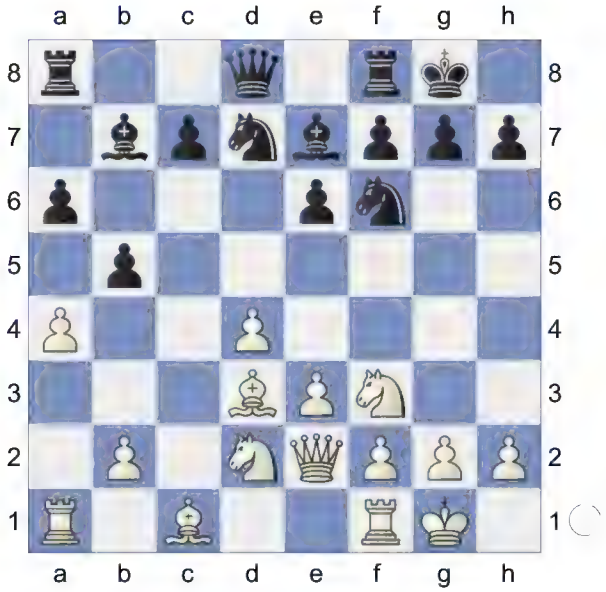
[5...c5 6.0-0 a6 7.Be2 cxd4 8.exd4 Nc6 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Be3 Ng4 11.Bf4 Nf6 12.Rc1 0-0 13.Na4 Nd5 14.Bg3 Bd6 15.Bd3 Nce7 16.Qb3 b6 17.Be4 Rb8 18.Rfe1 Bb7 19.Nc3 Nxc3 20.Bxb7 0-1 (110) C 06/32 (2809)-Deslandes,P (2807) GER-ITA email 2012 (2)]



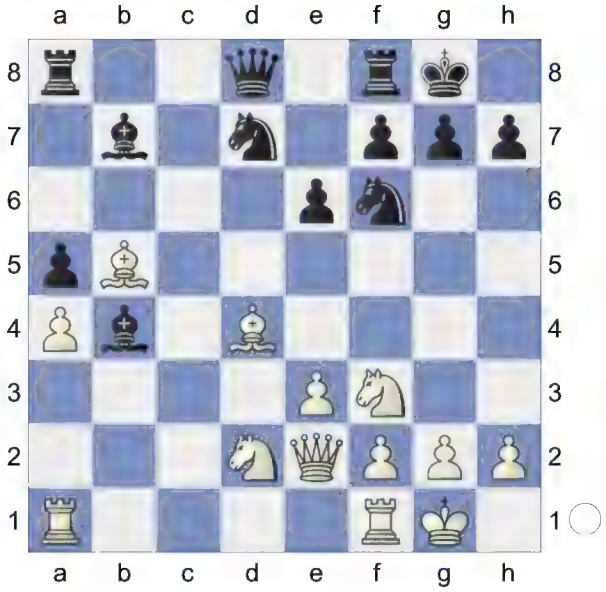
6.0-0 Be7 7.Qe2N

[7.Nbd2 b5 8.Be2 Nbd7 9.a4 bxa4 10.Qxa4 0-0 11.Nb3 c5 12.Bd2 cxd4 13.Nfxd4 Ne5 14.Rfc1 Bb7 15.Qa5 Qb8 16.Qc7 Bd6 17.Qxb8 Rfxb8 18.Na5 Be4 19.b3 h6 20.f3 Bd3 21.Kf1 Bb4 ½-½ (41) Le,Q (2739)-Giri,A (2728) 7th Prague Masters 2025 (1)]

7...b5 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.a4 White is slightly better. **9...Bb7 10.Nbd2 0-0**



11.b3 c5 12.Bb2 cxd4 13.Bxd4 bxa4 14.bxa4 a5 15.Bb5 Bb4



16.Nc4 Qe7 17.Ne1 Nc5 18.Rd1 -0.11/19

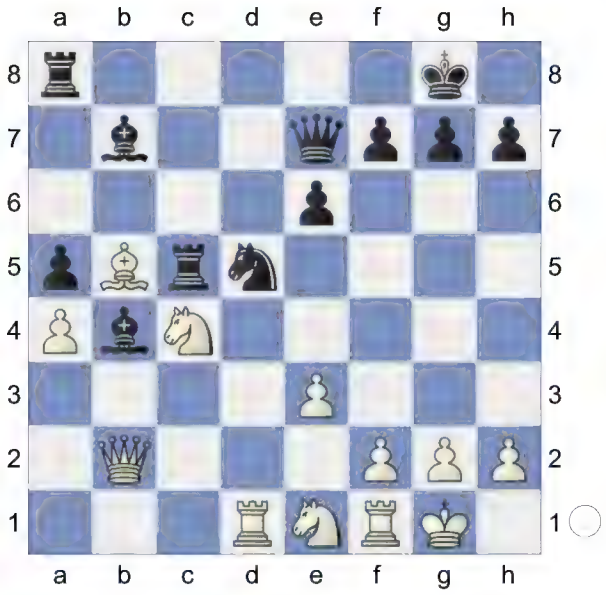
[18.Nc2± 0.37/17]

18...Nd5= 19.Qb2 -0.33/17

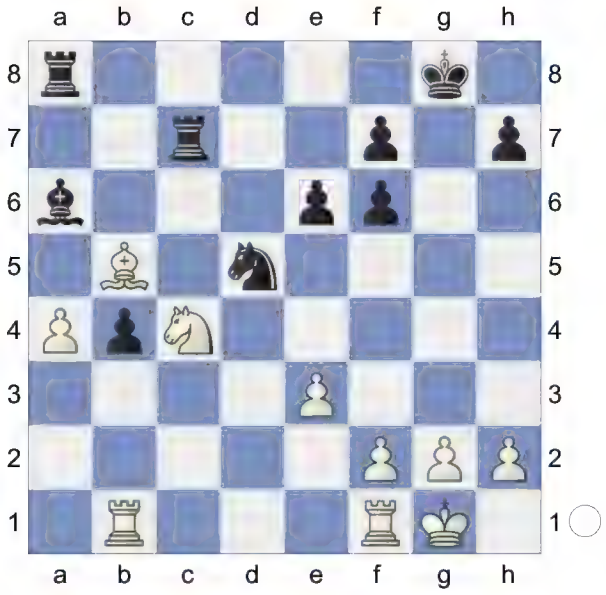
[19.Nd3= 0.03/19]

19...Rfc8∓ 20.Bxc5 Rxc5

(Diagram)

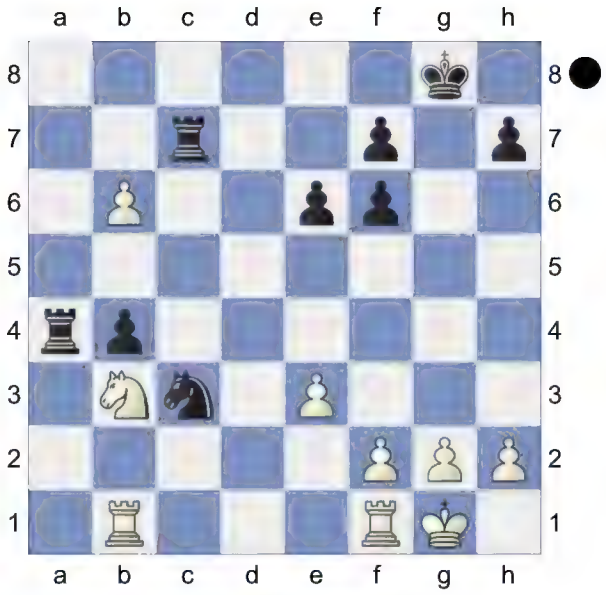


21.Nd3 A dynamic duo of knights.
21...Rc7 22.Rc1 -0.72/18 Wards off Nc3
[22.Nxb4= -0.28/19 axb4 23.Rd4]
22...Qf6∓ 23.Nxb4 -1.08/22
[⌓23.Rc2 -0.72/19]
23...axb4 24.Qxf6 gxf6 25.Rb1 Ba6

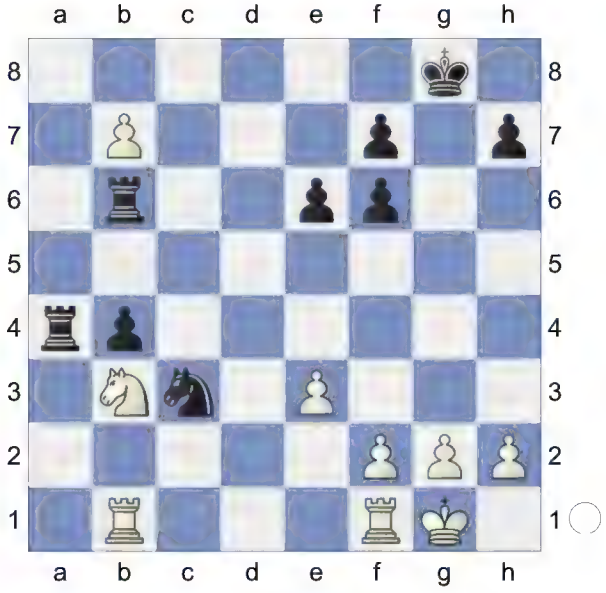


26.Nd2 Bxb5 27.axb5 Ra4 -0.71/25
[⌓27...f5 -1.08/24 28.Nf3 Rc4]
28.Nb3 Nc3! 29.b6

(Diagram)

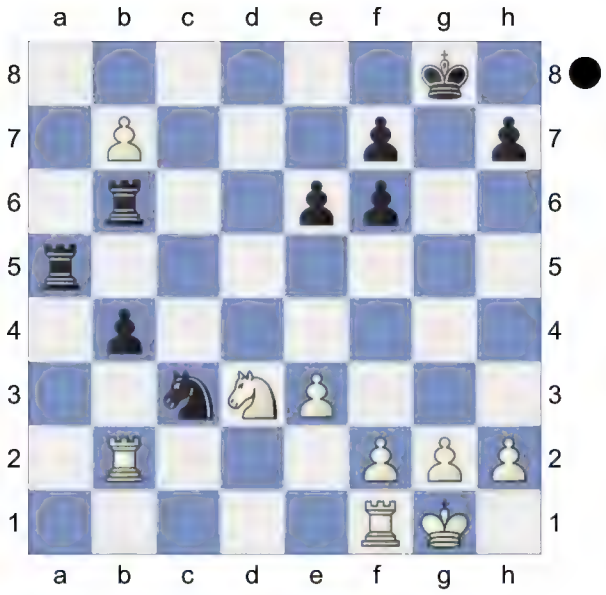


Rc6 30.b7 Rb6!

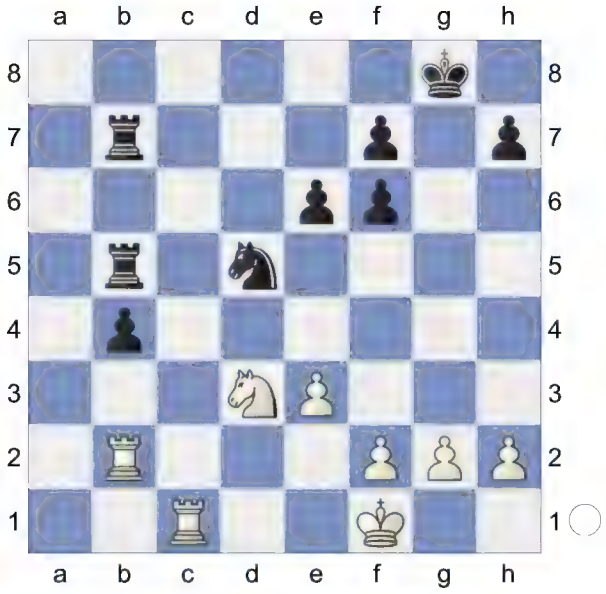


31.Rb2 Ra7
[31...Rxb7?! 32.Nc5 Rb5 33.Nxa4 Nxa4 34.Rb3±]
32.Nc5 Ra5 33.Nd3 -1.89/23
[33.Rd2∓ -0.94/23 is a better defense. Kg7 34.Rd8]

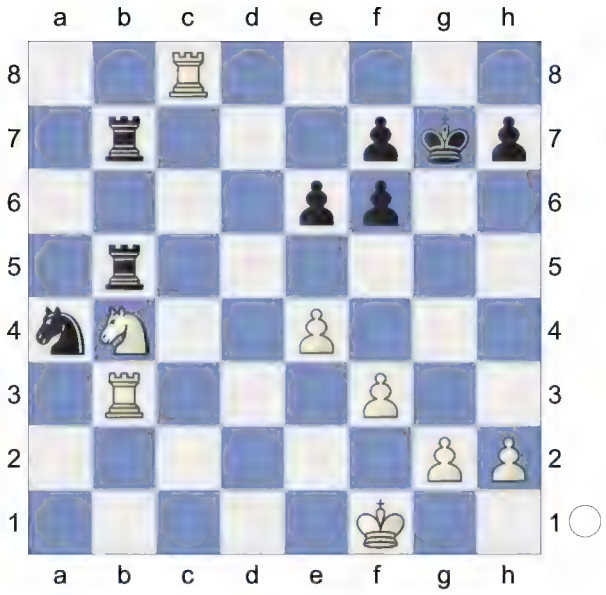
(Diagram)



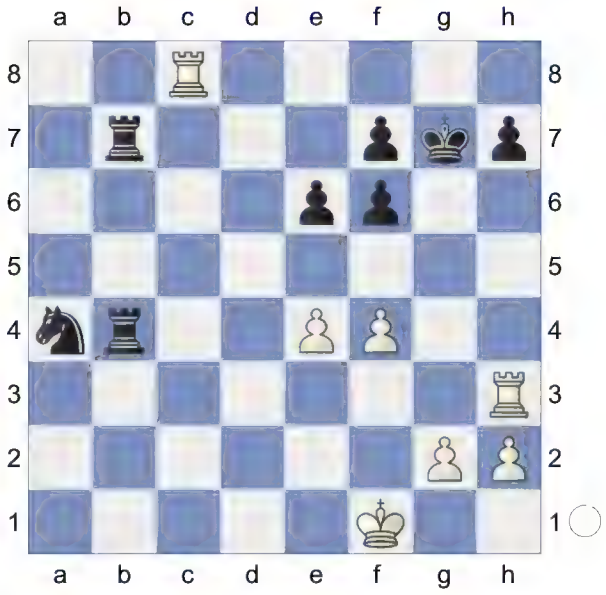
33...Rab5 -0.47/21
[Worse is 33...Rxb7 34.Rxb4 Rxb4 35.Nxb4=]
[33...b3!-+ -1.89/23 34.Rc1 Na4]
34.Rc1!∓ Rxb7 35.Kf1
[35.Nxb4? Rxb4 36.Rxb4 Rxb4-+]
35...Nd5!



36.e4 Nc3 37.f3 The position is equal.
37...Rd7 38.Nxb4 Na4 39.Rb3
[Wrong is 39.Nd5? Rdxd5 *(39...Nxb2 40.Nxf6+ Kg7 41.Nxd7±)* 40.Rc8+ Kg7 41.Rxb5 Rxb5-+]
39...Rdb7 40.Rc8+ Kg7



41.f4! Rxb4 42.Rg3+ Kh6 43.Rh3+ Kg7 44.Rg3+ Kh6 Hoping for ...Rb1+.
45.Rh3+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
45...Kg7



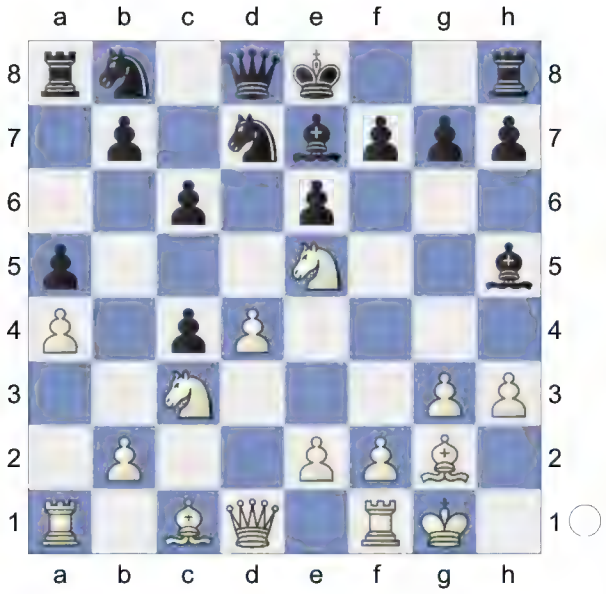
½-½

176 **D16**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2793**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2718**
Duesseldorf WR Masters_873 (5)21.02.23
[TA]

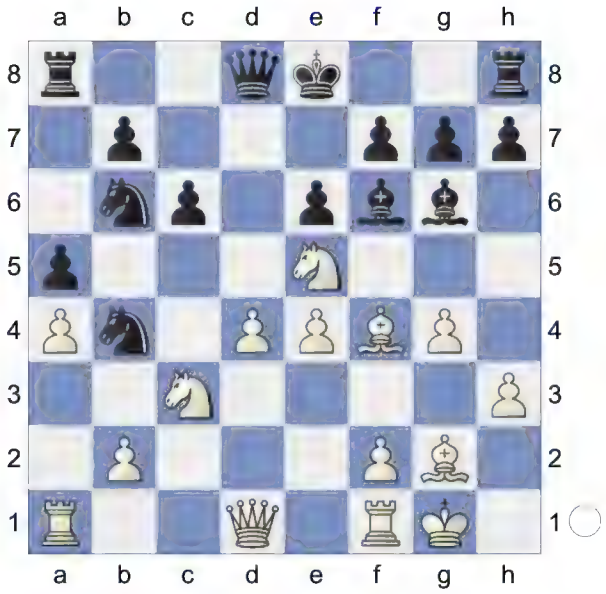
D16: Slav Defence: 5 a4: Lines with 5... Bg4 and 5...Na6

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bg4

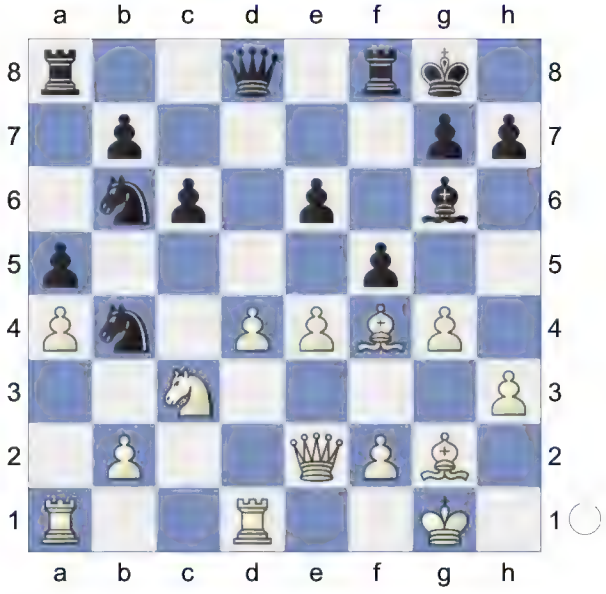
6.Ne5 Bh5 7.g3 a5 8.Bg2 e6 9.0-0 Be7 10.h3 Nfd7



and ...Nxe5 would now be decisive
11.Nxc4 Na6 12.g4 White is better.
12...Bg6 13.e4 Nb4 14.Bf4 Nb6
15.Ne5 Bf6 1.29/22
[15...Nd7± 0.36/19]

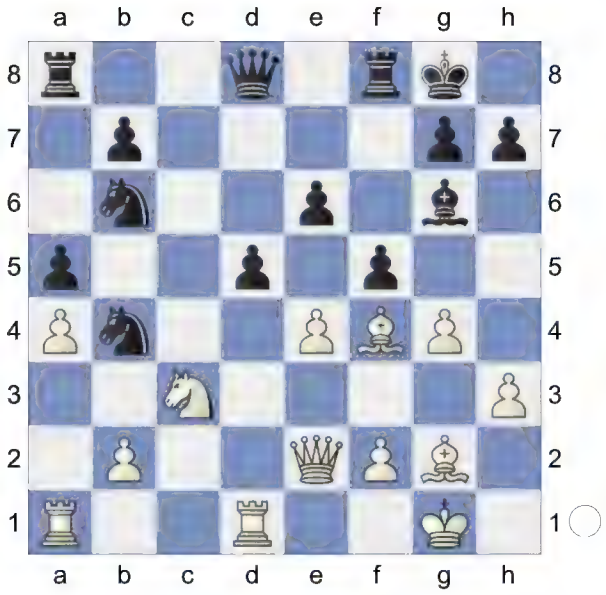


16.Qe2 0.83/19
[⌓16.Qb3! 1.29/22]
16...Bxe5± 17.Bxe5 f6 18.Bf4 0-0
19.Rfd1 Black is on the road to losing.
19...f5N



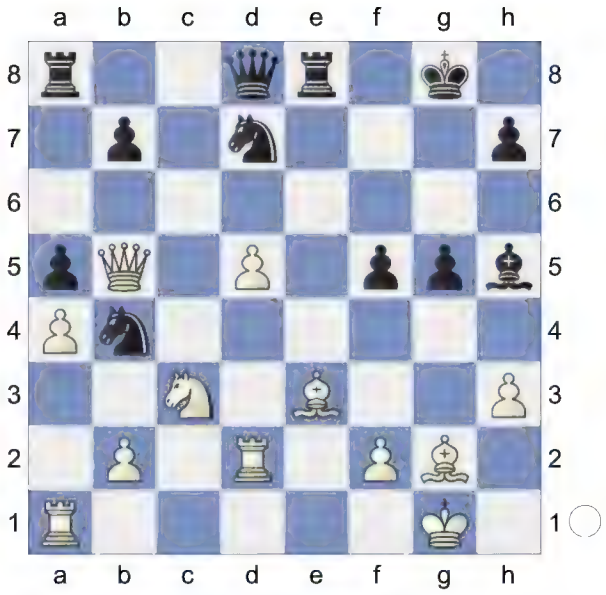
20.d5! cxd5

(Diagram)



21.gxf5 exf5 1.74/18
[21...d4± 0.88/18]
22.exd5 1.15/16
[22.Nxd5+- 1.74/18 aiming for Nc7. N6xd5 23.exd5]
22...Re8 1.84/20
[22...Be8± 1.15/16 was worth a try. 23.Nb5 N4xd5 24.Qe6+ Bf7 25.Qxf5 Be8 26.Qe6+ *(26.Bxd5+ Nxd5* Pin *27.Qe6+ Bf7=)* 26...Bf7]
23.Qb5+- Bh5 24.Rd2 g5 2.65/19
[⌓24...Qh4 1.78/16 25.Bg3 *(25.Qxb6 Qxf4 26.Rd4 Qe5=)* 25...Qg5]
25.Be3 This pair of bishops is nice.
25...Nd7

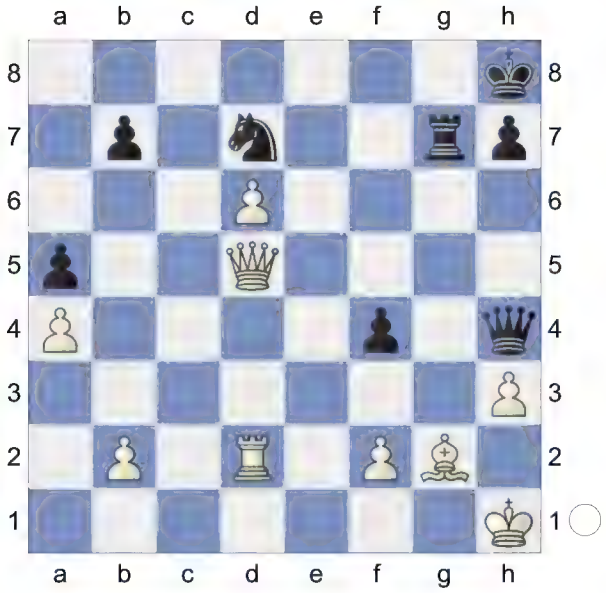
(Diagram)



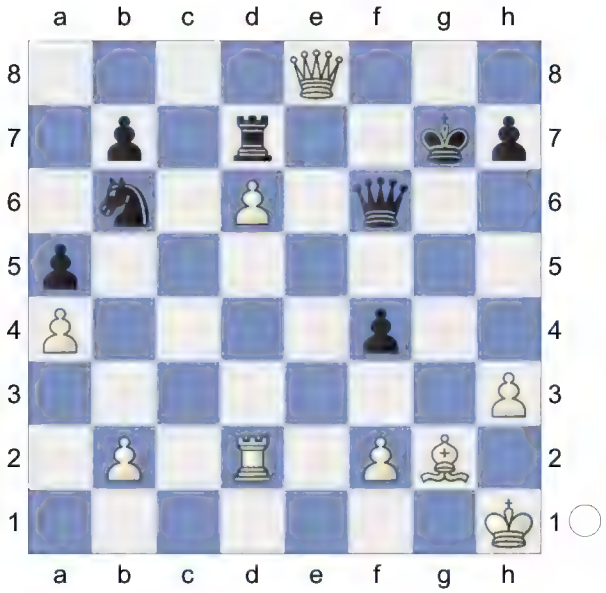
26.d6
[26.Qxb7 Rb8 27.Qa7 f4=]
26...f4 27.Bxf4 gxf4 28.Qxh5 Kh8 29.Kh1 Rg8 30.Re1 Rg7

Wards off Re7 **31.Nd5 Nxd5 32.Qxd5**
[32.Rxd5 Nf6 33.Qe5 Nxd5 34.Bxd5 Qh4=]
32...Qf6 33.Re6
[33.Qxb7 Rag8+-]
33...Qh4 34.Re7
[34.Qxb7 Rag8 35.Re7 Rxg2 36.Qxg2 Rxg2 37.Kxg2 Qg5+ 38.Kf1 f3 39.Re8+ Kg7-+]

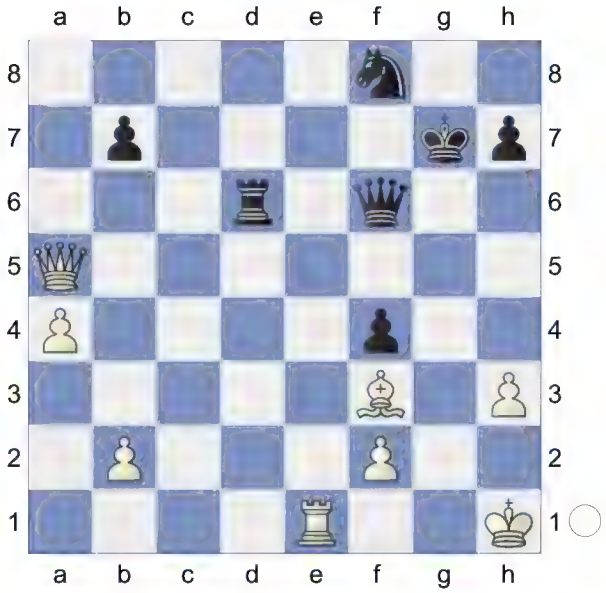
34...Rag8 Black is weak on the light squares **35.Rxg7**
[35.Qxa5? Rxg2 36.Qc3+ Nf6-+]
35...Rxg7



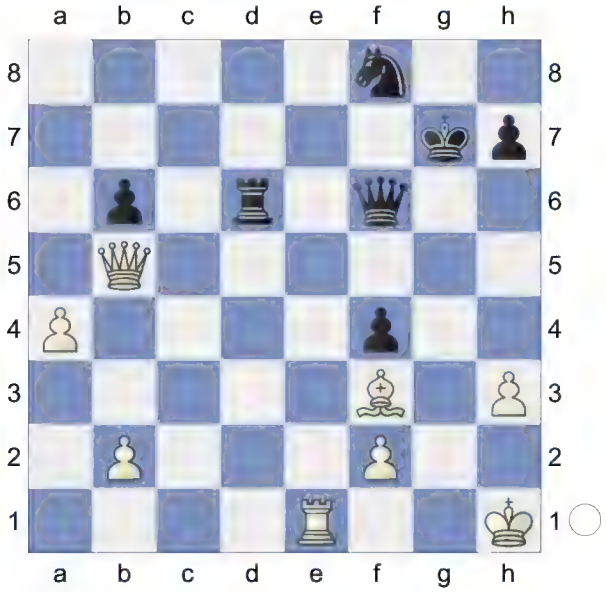
36.Rc2
[36.Qxa5 f3 37.Bf1 *(37.Bxf3? Qxh3#)* 37...Qe4 38.Qd8+ Rg8 39.Qxd7 Qe1=]
[36.Qxb7 Qg5+-]
36...Nb6 Dodges Rc8+ **37.Qd4 Qg5 38.Qe4** Active counter play!
[38.Bxb7? Qg1#]
38...Qf6 39.Rd2 Rd7 40.Qe8+ Kg7



41.Bf3 Rxd6 42.Re2 Qf8 43.Qe5+
[Weaker is 43.Bxb7 Qxe8 44.Rxe8 Nxa4=]
[Not 43.Re7+ Kg8±]
43...Qf6 44.Qxa5
[44.Bxb7 Qxe5 45.Rxe5 Nxa4=]
44...Nd7 45.Re1 Nf8



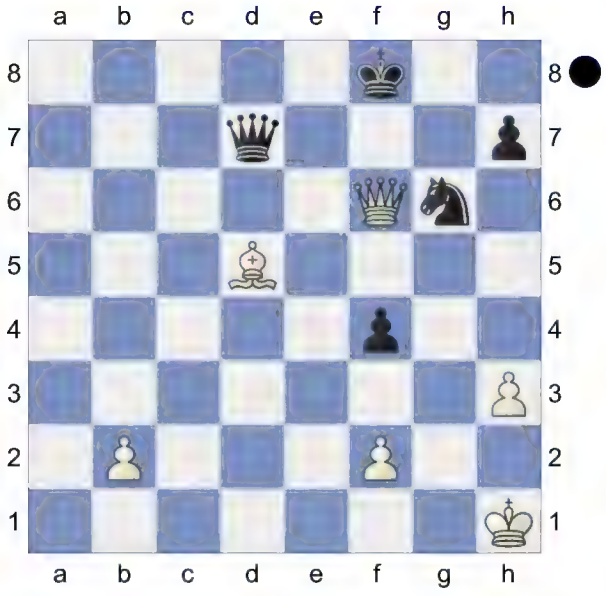
46.Qb5 b6



47.Rc1! Qe7 48.a5 bxa5 49.Qxa5 Ng6 50.Rc7 Pin **50...Rd7**

(Diagram)

51.Qc3+ Kf7 52.Bd5+ Kf8 9.73/21
[⌓52...Rxd5 4.08/17 53.Rxe7+ Kxe7 54.Qg7+ Ke6 55.Qxh7 Kf6]
53.Rxd7 Deflection **53...Qxd7**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.41
54.Qf6+

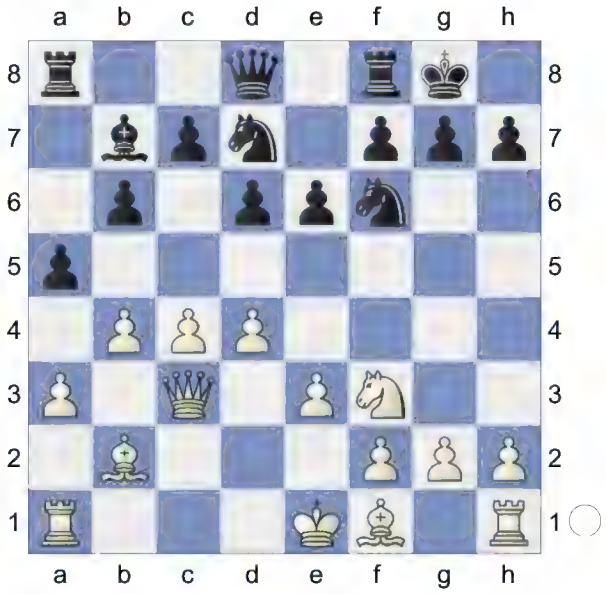


An unexpected result.
½-½

177 **E32**
□ **Cardoso Cardoso,Jose Gabriel 2498**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju 2718**
Airthings Masters Play-In rapid (3)
[TA]

E32: Nimzo-Indian: Classical (4 Qc2): 4... 0-0
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+

6.Qxc3 b6 7.e3 Bb7 8.Nf3 d6 9.b4 Nbd7 10.Bb2 a5

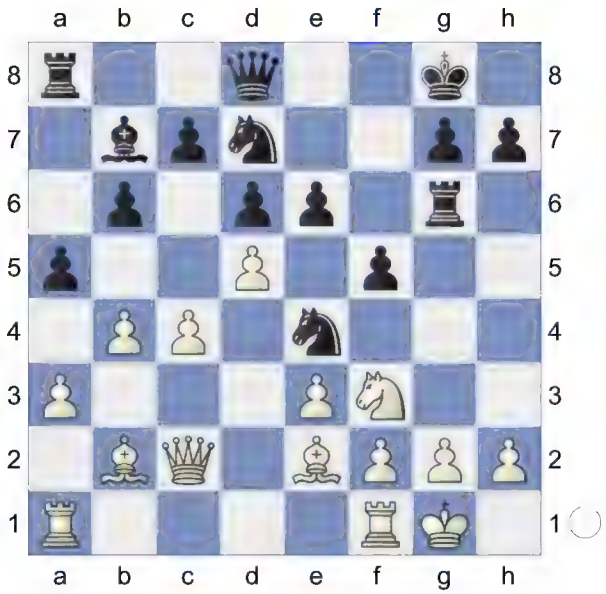


11.Be2 Ne4 12.Qc2 f5 13.0-0 Rf6N An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante.

[13...Ng5 14.Ne1 axb4 15.axb4 Rxa1 16.Bxa1 e5 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.f3 Qe7 19.Qc3 Ne6 20.Nc2 f4 21.c5 bxc5 22.Bc4 Kh8 23.Bxe6 Qxe6 24.bxc5 Qc6 25.e4 Re8 26.Nb4 Qxc5+ 27.Qxc5 Nxc5 28.Rc1 1-0 (64) Strick,E (2640)-Lazard,F (2535) Baltimore sim 1892 (13)]

14.d5 Rg6 1.23/18

[⌓14...Rh6 0.83/19]

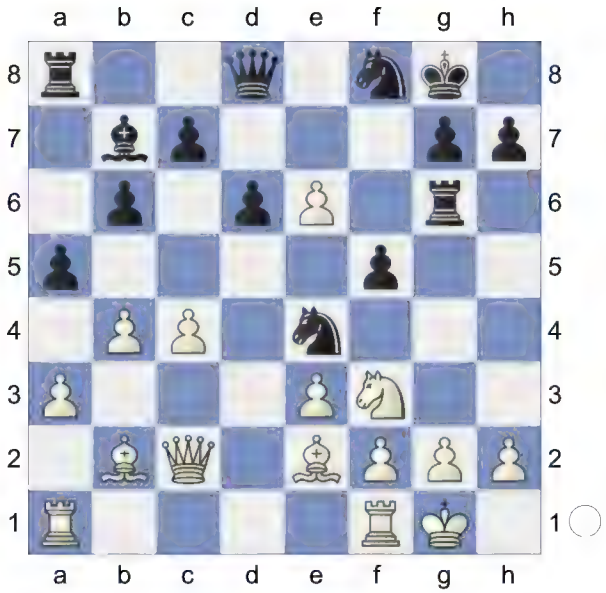


15.dxe6 0.00/20

[15.Nd4!± 1.23/18]

15...Nf8=

(Diagram)



The position is equal. **16.c5 dxc5N** 1.12/18

[Vorgänger: 16...bxc5 17.bxc5 Nxc5 18.Qxf5 Qf7+ would now be deadly. Nfxe6 19.Kh1 -1.23/20 (White should play *19.Qc2∓* -0.49/19) 19...Be4 20.Qh5 Qe7 21.Bc4 -2.71/19 (*21.Rad1∓* -1.21/18) 21...Rf8 22.Ne1 Rf5 0-1 (36) Bubeeva,L (1810)-Afanasieva,A (1997) Moscow 2021]

[16...bxc5= -0.11/19 17.bxc5 Nxc5]

17.bxc5 0.54/18

[17.Rfd1± 1.12/18 Qe7 18.Ne5]

17...Nxc5± 18.Qxf5 Nfxe6 19.Rad1 Inhibits Qd7. **19...Qe7 20.Kh1** -0.49/19

[20.h4!± 0.39/20]

20...Rf8∓

(Diagram)

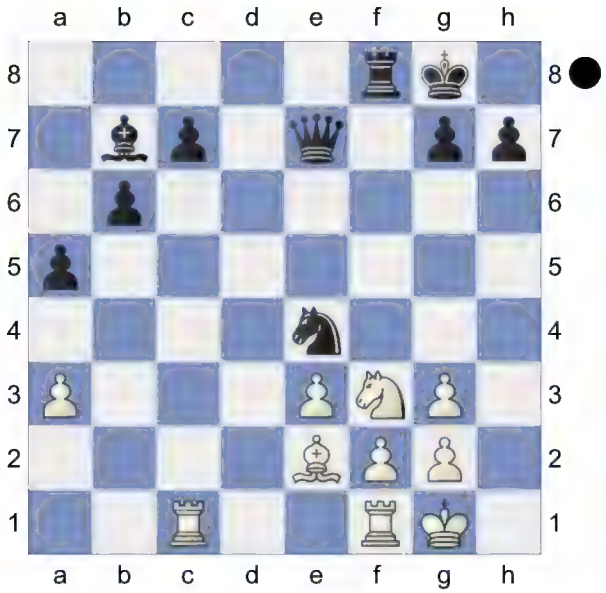
21.Qe5 Qf7 0.00/18
[21...Qe8!∓ -0.69/19]
22.Qh5
[22.h3!?]
22...Ne4 0.42/19
[Better is 22...Qe7!∓ -0.33/20]
23.Be5 -0.60/17 A strong pair of Bishops.
[23.Bc4± 0.42/19]
23...Qe7! And now ...Rh6! would win.
24.Bg3 -1.45/17
[24.Bc4∓ -0.52/19]
24...Nc3!↑ Black is on the roll. Black is more active.
[24...Qxa3 25.Bc4∓]
[24...Nxg3+ 25.fxg3 Rgf6 *(25...Qxa3 26.Bc4=)* 26.Bc4∓]
White does not recover from this.
25.Nh4? -4.58/20
[25.Bc4∓ -1.48/19 Bxf3 *(25...Qxa3? 26.Ng5+-)* 26.gxf3 Nxd1 27.Rxd1]
25...Rg5-+

(Diagram)

Black is clearly winning. **26.Rc1 Rxh5**
[Don't take 26...Qxa3 27.Qxg5 Nxg5 28.Bc4+ Kh8 29.f3]
27.Bxh5 Ne4 28.Be2 N6c5 29.Nf3 Nxg3+ 30.hxg3 Ne4

31.Kg1

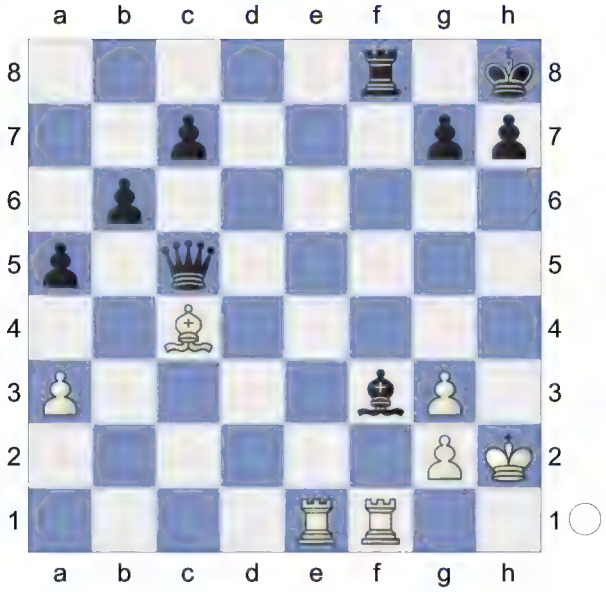
(Diagram)



Nxg3! 32.Bc4+ Kh8 33.fxg3 Qxe3+ 34.Kh2 Bxf3 35.Rce1

Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.21 (precise)

35...Qc5



0-1

178 **A36**

□ **Kramnik,Vladimir** **2753**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2718**

Airthings Play-In Match rapid (1.2)

[Kitty Kat]

A36: Symmetrical English vs ...g6: 4 Bg2 Bg7

1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.d3

[5.Nf3 d6 *(5...e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nb5 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.0-0 Nge7 10.Nfxd4 0-0 11.Be3 Nf5 12.Nxf5 Bxf5 13.Qxd5 Qxd5 14.Bxd5 Bxb2 15.Rad1* Chapter 5C-Fischer Critical position 3 1.c4 c5 for White 2024*)* 6.0-0 Nf6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Nxc6 Bxc6 10.e4 0-0 11.Qe2 Nd7 12.Bd2 a6 13.Rab1 b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15.a3 Rb8 16.Rfc1 Ne5 17.Nd5 Qd7 18.Bc3 Rfc8 19.b3 Ba8 1-0 (62) Stephan,J (2524)-Babarovic,F (2494) Tata Steel-A 84th 2022]

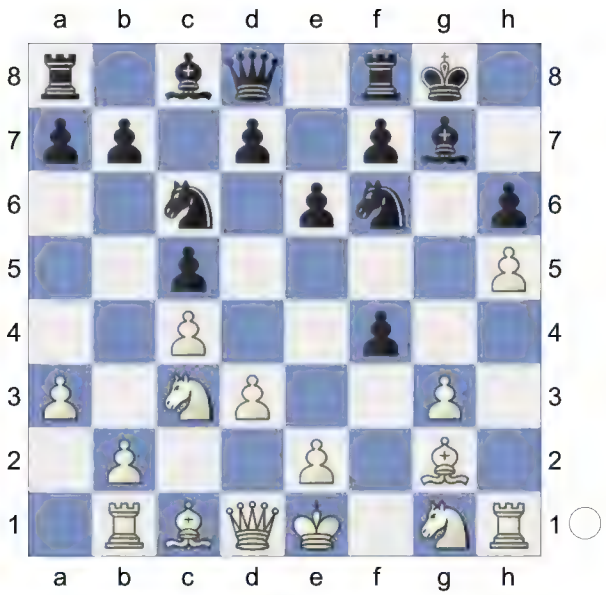
5...Nf6N

[5...d6 6.e4 f5 7.Nge2 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Rb1 Bd7 10.Bg5 Ng4 11.h3 Nge5 12.f4 Nf7 13.exf5 Nxg5 14.fxg5 Bxf5 15.g4 Bd7 16.Ne4 Rb8 17.Qd2 Nd4 18.Nf4 Bc6 19.Nd5 a5 20.Rxf8+ 0-1 (48) Duchamp,M-Le Lionnais,F Paris offhand 1932 Qxf8 21.Rf1 Qd8 22.Kh1 Be5 23.Qe3 b5 24.Nxc5 bxc4 25.dxc4 Rxb2 26.Ne4 Bxd5 27.cxd5 Rxa2 28.Nd2 a4 29.Nc4 Re2 30.Qd3 Bg7 31.h4 Qc8 32.Rf4 Re1+ 33.Kh2 Nb3 34.h5 Qc5 35.Bf1 0-1 (48) Duchamp,M-Schroeder,M New York Metropolitan Team-ch 1922 (1) gxh5 36.gxh5 Re5 37.Rf5 Rxf5 38.Qxf5 Nd4 39.Qe4

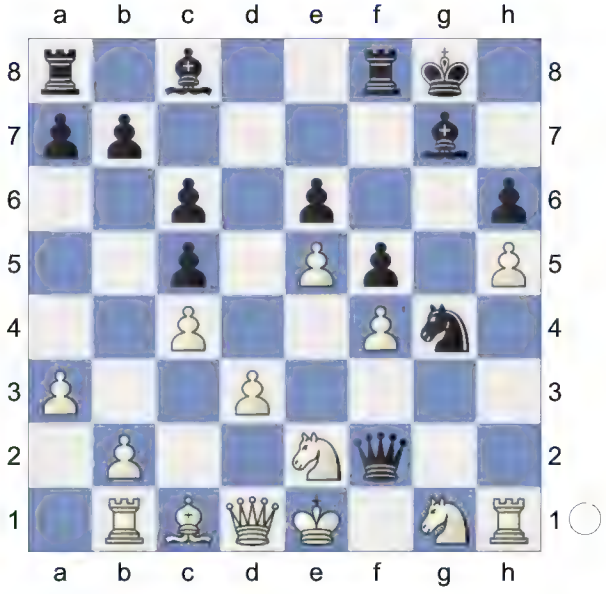
a3 40.Bd3 Nf3+ 41.Qxf3 a2 42.g6 hxg6 43.Bxg6 Bf6 44.Qg2 a1Q 45.Bh7+ Kxh7 46.Qg6+ Kh8 47.Qe8+ Kg7 48.Qg6+ Kf8 0-1 Wunderlich,F-QUEEN'S GAMBIT WITH h6 56/570 Tilburg 1992]

6.a3 0-0 7.Rb1 e6 7...a6 is the modern continuation. 7...a6 ist die moderne Fortsetzung. **8.h4** -0.27/20
[⌓8.Nf3 0.25/19]
8...h6N
[Vorgänger: 8...d5 9.cxd5 Nxd5 *(9...exd5!? 10.Bg5 d4=)* 10.Ne4 b6 11.h5 Bb7 12.hxg6 -0.22/21 *(12.h6* 0.18/19 *Bh8 13.Nf3)* 12...hxg6= 13.Nf3 Qe7 14.Kf1 Rfd8 ½-½ (119) Kramnik,V (2753)-Leko,P (2663) chess24.com INT 2020]
[8...d5!?]
9.h5 g5 10.f4 gxf4

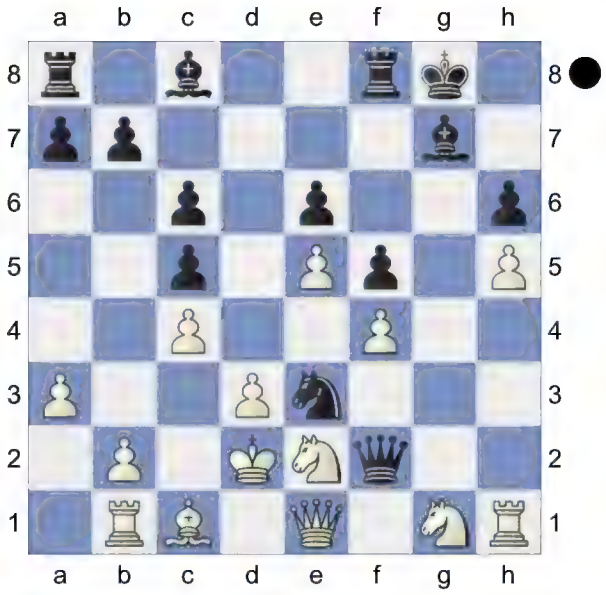
(Diagram)



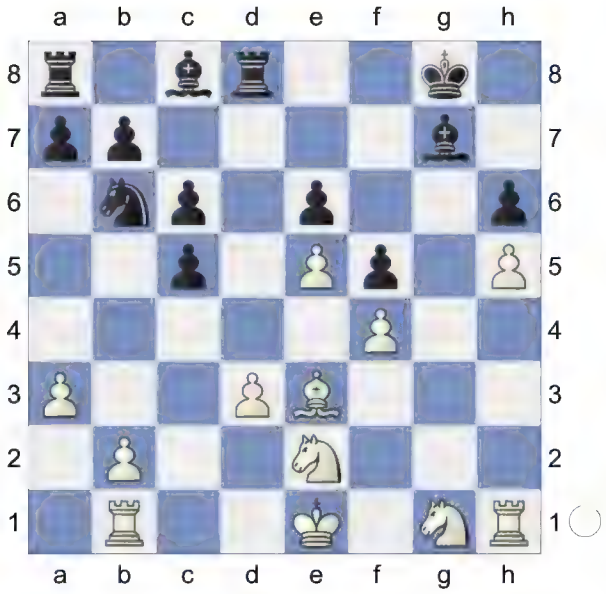
11.Bxc6 dxc6 12.gxf4 Ng4
[12...b5 13.Nf3 Ng4 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.fxe5 bxc4 16.dxc4 Bxe5 17.Qxd8 Rxd8 18.Bxh6 Rd4]
13.e4 f5 White must now prevent ...e5.
14.e5 Qd4 0.32/20
[14...b5= -0.13/20]
15.Nce2 -0.73/20
[15.Nge2± 0.32/20 Qf2+ 16.Kd2]
15...Qf2+∓



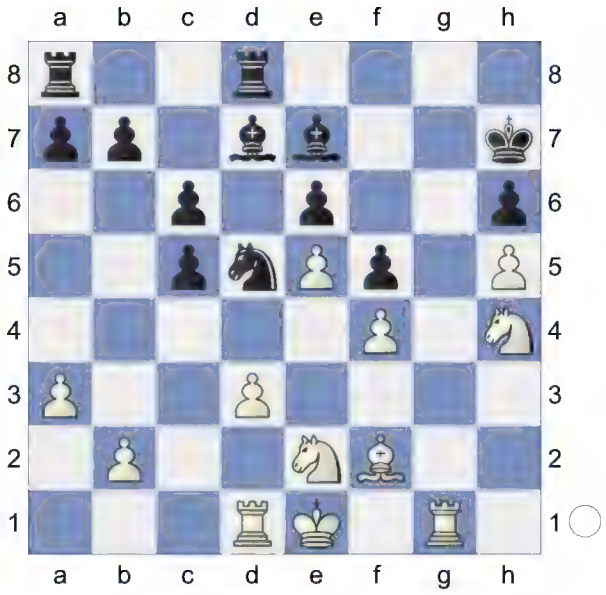
16.Kd2 Ne3↑ Black is on the roll. Black is much more active. **17.Qe1**
(Diagram)



Nxc4+! 18.Kd1 Qxe1+
[18...Ne3+ 19.Bxe3 Qxe1+
(19...Qxe3? 20.Rh3+-) 20.Kxe1+-]
19.Kxe1 Nb6 20.Be3 Rd8

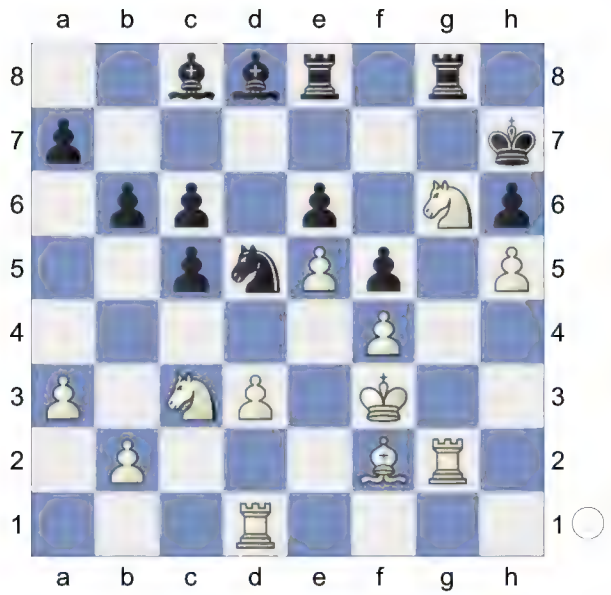


21.Rd1 Bf8 -0.57/21
[21...Na4∓ -0.99/23 22.Bc1 Bd7]
22.Nf3∓ Nd5 23.Rg1+ -1.05/21
[23.Bf2∓ -0.66/20]
23...Kh7∓ 24.Bf2 Be7 25.Nh4 Bd7 -0.25/20
[25...Bxh4∓ -0.96/21 26.Bxh4 Rg8 27.Rxg8 Kxg8]

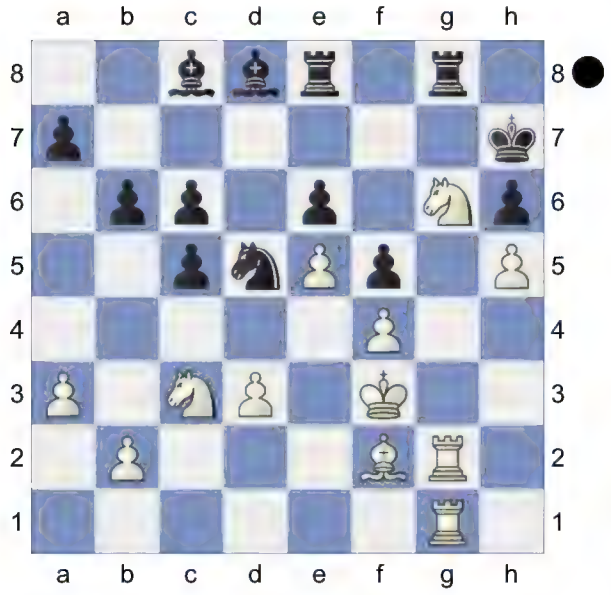


26.Ng6= Rg8 -0.04/22
[26...b6 27.Nxe7 Nxe7 28.Bh4+-]
[26...Be8∓ -0.43/20]
27.Nc3! A dynamic duo of knights.
27...Rae8
[27...Nxc3 28.bxc3 Bd8 29.Bxc5 Bb6]
28.Ke2
[28.Rc1 Rg7 29.Nxd5 cxd5 30.Nxe7 Rexe7 31.Bxc5 Rxg1+ 32.Bxg1 a6 33.Bb6]
28...b6 29.Kf3
[29.Nxd5 simplifies cxd5 30.b4 Rg7 31.Nxe7 Rexe7 32.bxc5 Be8 33.Rxg7+ Rxg7 34.Rg1]
29...Bd8 0.00/22
[29...Rg7∓ -0.47/19 deserves consideration.]
30.Rg2 -0.57/23
[White should play 30.Nxd5!= 0.00/22 cxd5 31.b4]
30...Bc8

(Diagram)

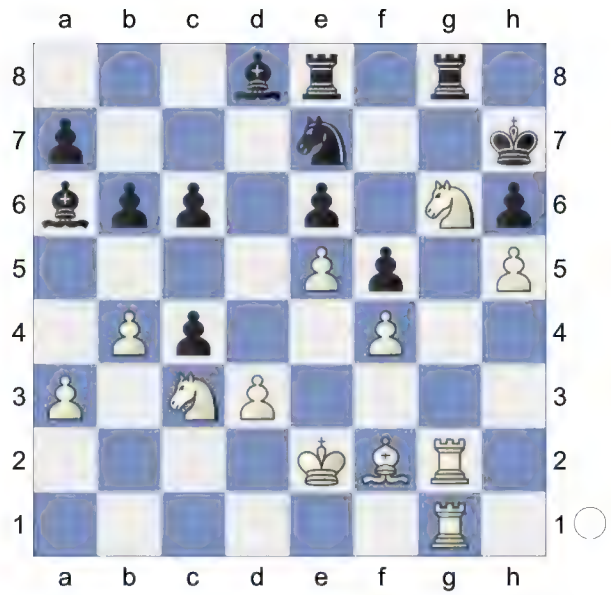


31.Rdg1

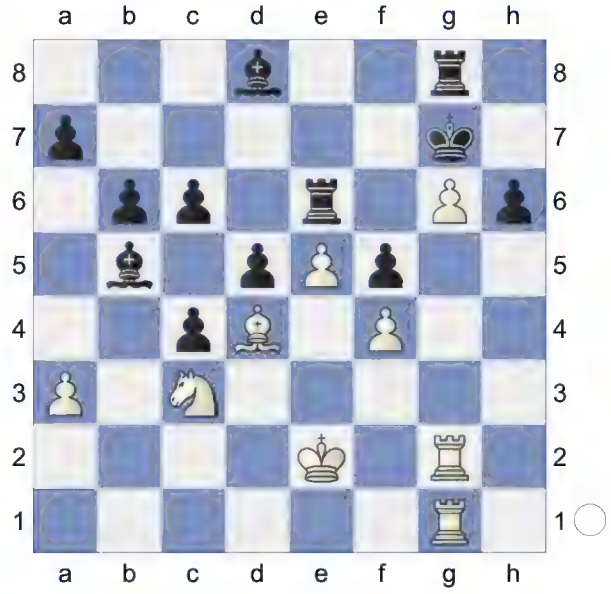


Ba6 -0.24/24
[Black should play 31...Ne7!∓ -0.78/20]
32.Ke2 Bc7 0.88/22
[32...Ne7∓ -0.51/22 keeps the upper hand.]
33.Bh4± White has strong compensation. **33...Bd8 34.Bf2** -0.61/20
[White has to play 34.Nxd5± 0.81/21 cxd5 35.Bf6]
34...Ne7∓ 35.b4 c4

(Diagram)

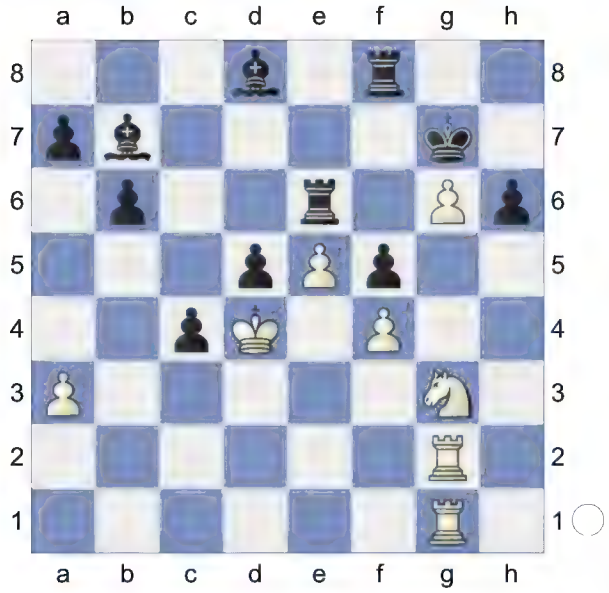


36.d4 Nxg6 37.hxg6+ Kg7 This move loses the game for White. **38.b5** -2.10/19
Bxb5-+
[38...cxb5 39.Rh2∓]
39.d5 exd5 40.Bd4 -4.02/18
[40.Nxb5 -2.82/18 keeps fighting. cxb5 41.Rd1]
40...Re6

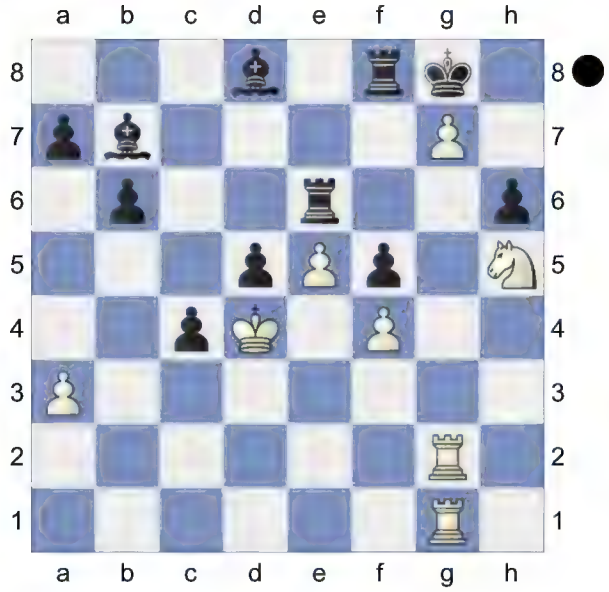


41.Kd2 Ba6 42.Ne2 c5 43.Ke3 Rf8 Black is clearly winning.
[43...cxd4+ 44.Nxd4 Bc8 45.Nxf5+ Kf8 46.Nxh6-+]
44.Ng3 cxd4+ 45.Kxd4 Bb7

[Less strong is 45...Kxg6 46.Ne2+ Kf7 *(46...Kh7? 47.Rg7+ Kh8 48.Rxa7∓)* 47.Rg7+ Ke8 48.Rxa7-+]

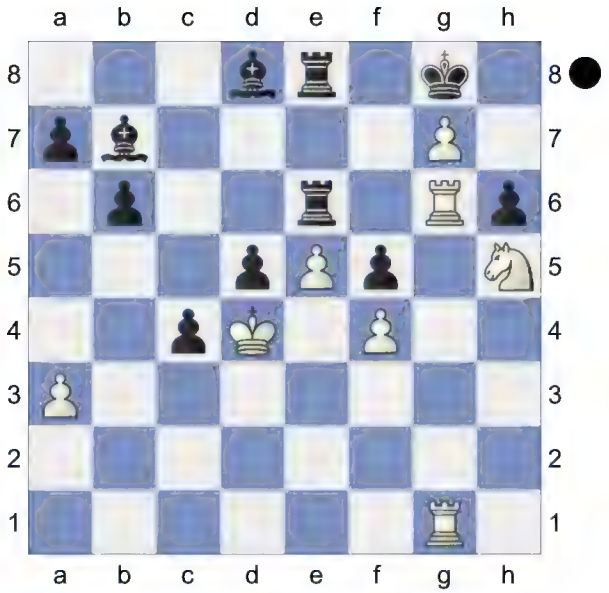


46.Nh5+ Kg8 47.g7



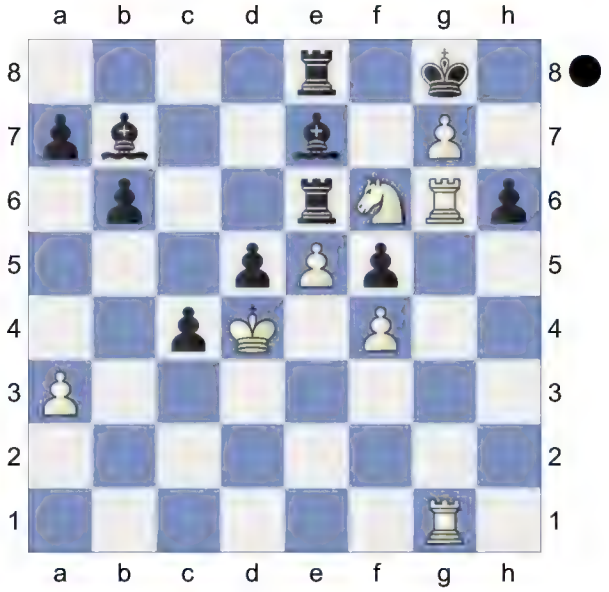
Rfe8 48.Rg6

(Diagram)



Be7! 49.Nf6+

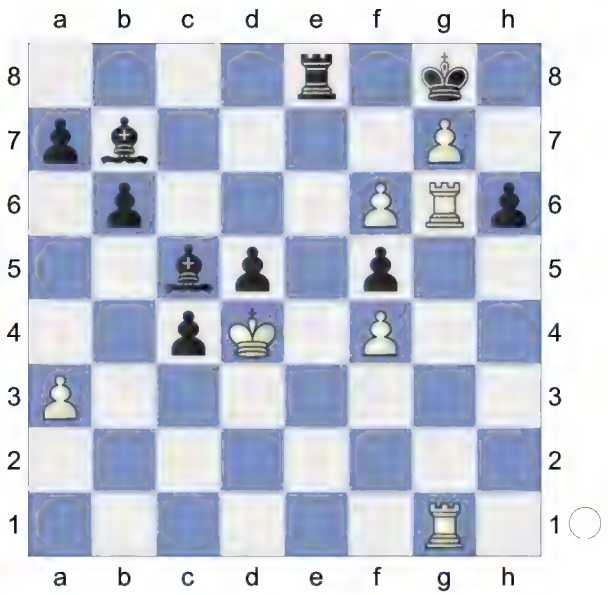
[49.R1g2 Bc5+]



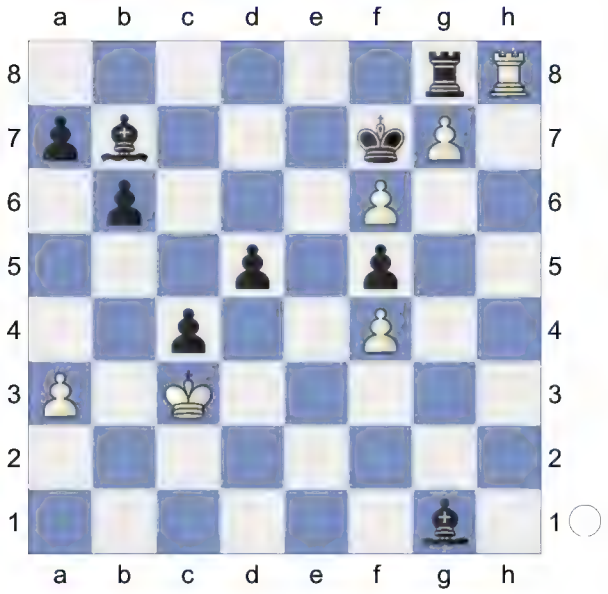
49...Rxf6! 50.exf6 Bc5+

[50...Bxa3 51.Kc3 *(51.f7+? Kxf7 52.g8Q+ Rxg8-+)* 51...d4+ 52.Kxc4 Rc8+ 53.Kb5∓]

(Diagram)



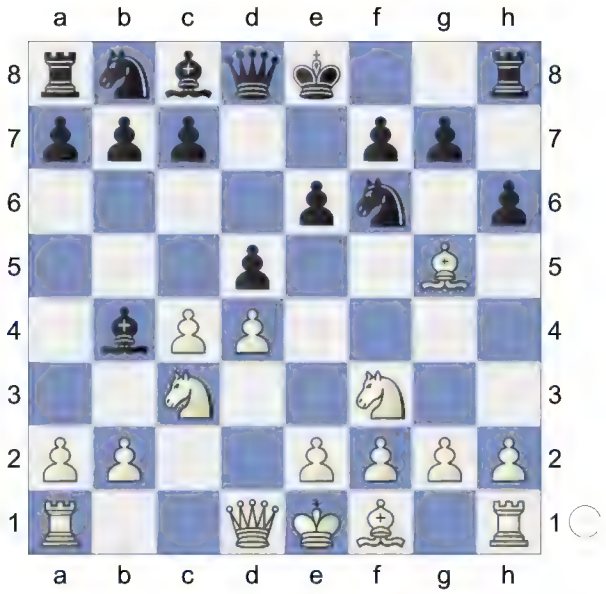
51.Kc3 And now Rxh6! would win.
51...Bxg1
[51...Bxa3? is the wrong capture. 52.Rxh6 d4+ 53.Kxd4+- *(53.Kxc4 b5+ 54.Kxb5 Bd5±)*]
52.Rxh6 -7.66/17
[⌓52.Rxg1 -5.05/17 Kf7 53.Kd4]
52...Kf7 53.Rh8
Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.13 (very precise)
53...Rg8



0-1

179 **D38**
□ **Giri,Anish** **2764**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
85th Tata Steel Masters (2.6) 15.01.2023
[TA]

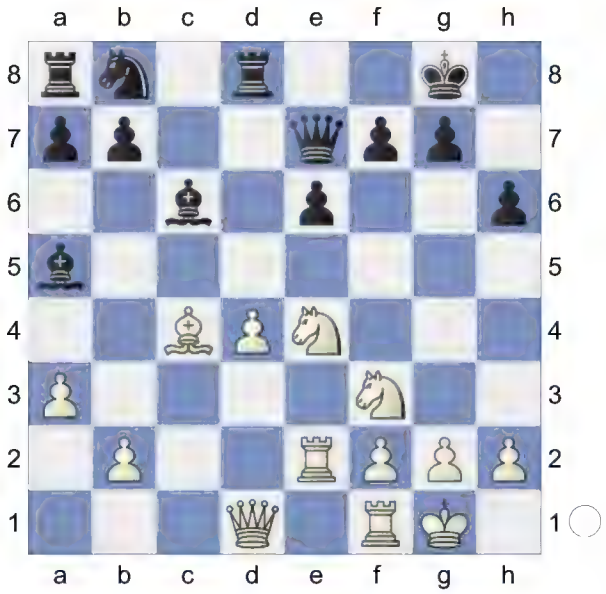
D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4)
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 h6



6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 0-0 8.Rc1 dxc4 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0 Strongly threatening Ne4. **10...cxd4**

(Diagram)

11.Ne4 Qe7 12.a3 Ba5 The position is equal. **13.exd4 Rd8 14.Rc2 Bd7 15.Re2 Bc6**



16.Qc2 Bb6N 0.39/19

[16...Rc8= 0.00/18 17.Qd3 Rd8]

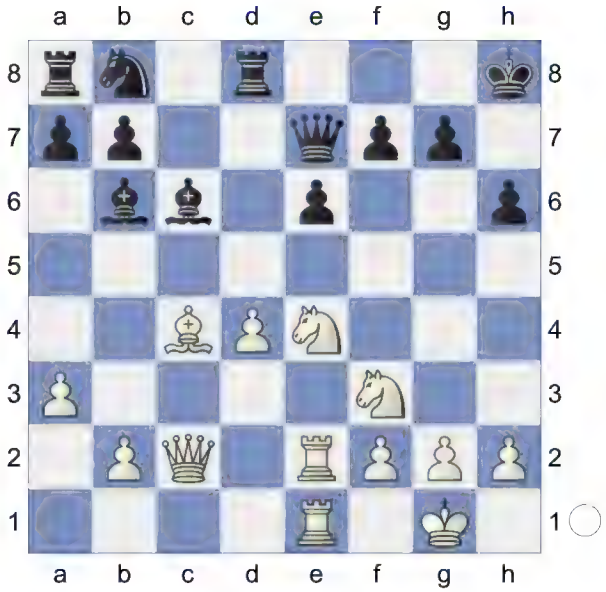
[16...Bd5 17.Bxd5 Rxd5 18.b4 Bb6 19.Nc3 Rd6 20.d5 Nd7 21.Qb3 Nf8 22.Ne5 Bd4 23.Nc4 Rdd8 24.d6 Qd7 25.Ne4 b6 26.Rd1 e5 27.Ne3 Qe6 28.Qxe6 Nxe6 29.Rc2 g6 30.g4 Kg7 31.h4 (75) Denishev,M (2247)-Garifullina,L (2357) Paracin 155/(152) 2023]

[16...Bxe4 17.Qxe4 Nc6 18.h4 Bb6 19.Rd1 Qf6 20.d5 exd5 21.Bxd5 Rd6 22.Ng5 hxg5 23.hxg5 Qxg5 24.Bxf7+ Kxf7 25.Rxd6 Qc1+ 26.Re1 Bxf2+ 27.Kxf2 Qc5+ 28.Re3 Qxd6 29.Qc4+ Kf8 30.Rf3+ Ke7 31.Qf7+ ½-½ (37) Nguyen,N (2646)-Gan Erdene,S (2437) Masters Open 2024 (7.18)]

17.Rfe1!± Kh8 1.14/19

[17...Bxd4 18.Kh1∓]

[17...a5± 0.43/19]



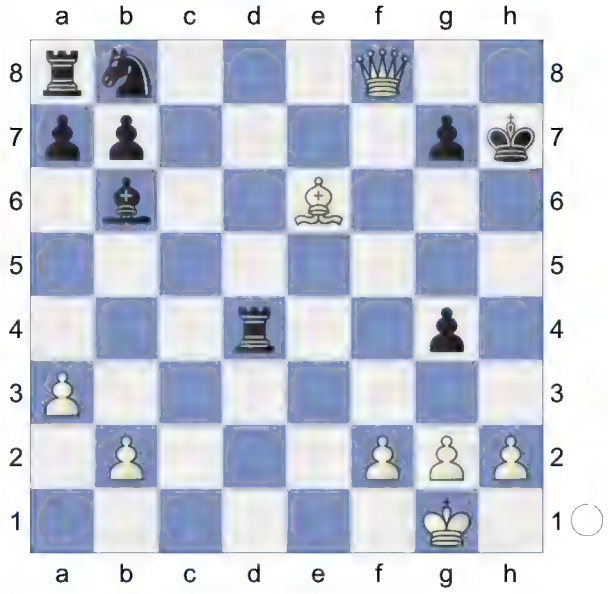
18.Neg5!± hxg5

(Diagram)

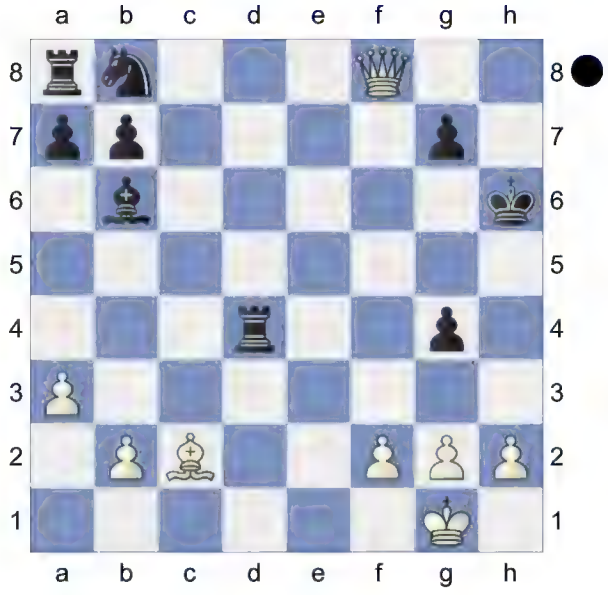
19.Rxe6! fxe6 20.Rxe6 Qxe6

21.Bxe6 Bxf3
[21...Bxd4 22.Nxg5 Bxf2+ 23.Kxf2]
22.Qf5 Be4
[Don't go for 22...Bh5? 23.Qxg5+-]
23.Qxe4 Intending Qg6 and mate.
23...Rxd4? 4.48/20
[23...Re8 2.14/19]
24.Qf3+- White is clearly winning.
[24.Qxb7? Rd1#]
24...g4 25.Qf8+
[And not 25.Bxg4 Na6∓ *(25...Nc6 26.Bc8∓)*]

25...Kh7



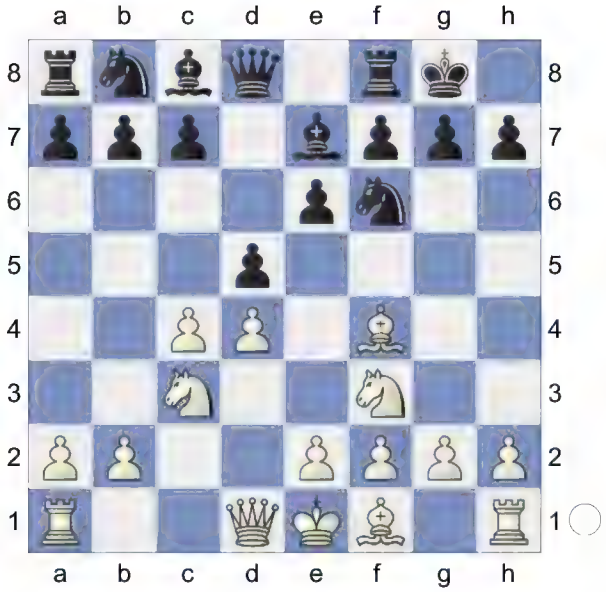
26.Bf5+ Kh6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.28 (precise)
27.Bc2



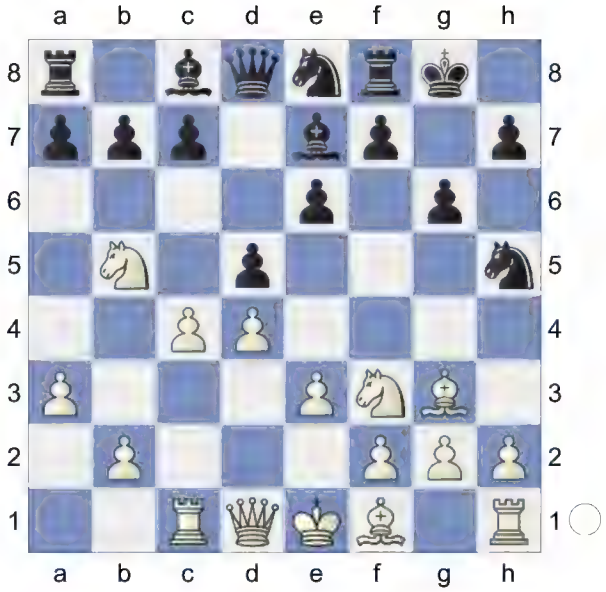
Against Rd1+
1-0

180 **D37**
□ **Giri,Anish** **2764**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
Tata Steel-A 85th (2) 15.01.2023
[TA]

D37: Queen's Gambit Declined: 5 Bf4
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bf4 0-0



6.a3 Nbd7 7.Nb5 Ne8 8.e3
White has an edge. **8...Ndf6** 0.70/21
[8...dxc4= 0.22/23 9.Bxc4 a6 *(9...c5 10.dxc5 a6 11.Nbd4 Bxc5 12.0-0 Qe7 13.Rc1 Bd6 14.Ba2 Ndf6 15.Ne5 Nd7 16.Ndc6 Qh4 17.Bg3 Qg5 18.h4 Qf6 19.Ng4 Qxb2 20.Bxd6 bxc6 21.Rc2 Qb5 22.Bxf8 Nxf8 23.h5 h6 24.Qf3* 1-0 (28) Carlsen,M (2863)-Nakamura,H (2736) Chessable Masters GpA rapid 2020 (6) *)*]
[8...a6 9.Nc3 Nef6 10.c5 c6 11.b4 b6 12.Bd3 a5 13.0-0 Ba6 14.Bxa6 Rxa6 15.b5 cxb5 16.c6 Qc8 17.c7 b4 18.Nb5 Ne8 19.axb4 Bxb4 20.Qc2 Ra8 21.Rfc1 Ndf6 22.Qc6 Ra6 23.Ne5 1-0 (40) Lalic,B (2321)-Bezeyko,A (2050) Prague op 23rd 2025 (8)]
9.Rc1 Nh5N
[9...c6 10.Nc3 b6 11.Qa4 Bb7 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Ne5 b5 14.Qc2 Nc7 15.Bd3 Ne6 16.Bg3 c5 17.dxc5 Bxc5 18.Nxb5 d4 19.exd4 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bxd4 21.0-0 Re8 22.Nf3 Rc8 23.Bc7 Qd5 24.Rfd1 ½-½ (36) Vitiugov,N (2709)-Yu,Y (2764) 2nd Du Te Cup 2018 (9.2)]
10.Bg3 g6



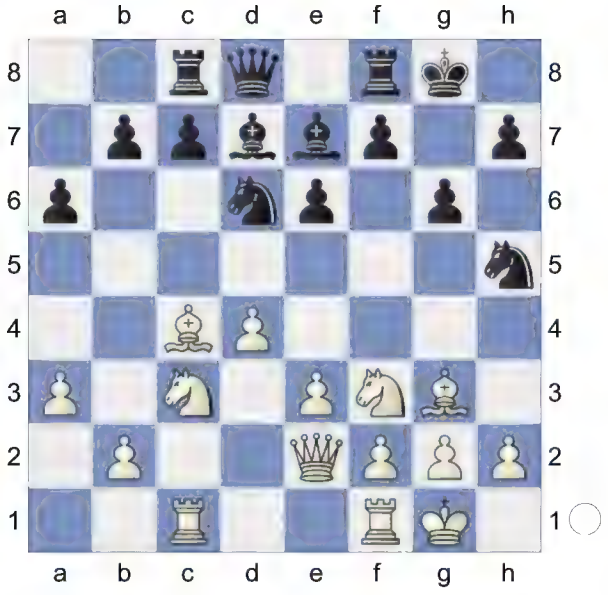
11.Be2 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nd6
[12...a6!? 13.Nc3□ Nxg3 14.hxg3 Nf6=]

(Diagram)

Hoping for ...Nxc4. **13.Qe2 Bd7 14.0-0 a6** 0.73/22

[14...Bxb5= 0.29/22 15.Bxb5 Nxg3 16.hxg3 Nxb5 17.Qxb5 Qb8]

15.Nc3± Rc8



16.b4 Nxc4 17.Qxc4 Qe8 18.Rfd1

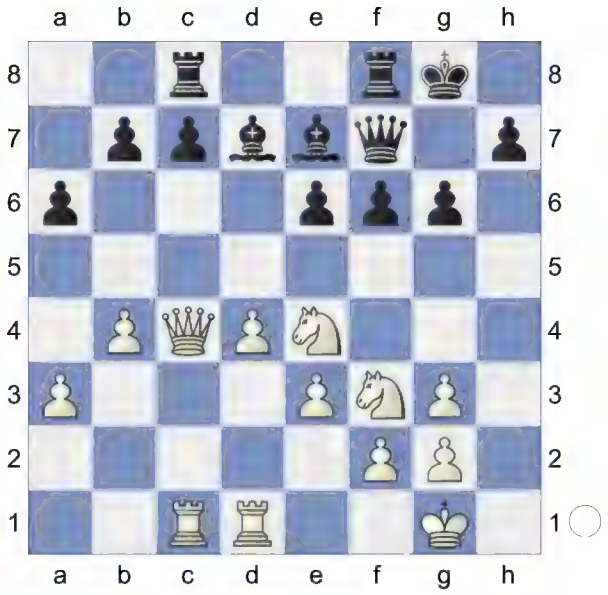
[18.Bxc7? Bd6 19.g3 Bxc7-+ *(19...Rxc7? 20.Qb3-+)*]

18...f6 19.Ne4

[19.Bxc7 Bd6 20.Nd5 Ba4∓ *(20...Qf7 21.Qb3±)*]

19...Nxg3 20.hxg3 Qf7

(Diagram)



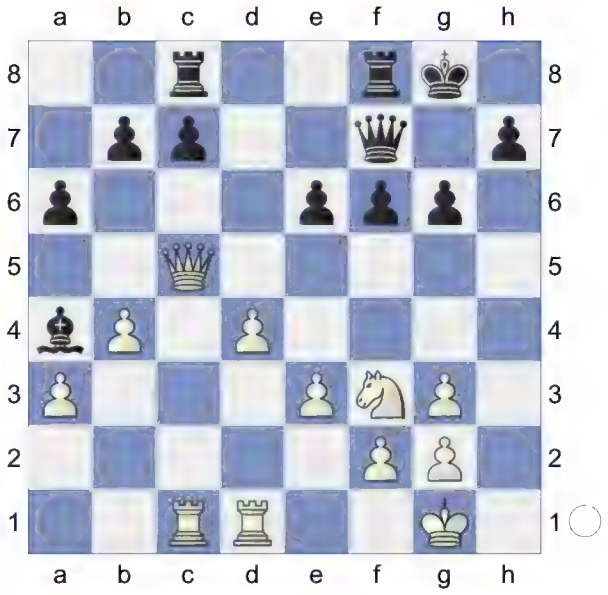
21.Nc5 White has more active pieces.

21...Bxc5 22.Qxc5

[22.dxc5?! Ba4 23.Rd2 e5=]

22...Ba4 1.28/19

[Better is 22...Bc6 0.87/20]



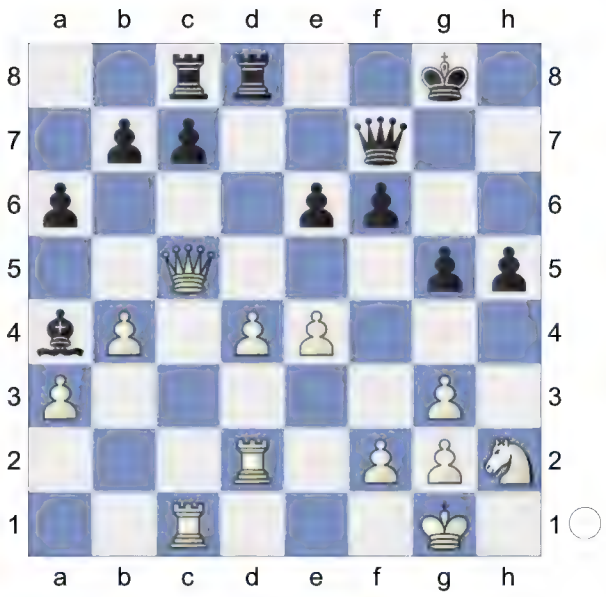
Black is weak on the dark squares

23.Rd2 0.72/20

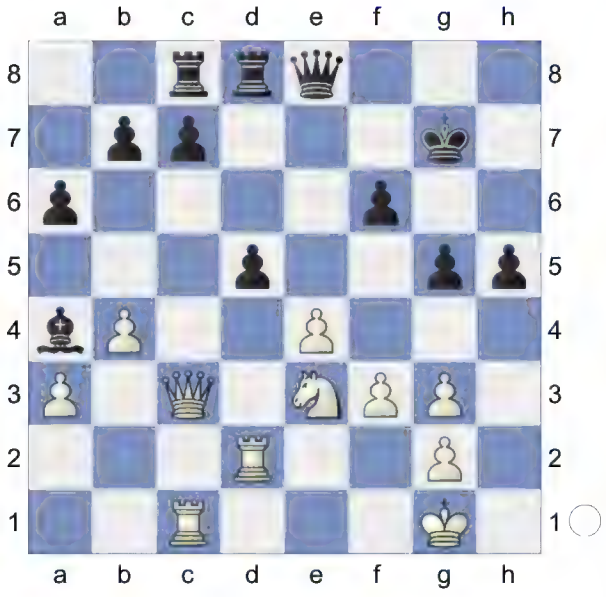
[⌓23.Re1! 1.28/19]

23...Rfd8 24.e4 g5 25.Nh2 h5

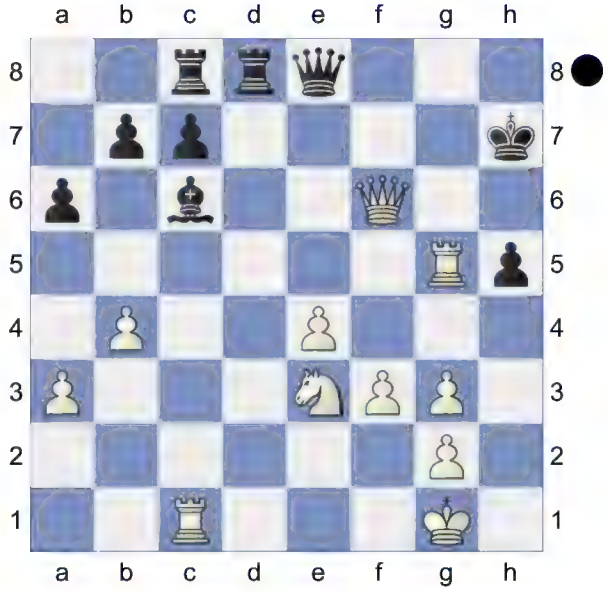
(Diagram)



Against Ng4 **26.Nf1** 0.67/20
[26.g4± 1.09/17]
26...Qh7 1.37/19
[26...Bc6± 0.67/20]
27.f3 Qd7 1.52/19
[⌓27...Rd7 1.06/18]
28.d5 Qe8 2.01/18
[28...Qd6± 1.56/18 is a better defense.]
29.Ne3+- Kg7 2.32/18
[⌓29...Bb5 1.90/15 30.f4 gxf4 31.gxf4 Kg7]
30.Qc3 exd5



31.Rxd5 Bc6? 6.91/20
[31...Rxd5 2.11/17 32.Nxd5 Qc6 33.Qxc6 bxc6]
32.Rxg5+ Kh7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.59
33.Qxf6



1-0

181 **D42**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Wang,Hao** **2722**
8th Gashimov Mem Blitz (7.5) 22.12.22
[TA]

D42: Queen's Gambit Declined: Semi-Tarrasch: 5 cxd5 Nxd5 6 e3 Nc6 7 Bd3
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5

(Diagram)

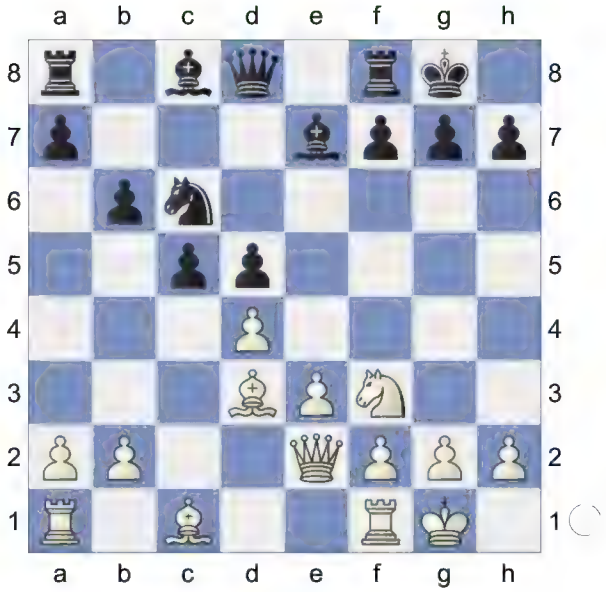
6.e3 Nc6 7.Bd3 Be7 7...Be7 is better than 7...cxd4.7...Le7 ist besser als 7...cxd4. **8.0-0 0-0 9.Qe2 b6**

[9...cxd4 10.exd4 Bf6 11.Rd1 Nce7 12.Ne4 Nf5 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Bg5 Qg6 15.Qd2 h6 16.Bh4 Qh5 17.Bg3 Nxg3 18.hxg3 b6 19.Ne5 Bb7 20.Be4 Rad8 21.Rac1 Ba8 22.a3 Nf6 23.Bf3 Bxf3 24.gxf3 Liascovich,L (2417)-De Boer,E (2428) Chess.com INT 2025 1-0 (95)]

10.Nxd5N

[10.Rd1 cxd4 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.exd4 Bb7 13.Be4 Qd6 14.d5 Nb4 15.Bg5 Rfe8 16.Bxe7 Rxe7 17.dxe6 Qxe6 18.Bxh7+ Kf8 19.Qxe6 Rxe6 20.Bf5 Re2 21.a3 Nd5 22.Rd2 Nf4 23.Rd4 Bxf3 24.Rxf4 Bd5 12.0-0 b6 13.♖ad1 ♗b7_170 (2610)-Bruce,R (2540) Siegen 2005 CBM 163 [Ham/Harding] 1-0 (46) 25.b4 Rae8 26.h4 R8e5 27.Rc1 Re1+ 28.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 29.Kh2 Ke7 30.Rd4 Kd6 31.Rd3 Ke5 32.Bg4 Ra1 33.Bf3 Bc4 34.Re3+ Kd4 35.h5 Be6 36.g4 a5 37.bxa5 bxa5 38.g5 Ra2 39.Kg3 Rb2 Dautov,R (2614)-Sokolov,A (2561) Switzerland 2005 CBM 107 [Dautov,Rustem] ½-½ (46)]

10...exd5



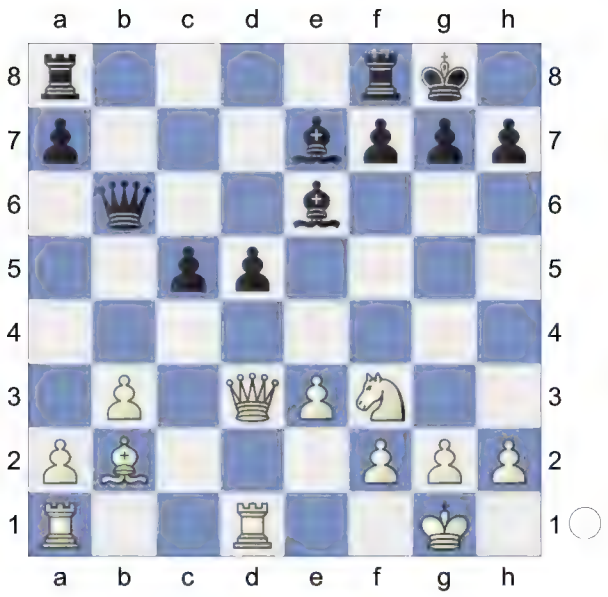
11.dxc5 bxc5 12.b3N -0.65/21

[Vorgänger: 12.Rd1 Be6 13.b3 Bf6 14.Bb2 Nb4! 15.Ne1 Qe7 16.Rac1 Threatens to win with Bxf6. Rac8 17.Bb1 With the idea Bxf6. Bxb2 18.Qxb2 1-0 (52) Nakamura,H (2736)-Mamedyarov,S (2762) chess24.com INT 2021]

[White should try 12.Rd1!= -0.12/22]

12...Nb4!∓ 13.Rd1 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Be6 15.Bb2 Qb6

(Diagram)



16.Rac1 Rac8 17.h3 Rfd8 18.Qe2 a5 19.Ne5 Bf6 -0.08/23

[19...a4∓ -0.65/22]

20.Nd3= Bxb2

[20...Bg5 keeps more tension. 21.Qh5 h6 22.h4 Be7]

21.Nxb2 c4 22.bxc4 dxc4 23.Na4! Qb4 24.Nc3 Rxd1+ 25.Qxd1 h6

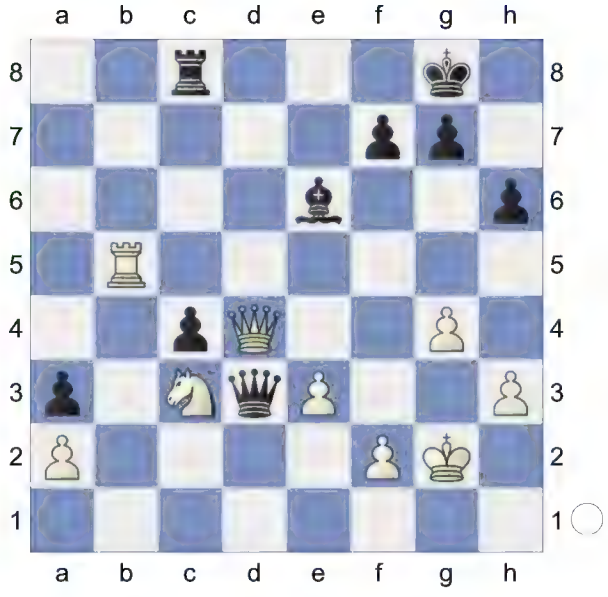
(Diagram)

26.Qd4 Qb2 27.Rb1 Qc2 28.Rb5 -0.33/27

[White should play 28.a4= 0.18/26]

28...a4∓ 29.g4 The position is equal.

29...a3 30.Kg2 Qd3

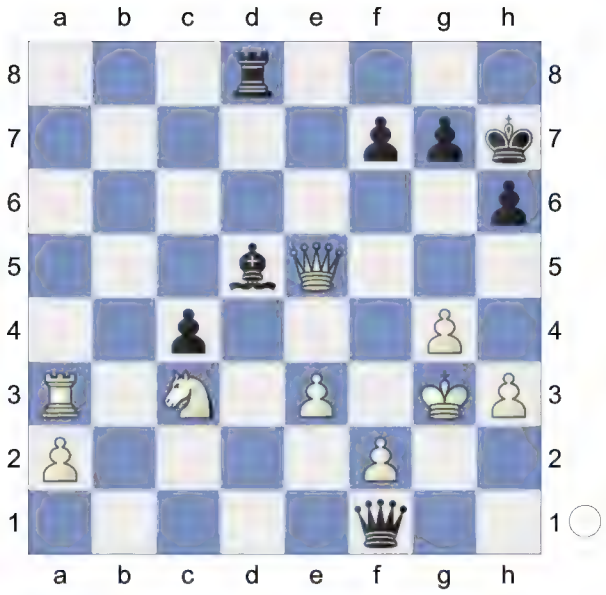


31.Qe5 Kh7 32.Ra5 Rd8 33.Rxa3 Bd5+ 34.Kg3

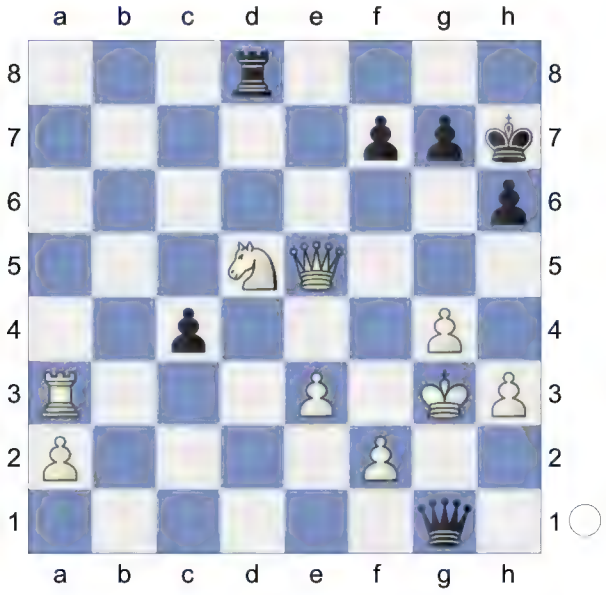
[Don't play 34.Nxd5 Qxa3 35.Qe4+ Kg8 36.Qxc4 Qd6∓]

34...Qf1!

(Diagram)



(-> ...Qg2+) **35.Nxd5 Qg1+**



36.Kf3

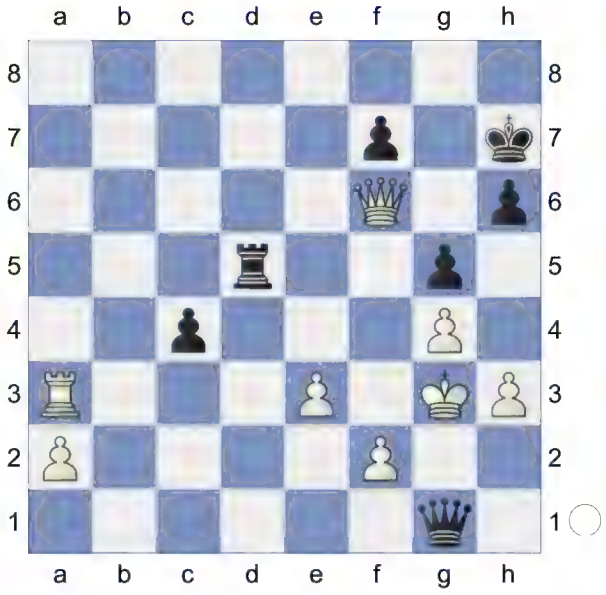
[36.Kh4 gets mated. Qxf2+ 37.Qg3 g5+ 38.Kh5 Qxg3 39.Nf6+ Kg7]

36...Qh1+ 37.Kf4 Hoping for Qe4+.

37...g5+ 38.Kg3 Rxd5 39.Qf6 Qg1+ 40.Kf3 Qh1+

(Diagram)

41.Kg3 Chess con chili. **41...Qg1+**

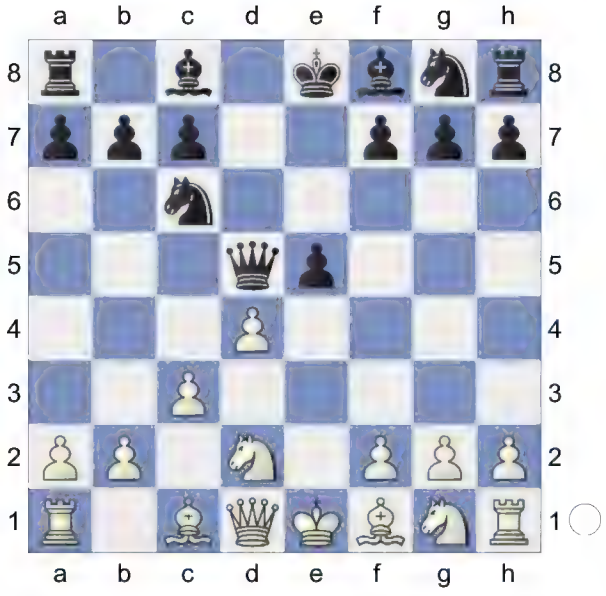


Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)

½-½

182 **C04**
□ **Gadimbayli,Abdulla Azar** **2524**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
Gashimov Memorial Blitz 8th (6) 22.12.22
[Kitty Kat]

C04: French Tarrasch: 3...Nc6
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.c3 e5 5.exd5 Qxd5



6.Ngf3 exd4 7.Bc4 Qa5N 1.65/21
[7...Qd7]
[7...Qh5
A) 8.cxd4 Bd6 *(8...Nf6 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Re1+ Ne7 11.h3 0-0 12.Nf1 Qa5 13.Bg5 Nfd5 14.Qb3 c6 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Ne5 Nd5 17.Ne3 Be6 18.Bxd5 Bxd5 19.Nxd5 cxd5 20.Qxb7 Rab8 21.Qd7 Bxe5 22.Rxe5 Rxb2 23.Rxd5* French Tarrasch-7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♘b3_56957 Survey 2008 *)* 9.Ne4 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Bg4 11.Bxb4 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nxb4 13.Qa4+ Nc6 14.d5 Qxf3 15.0-0 0-0-0 16.Ng3 Nb8 17.Be2 Qf6 18.Bg4+ Nd7 19.Rac1 Qb6 20.Rc3 Ngf6 21.Bf3 Ne5 22.Bg2 ½-½ Brueckner,J (2442)-De,G (2454) EM/TT/F/01 email 1997;
B) 8.0-0 Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.Qb3 0-0-0 11.Qxe6+ Kb8 12.Nxd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Bd6 *(13...Rxd4)* 14.Nf3 Nf6 15.h3 Rhe8 16.Qb3 Ne4 17.Re1 *(17.Be3)* 17...g5 18.Ne5 Bxe5 *(18...Nxf2)* 19.dxe5 Rxe5 20.Be3]
[Better is 7...Qf5± 0.34/23
A) 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 *(8...Qe5+ 9.Ne2 Be6±)* 9.cxd4 Be6 10.Qa4+ ½-½ (47) Cruzado Duenas,C (2555)-Busemann,S (2581) ICCF email 2020 c6 *(10...Bd7 11.Qb3 0-0-0 12.0-0)* 11.0-0 Nf6 12.Re1 Bd6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Qb3 0-0-0 15.Qxe6+ Qxe6 16.Rxe6 Rhe8 17.Rxe8 Rxe8 18.Nf3 Re2 19.Bd2 *(19.Kf1)* 19...Ne4 20.Re1 Rxd2 21.Nxd2 Nxd2 22.Re8+ Kd7 23.Rg8 g6 24.Rg7+ Be7 25.Rxh7;
B) 8.cxd4 Be6 9.0-0 0-0-0 10.Qa4 Bd6 11.Bxe6+ fxe6 12.Nc4 Nf6;
C) 8.0-0 Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.cxd4 (Vorgänger: *10.Nb3 e5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxd4 Qf6 13.f4 Nd7 14.Re1+)* 10...0-0-0 11.Nb3 Nf6 12.Re1 Bd6 *(12...e5 13.Be3 e4 14.Nfd2 Nb4)* 13.Qe2 Rhe8]
[7...Qc5 8.Qe2+ Be7 9.Nb3 Qh5 10.Nbxd4 Nxd4 11.Nxd4 Qxe2+ 12.Kxe2 c6 13.Be3 Nf6 14.f3 0-0 15.h4 Re8 16.g4 Bd6 17.Kd2 Nd7 18.Bb3 Ne5 19.Raf1 b5 20.Ne2 a5 21.Bf4 a4 22.Bxe5 0-1 Castaldo,F-Dellabella,C ITA-chT3 corr 1986]
8.0-0+- b2-b4 would now be deadly.
[8.cxd4?! Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6±]
8...Be7 2.50/21
[8...Bd6]

[8...dxc3± 1.50/22 might work better. 9.Re1+ Be7 10.bxc3 Nf6]

9.cxd4

[9.Nb3 Qh5 10.Nbxd4 Nxd4 11.cxd4 Bg4 *(11...Nf6 12.Re1)* 12.Qa4+]

9...Nf6 White is clearly better. **10.Re1** 1.42/20

[White has to play 10.d5!+- 2.40/22]

10...0-0? 3.18/21

[10...Be6± 1.42/20]

11.h3? 0.83/21

[11.d5!+- 3.18/21 Nxd5 12.Nb3]

11...Bd6± 12.Nb3 0.17/22

[12.a3± 0.87/20]

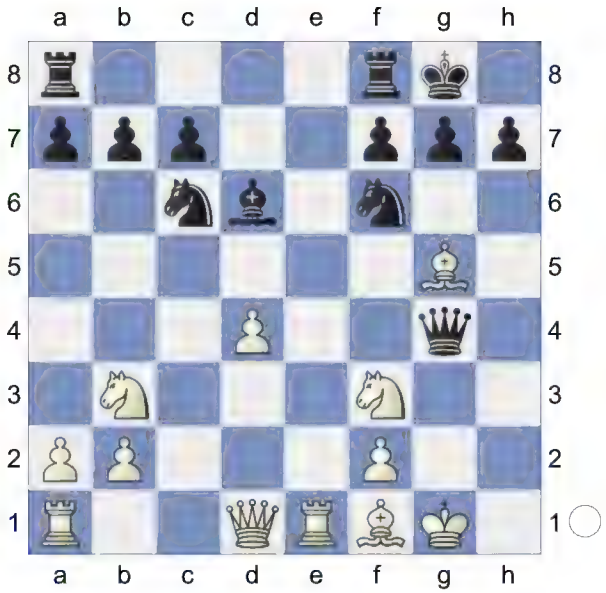
12...Qh5= 13.Bg5

[13.d5 simplifies Ne5 14.Nxe5 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Bxe5 16.Na5]

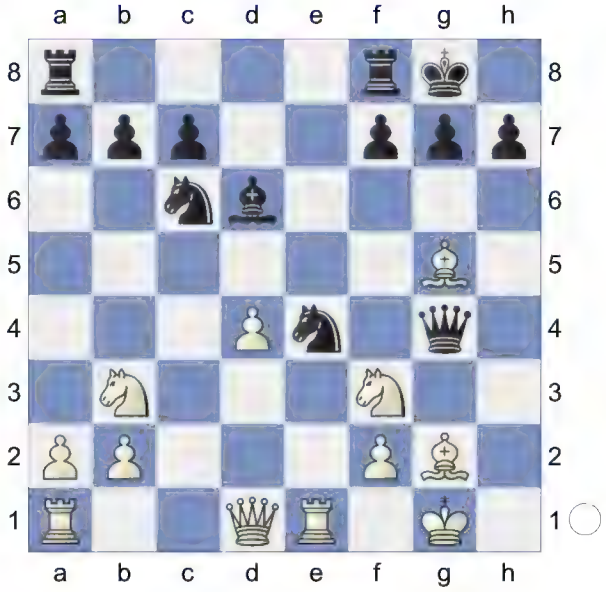
13...Bxh3? 1.98/21 **14.gxh3+- Qxh3 15.Bf1 Qg4+** 2.42/26

[⌓15...Qh5 1.72/20 16.Bxf6 gxf6]

(Diagram)



16.Bg2!N An important novelty. Eine beachtenswerte Neuerung. **16...Ne4**



17.Ne5? -0.39/19

[17.Be3 f5 18.Nbd2 Nf6 19.Nc4 f4 20.Bd2]

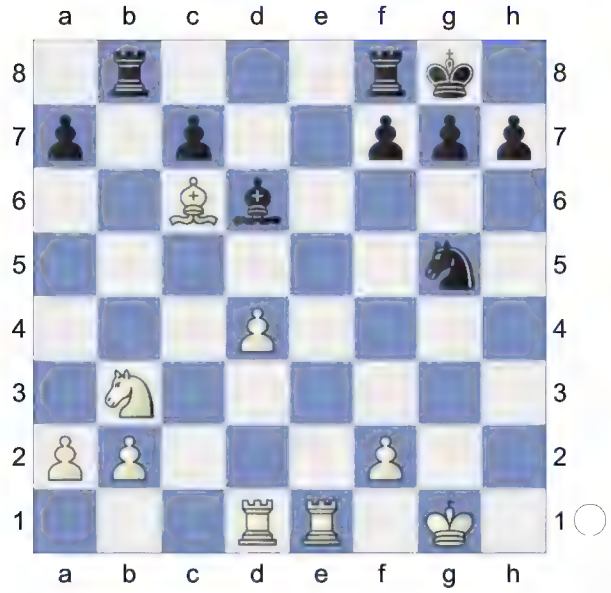
17...Qxd1∓

[17...Qxg5? 18.Rxe4 Nxe5 19.f4+- *(19.dxe5 Bxe5 20.Qg4 Qf6±; 19.dxe5 Bxe5 20.Qd2 Qxd2+-)*]

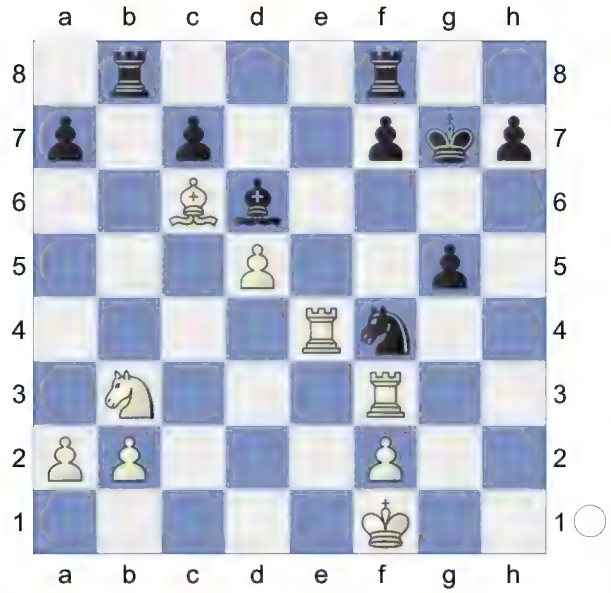
18.Raxd1 Nxg5 19.Nxc6 -1.46/21 Black keeps a firm grip on the game.

[19.f4!∓ -0.62/21 Bxe5 *(19...Ne6 20.d5±)* 20.dxe5 Ne6 21.f5 Nf4

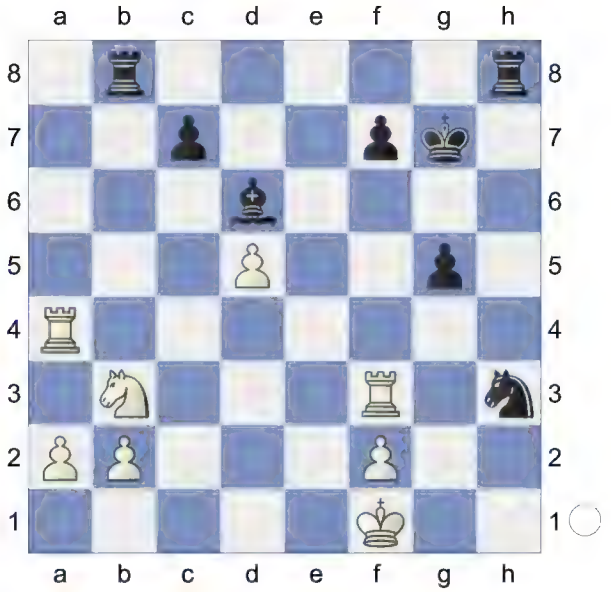
22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Rd7]
19...bxc6∓ 20.Bxc6 -2.52/21
[20.Nc5∓ -1.44/23]
20...Rab8-+



21.Rd3 Ne6 22.Re4 g6 23.Kf1 Kg7 24.d5 Nf4 25.Rf3 g5



26.Ra4 h5 27.Rxa7 h4 28.Ra4 Rh8 29.Bd7 h3
[29...Nxd5 30.Ra5 Nf6 31.Bh3∓]
30.Bxh3 -5.12/21
[30.Kg1 Kg6 31.Kh1 f5]
[30.Raxf4 -3.05/18 was called for. Bxf4 *(30...h2 31.Rxf7+ Kg8 32.Be6∓)* 31.Bxh3]
30...Nxh3



Black is clearly winning. **31.Rg4 f6 32.Nd4 Nf4 33.Nf5+ Kf7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.64/ Black=0.45. Sensor Board Error (Ke4/ e5)?
1-0

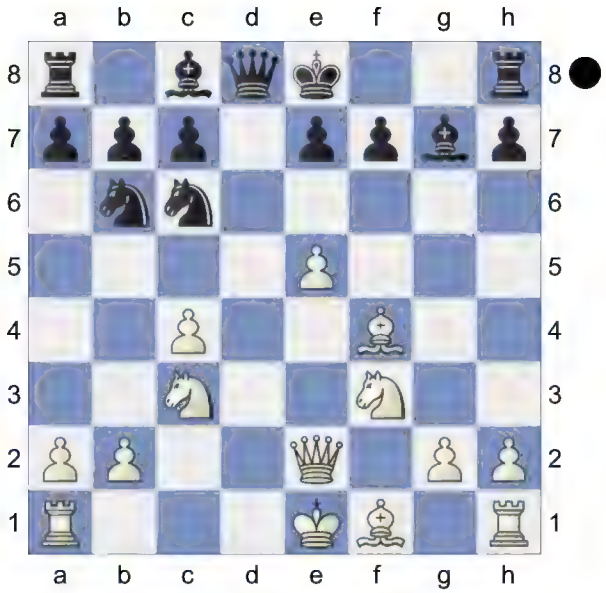
183 **B03**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2859**
Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz (1.35)
[TA]

B03: Alekhine's Defence: Four Pawns Attack

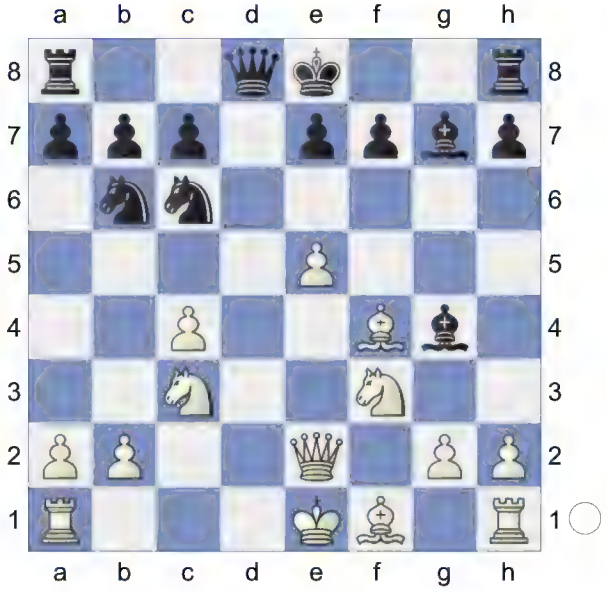
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6 5.f4 g5

6.Nc3
[6.fxg5?! dxe5 7.Bd3 exd4=]
6...Bg7 7.Nf3
[7.fxg5 dxe5 8.d5 Na6±]
7...gxf4 8.Bxf4 White is better. **8...Nc6**
9.Qe2N 0.67/21
[9.c5± 1.17/23 Nd7 *(9...dxc5 10.dxc5 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 Nd7 12.Nd5 0-0 13.Nxc7 Rb8 14.e6 Nxc5 15.exf7+ Rxf7 16.Bc4 e6 17.g3* 34) Alekhine's Defense-Alekhine'S G5*)* 10.Bc4 *(10.exd6 cxd6 11.cxd6 a6±; 10.cxd6 cxd6 11.Ng5 h6+-)*]
9...dxe5± 10.dxe5

(Diagram)

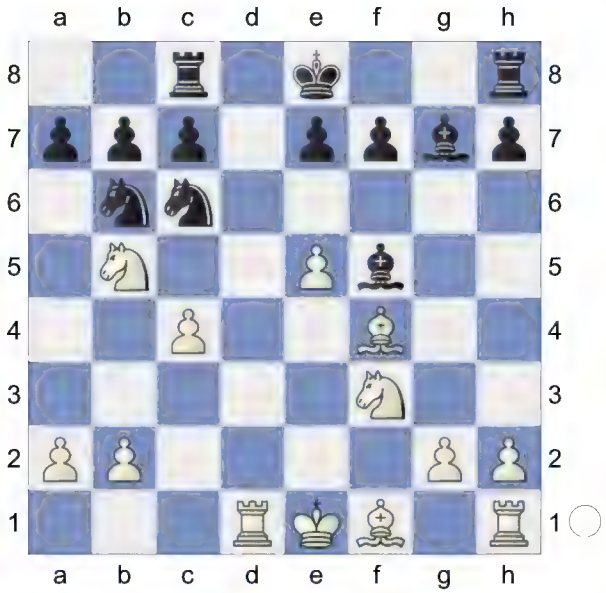


Hoping for Rd1. **10...Bg4**

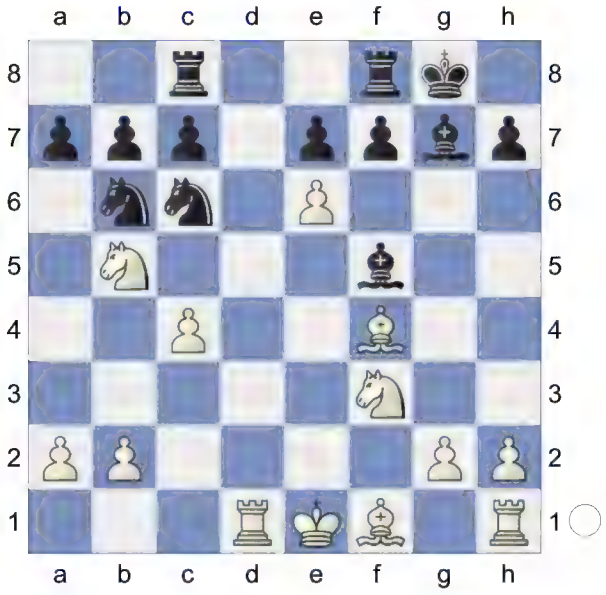


11.Rd1 0.35/23 Inhibits Qd7.
[11.c5± 0.72/20 Nd7 12.0-0-0]
11...Qc8 0.92/23
[11...Nd7± 0.35/23]
12.Qe4 -0.03/21
[12.Nd5± 0.92/23]
12...Qf5 13.Qxf5 Bxf5 14.Nb5 Rc8

(Diagram)



15.e6 -0.41/21 **0-0∓**



Black keeps a firm grip on the game.

16.Nxc7 -2.13/19

[16.exf7+∓ -0.42/21 Rxf7 17.Be3]

16...Bxb2 -0.76/19

[16...fxe6-+ -2.13/19 has better winning chances. and ...e5! should not be overlooked 17.Nb5 Bxb2]

17.Be2? -2.54/21

[17.c5∓ -0.76/19 Na4 18.exf7+ *(18.Bc4 f6∓)* 18...Rxf7 19.Bc4 Pin]

17...fxe6-+ 18.Nb5 -2.55/22

[18.0-0 -1.99/21]

18...Bc2 19.Rd2 Rxf4 20.Rxc2 Bg7

21.0-0 -2.56/19

[21.g3 -1.86/19 Rff8 22.0-0]

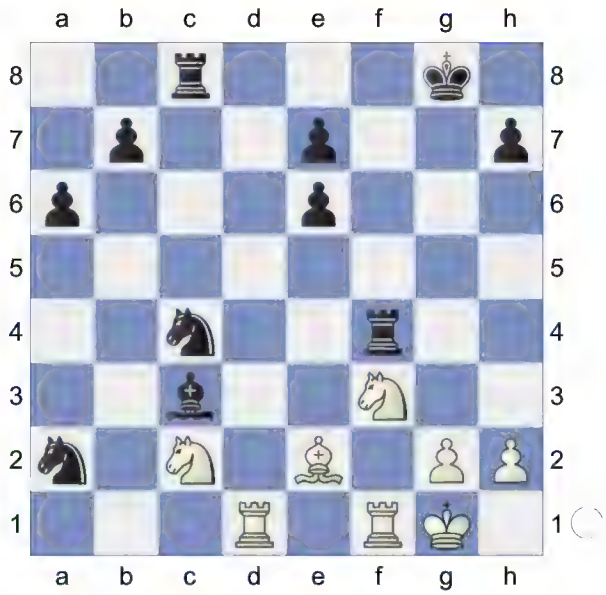
21...a6 22.Na3 Nb4 23.Rd2 Bc3 24.Rdd1 Nxa2 -1.41/19

[Black should play 24...Bb2-+ -2.65/21 25.Nb1 Nxc4]

25.Nc2 -2.40/21

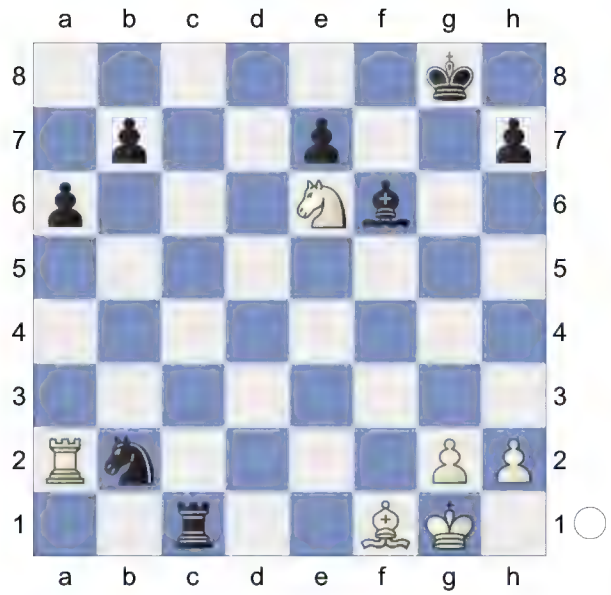
[25.Ng5∓ -1.41/19 is a better defense. Bd4+ 26.Kh1 Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1]

25...Nxc4



26.Ng5 Rxf1+ 27.Bxf1 Nb2 28.Ra1

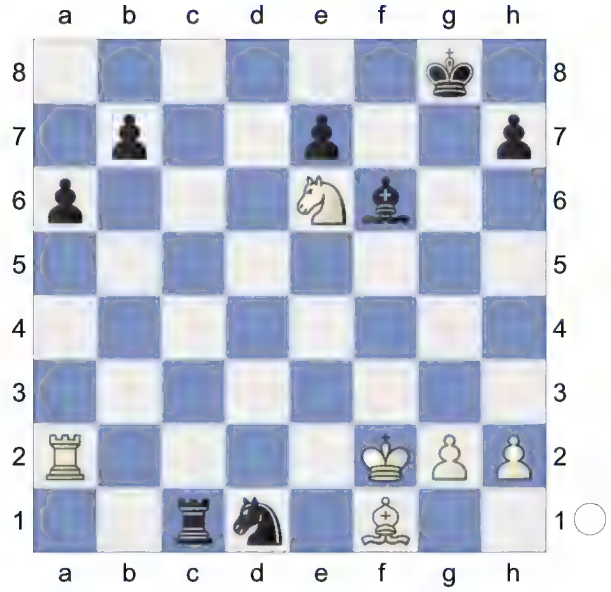
Bf6 29.Rxa2 Rxc2 30.Nxe6 Rc1



31.Kf2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.25 (precise)

31...Nd1+



0-1

184 **B04**

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2859**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**

Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz (1.32)

[Kitty Kat]

B04: Alekhine's Defence: 4 Nf3

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 dxe5 5.Nxe5 c6

6.Be2 White is more active. **6...Bf5**

7.Nf3 0.25/21

[7.0-0± 0.61/21]

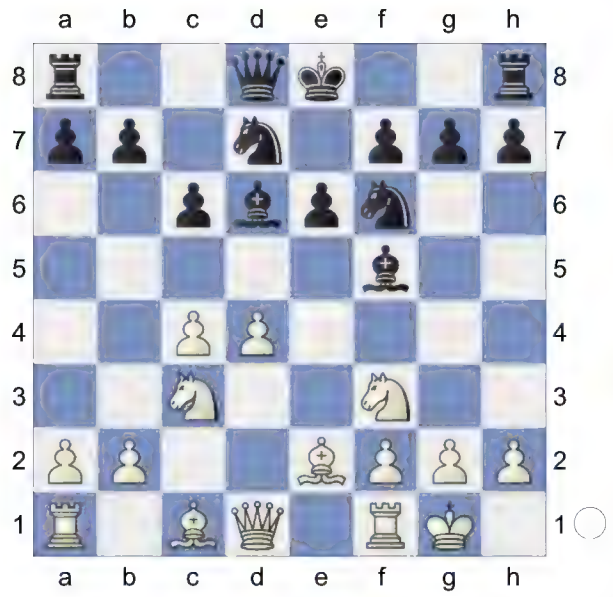
7...Nd7 0.61/18

[7...e6= 0.25/21 feels stronger.]

8.0-0!± is recently more successful than 8.Nge2. ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 8.Sge2. **8...e6** White is slightly better.

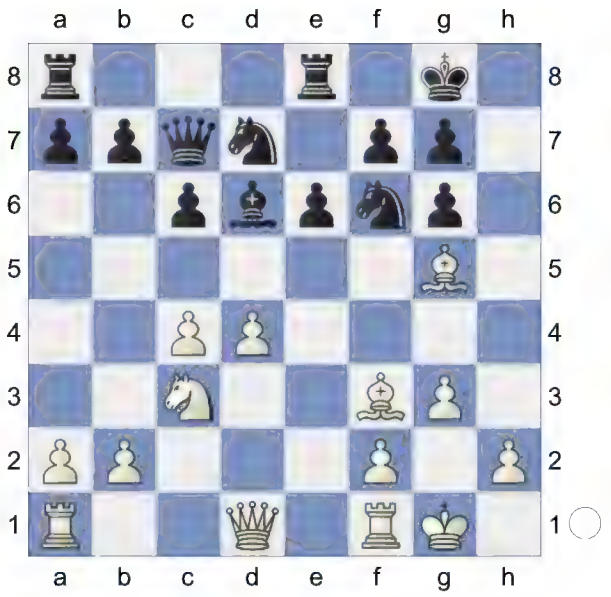
9.c4 N5f6 10.Nc3 Bd6

(Diagram)



11.Nh4N Bg6 12.g3 0-0 13.Bf3 Re8N
[13...a6 14.Nxg6 hxg6 15.Bg2 e5 16.d5 c5 17.Re1 Qc7 18.Qd3 Rfe8 19.Bd2 Rad8 20.Rad1 Nf8 21.Re2 N8h7 22.Rde1 Qd7 23.a4 g5 24.h3 g4 25.hxg4 Qxg4 26.Ne4 Nxe4 27.Qxe4 Qxe4 28.Bxe4 1-0 (34) Rodrigues,R-Jesic,D Regionalliga NW 9697 1996]
[13...e5 14.Nxg6 hxg6 15.d5 cxd5 16.Nxd5 e4 17.Bg2 Re8 18.Bg5 Be7 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Re1 Nc5 21.Qc2 Rad8 22.a3 Qe5 23.Bf4 Qf5 24.Be3 Nd3 25.Re2 b6 26.h3 g5 27.Rd1 g4 28.h4 0-1 (49) Brkic,A (2593)-Yuffa,D (2594) lichess.org (Int. -blitz) 146/27 2020 Ne5 29.Kf1 Rxd1+ 30.Qxd1 Nxc4 31.Bg5 e3 32.Kg1 Ne4 33.Bxe4 Rxe4 34.fxe3 Ne5 35.Bf4 Nf3+ 36.Kf2 Re8 37.Qc2 Qd5 38.e4 Qd4+ 39.Be3 Qf6 40.Kg2 Nxh4+ 41.gxh4 Qf3+ 42.Kg1 Rxe4 43.Rf2 1-0 (49) Brkic,A (2596)-Velten,P (2478) EU-ch 23rd Vrnjacka Banja 2023 (8)]
14.Bg5 Qc7 15.Nxg6 hxg6

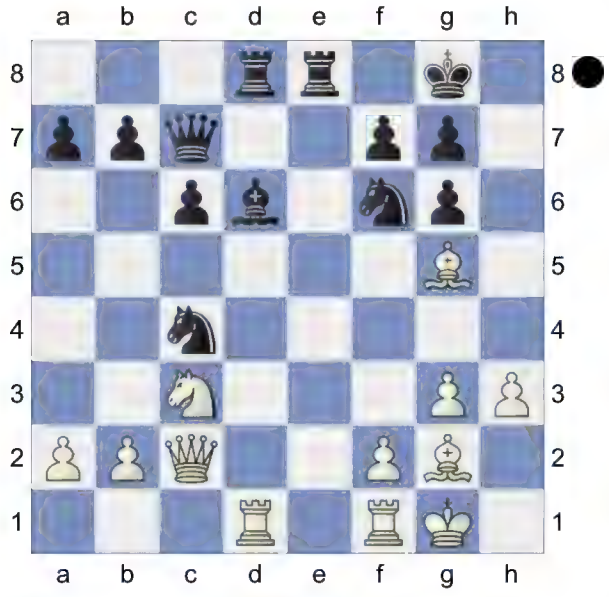
(Diagram)



16.c5
[16.Rc1 Rad8 17.Bg2 Be7 18.Qb3 e5 19.d5 Nc5 20.Qc2 Nxd5! 21.Nxd5 cxd5 1-0 (28) Bujisho,B (2326)-Vidal,L (2336) Sables d'Olonne 2019 22.Bxe7 Rxe7 23.cxd5]
16...Bf8 0.66/18
[16...Be7!= 0.16/20]
17.Bf4 -0.38/18
[White should play 17.b4!± 0.66/18]
17...e5∓ 18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Bg2 Bxc5 20.Qc2 Bd6 -0.33/20
[⌓20...Bb6 -0.70/18]

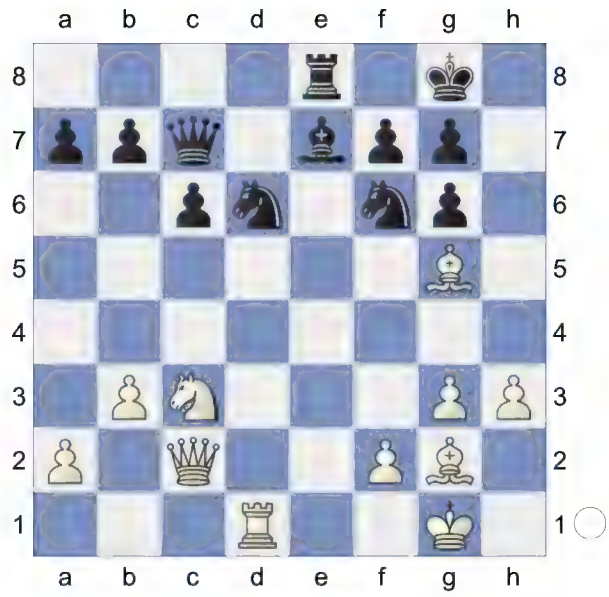
(Diagram)

21.Rad1 Rad8 22.h3 Nc4 23.Bg5



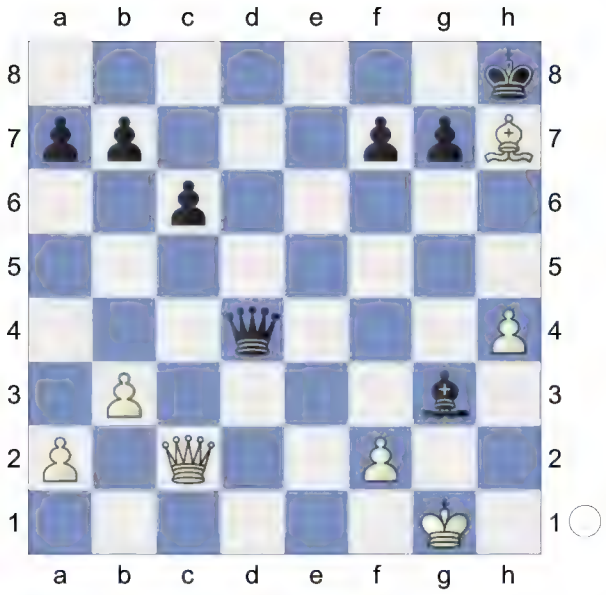
Be7 24.b3 -0.93/17
[24.h4∓ -0.49/17]
24...Rxd1 -0.51/19
[24...Nd6∓ -0.93/17 25.Bf4 Qa5]
25.Rxd1 Nd6

(Diagram)

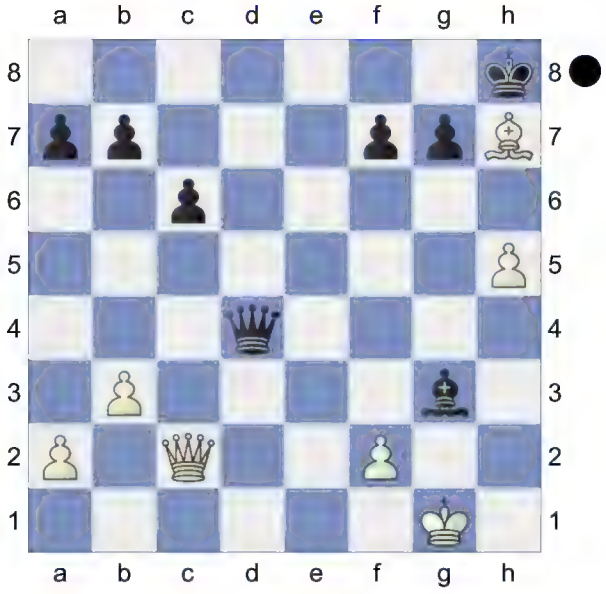


26.Bf4 Rd8 27.Ne4 Nfxe4 28.Bxe4 Qc8 29.Bg2 Nf5 30.Rxd8+ Qxd8

31.h4 Qd4 -0.04/21
[31...Bd6∓ -0.41/20 32.Bxd6 Qxd6]
32.Be4
[32.h5!?]
32...Bd6 ...Bxf4 is the strong threat.
33.Bxf5 Hoping for Bxd6. **33...Bxf4**
34.Bxg6 -0.95/22
[34.Qd3= -0.13/21 Qa1+ 35.Qb1 Qxb1+ 36.Bxb1]
34...Bxg3∓ Discovered Attack **35.Bh7+ Kh8**

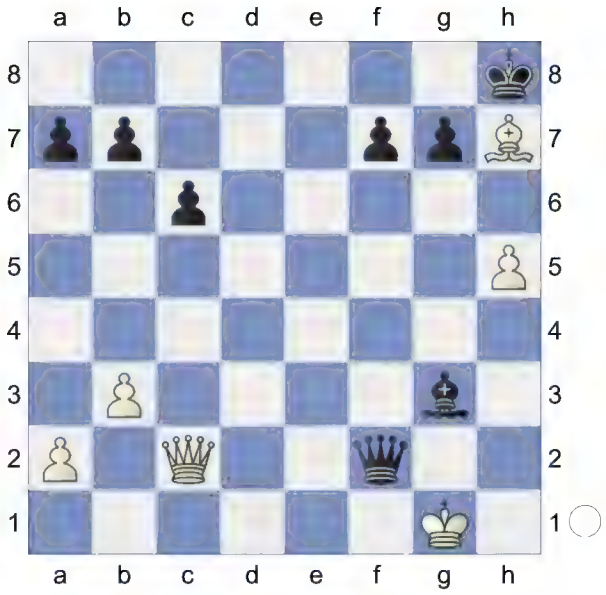


36.h5? -8.44/19
[36.Bf5∓ -1.18/18]



Vorgänger:.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.12 (very precise)
36...Qxf2+!

(Diagram)



Deflection. Loss on time!?
1-0

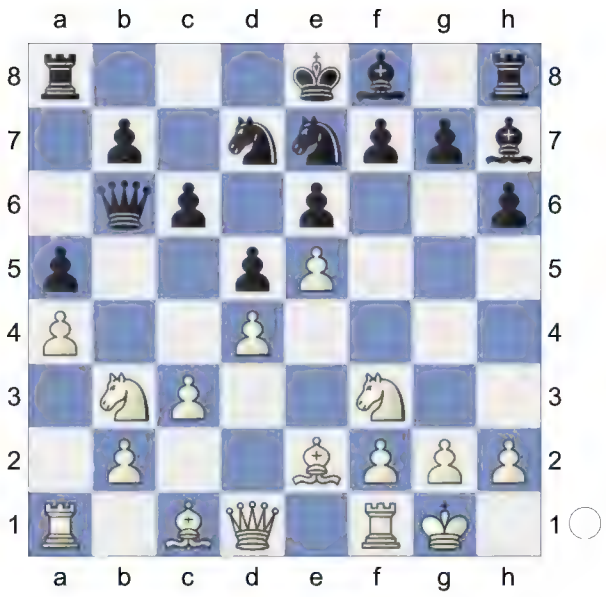
185 **B12**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2859**
Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz (1.16)
[Kitty Kat]

B12: Caro-Kann: Advance Variation
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 Ne7

(Diagram)

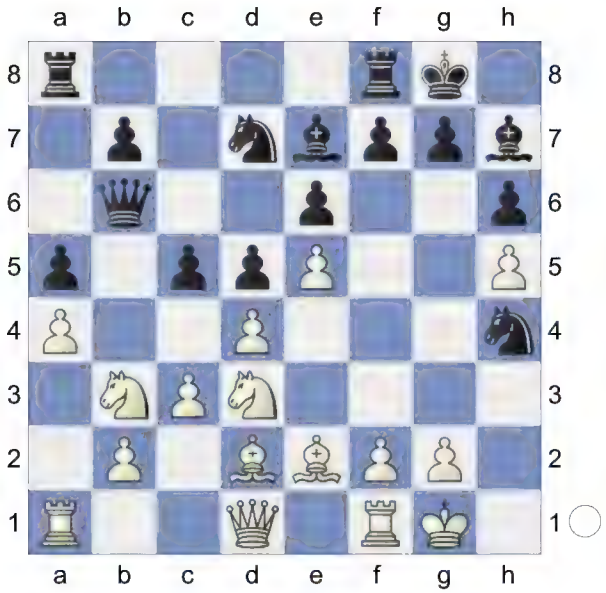
6.0-0 h6 7.c3 a5!? An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante.
8.a4 Nd7 9.Nbd2 White is slightly better.
[9.Re1 c5 10.dxc5 Nc6 11.Bb5 Bxc5 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Bb4 14.Nc3 0-0 15.Bd3 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Rc8 17.Bd2 Nb8 18.Qg3 Kh7 19.Qd3+ Kg8 20.Re3 f5 21.exf6 Qxf6 22.Rf3 Qh4 23.Rxf8+ Rxf8 1-0 (48) Sanal,V (2557)-Perez Gormaz,M (2394) Titled Tuesday intern op 04th Feb Late blitz 2025 (11)]
9...Qb6!? A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.
[9...g5 10.Ne1 Qc7 11.Bh5 c5 12.f4 cxd4 13.cxd4 Nc6 14.Ndf3 gxf4 15.Bxf4 Be7 16.Kh1 0-0-0 17.Bxf7 Rdf8 18.Bh5 Kb8 19.Rc1 Qb6 20.Qd2 Qb3 21.Bxh6 Rc8 22.Ng1 Bb4 23.Qf4 Qxb2 24.Nef3 1-0 (55) Grube,J (2764)-Gazi,M (2728) Second Amsterdam-London match 1850-1 (6.2)]
10.Nb3 Bh7

(Diagram)

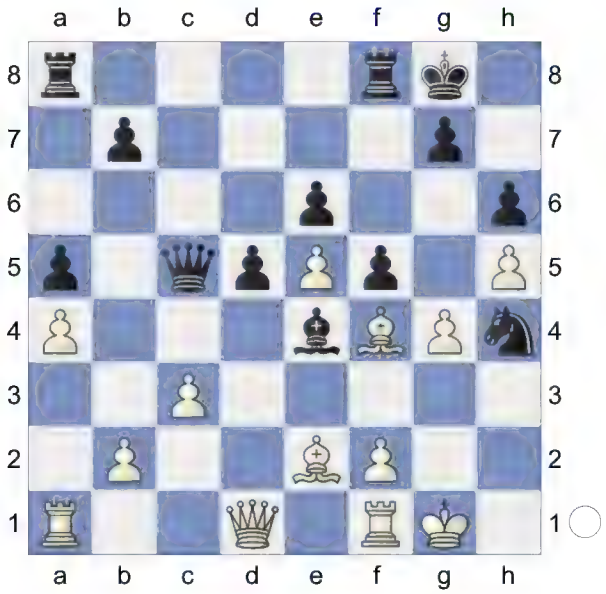


11.Bd2N
[11.Nc5 Nxc5 12.dxc5 Qc7 13.b4 Be4 14.Re1 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 g6 16.Qe2 Bg7 17.Bf4 0-0 18.Qb2 Rfb8 19.h4 Nf5 20.g3 axb4 21.cxb4 b6 22.Qd2 bxc5 23.bxc5 Qa5 24.Qxa5 Rxa5 25.Bd2 Raa8 0-1 (34) Hu,Y (2074)-Li,X (2280) CHN-chT Div-A 2022 (1.3)]
[11.Ne1 Qc7 12.f4 Nc8 13.Be3 Ncb6 14.Nd2 Be7 15.g4 Arakhamia Grant,K (2423)-Kadimova,I (2310) 96/(71) Kusadasi 2006]
11...Ng6N
[Vorgänger: 11...Nf5 12.Rc1 Be7 13.c4 dxc4 14.Bxc4 Bb4 15.Bd3 Bg6 16.Re1 and Bxb4 should not be overlooked 0-0 17.Bc3 Ne7 18.Bxg6 Nxg6 ½-½ (29) Peiro Fernandez,J (2153)-Morihama,N (2237) ICCF email 2018]
12.h4 Be7 13.h5 Nh4 14.Ne1 0-0 15.Nd3 -0.61/19
[15.Bf4= 0.22/19]
15...c5 0.60/21
[Better is 15...f6!∓ -0.61/19]

(Diagram)

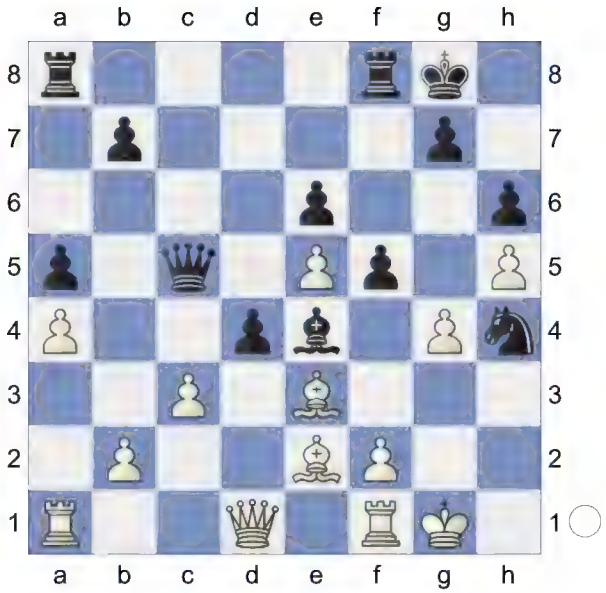


16.Nbxc5
[16.Ndxc5 feels hotter. Nxc5 17.dxc5 Bxc5 18.Bb5]
16...Nxc5 17.dxc5 Bxc5 18.Nxc5 Qxc5 19.Bf4 Be4 20.g4 -1.07/21
[20.Be3± 0.54/22 stays ahead. Qc7 21.f3]
20...f5∓



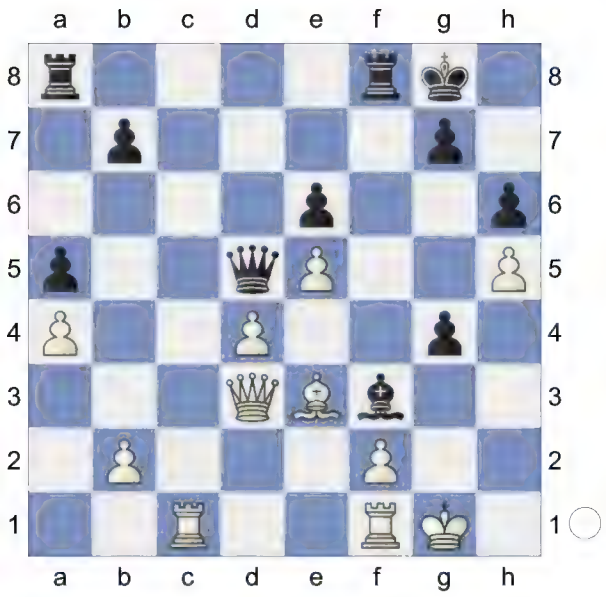
Black is much more active. **21.Be3** -1.72/22
[21.g5∓ -0.94/22]
21...d4

(Diagram)



Discovered Attack **22.cxd4** -1.95/18
[22.Bxd4∓ -1.37/19 was the only chance. Qc6 23.Bb5]
22...Qd5-+ 23.Rc1 -6.24/19 Inhibits Bc2.
[Don't blunder 23.f3? fxg4 24.Qe1 *(24.fxe4? perishes. Qxe4 25.Rf2 Qxe3-+)* 24...gxf3-+ *(24...Bxf3? 25.Qxh4 Bxe2 26.Rf2-+; 24...Nxf3+? 25.Bxf3 Bxf3 26.Qh4-+)*]
[23.f4 -2.06/17]
23...Nf3+ -2.80/19
[⌓23...Bc2 -6.24/19 24.f3 Bxd1 25.Bxd1 fxg4]
24.Bxf3 Bxf3 25.Qd3 fxg4?→ -0.76/18
[25...Bxg4 26.f3 Bxh5 *(26...Bxf3? 27.Bxh6 Bxh5 28.Rc5∓)* 27.Rc5∓]
[25...Bg2-+ -2.70/20 and Black stays clearly on top. 26.Qc4 fxg4 *(26...Bxf1 27.Qxd5 exd5 28.Kxf1∓; 26...Qxc4? 27.Rxc4 Bf3 28.d5-+)* 27.Qxd5 Bxd5]

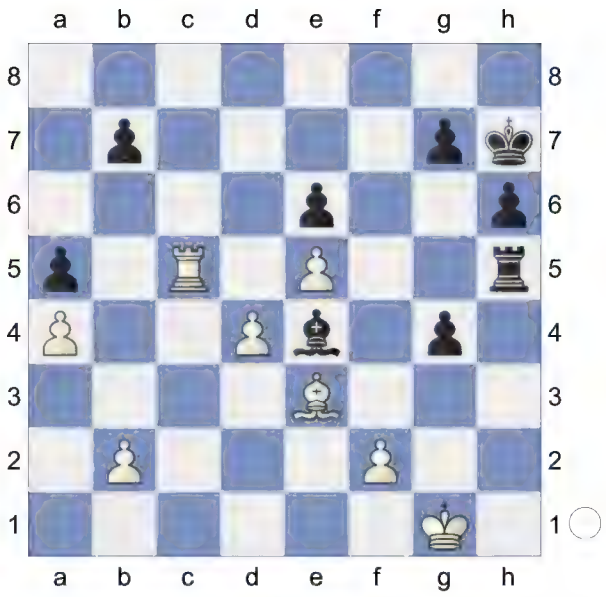
(Diagram)



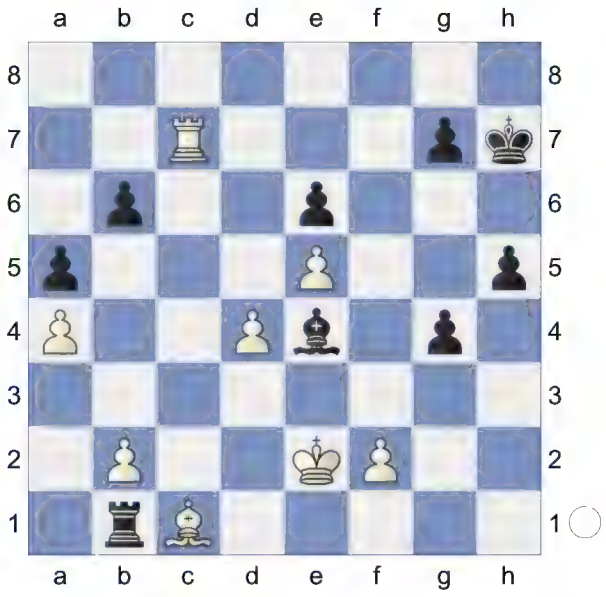
Black wants a kill. This move loses the game for White. **26.Rc5?** -7.05/23
[26.Qg6∓ -0.76/18 Qd7 *(26...Rf5 27.Rc7)* 27.Rc5]
26...Qe4 -2.94/22
[⌓26...Qd8 -7.05/23 (-> ...Qh4) 27.Rc7 Qxc7]
27.Qxe4 Bxe4 28.Rfc1 Rf5 29.Rc8+ Rxc8 30.Rxc8+ Endgame KRB-KRB
30...Kh7

31.Rc5 Rxh5

(Diagram)

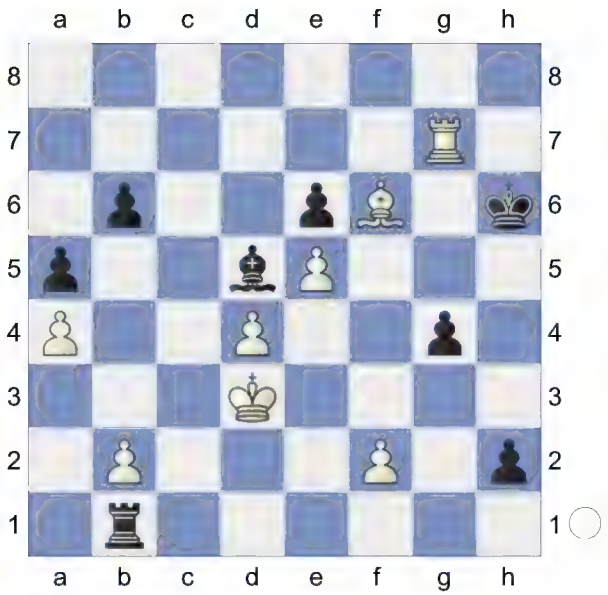


Black is clearly winning. **32.Kf1 b6 33.Rc7 Rh1+ 34.Ke2 Rb1 35.Bc1 h5**



36.Ke3 Bd5 37.Kd3 h4 38.Bg5 h3
White must now prevent ...h2!. **39.Bf6 h2**
[39...Rxb2? 40.Rxg7+ Kh6 41.Rxg4-+]
40.Rxg7+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.67/ Black=0.62
40...Kh6

(Diagram)

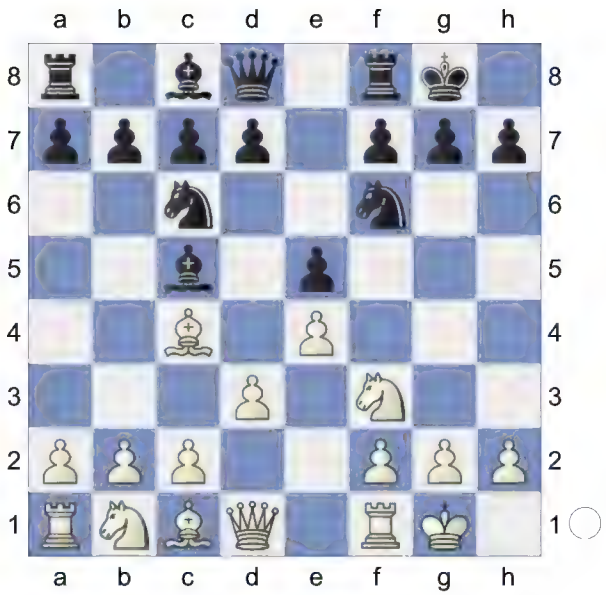


0-1

186 **C54**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2859**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz (1.15)
[TA]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 0-0

(Diagram)

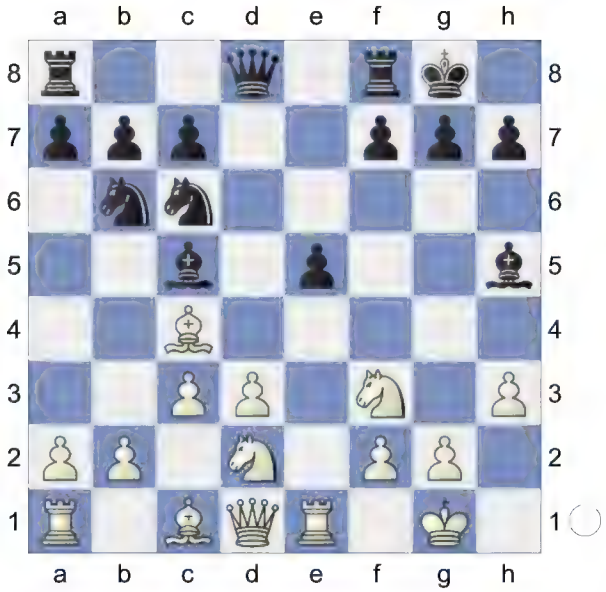


6.c3N
[6.Re1 d6 *(6...Ng4 7.Re2 Kh8 8.h3 f5 9.Bg5 Nf6 10.Nc3 d6 11.Nd5 fxe4 12.dxe4 Be6 13.Nxf6 gxf6 14.Bxe6 fxg5 15.c3 Qf6 16.Bg4 a5* 2. Italian 6...d5 − Explori-Exploring Anti-6...d5 Move Or*)* 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 Be6 9.Nc3 Nd4 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Qf3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Bxc4 13.dxc4 g5 14.Bg3 Nd7 15.h4 gxh4 16.Bh2 Qg5 17.Re3 Kh8 18.Qe2 Rg8 19.g3 hxg3 20.Rxg3 Qh4 0-1 (30) Zeydan,S (2060)-Khamdamova,A (2139) Titled Tuesday intern op 15th Nov Early blitz 2022 (9)]
[6.h3 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Re1 Be6 9.c3 Bb6 10.Bb3 f6 11.d4 Bf7 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Bxd5 Bxd5 14.Nxe5 fxe5 15.Be3 Bc6 16.Nd2 Qf6 17.Qe2 Qg6 18.f3 Rad8 19.Bxb6 axb6 20.Ne4 Rf4 1-0 (58) 10. ♗a3 b6 11.ba5 ♘h5 1525 (2785)-C 06/32 (2780) Deutschland 108/(278) 2009]
[6.Nbd2 h6 7.c3 d6 8.a4 a5 9.h3 Ne7 10.d4 exd4 11.cxd4 Bb4 12.Bd3 Ng6 13.Bc2 Re8 14.b3 b6

15.Bb2 Bb7 16.d5 c6 17.dxc6 Bxc6 18.Re1 Rc8 19.Re3 Bb7 20.Bd3 Nf4 1-0 (25) Demchenko,A (2619)-An, D (1937) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Jan Early blitz 2025 (5)]

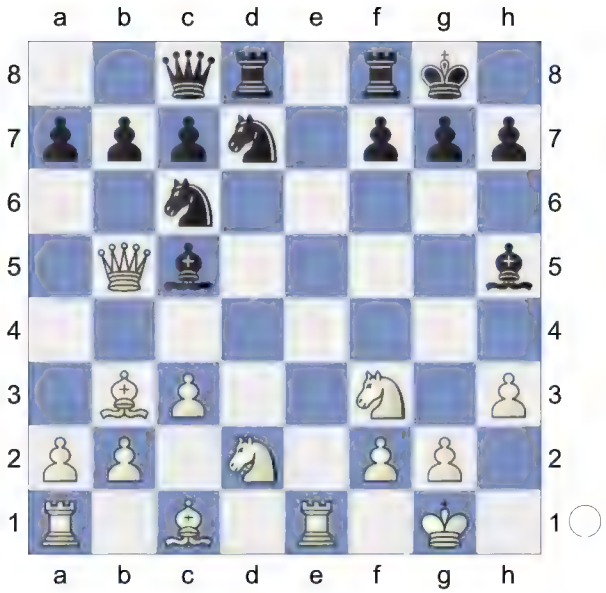
[6.Nc3 h6 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.fxe3 d6 9.d4 exd4 10.exd4 Nxe4 11.Nxe4 d5 12.Bd3 dxe4 13.Bxe4 Ne7 14.Ne5 f6 15.Nc4 c6 16.c3 Be6 17.Bd3 Kh8 18.Qf3 Qc7 19.Rae1 Bg8 20.Ne3 Rae8 1-0 (27) Abasov,N (2630)-Brunello,S (2508) EU-ch 22nd Terme Catez 2022 (9)]

6...d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Re1 Bg4 9.Nbd2 Nb6 10.h3 Bh5



11.Bb3 White is slightly better. **11...Qxd3 12.Nxe5 Qf5 13.Nef3! Rad8 14.Qe2** Dodges Rfe8. next g4 is good for White. **14...Qc8 15.Qb5 Nd7**

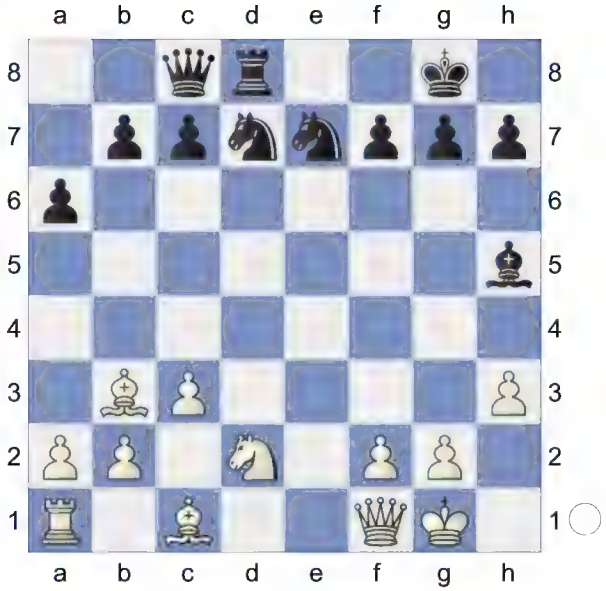
(Diagram)



16.Nh4 a6 0.38/19

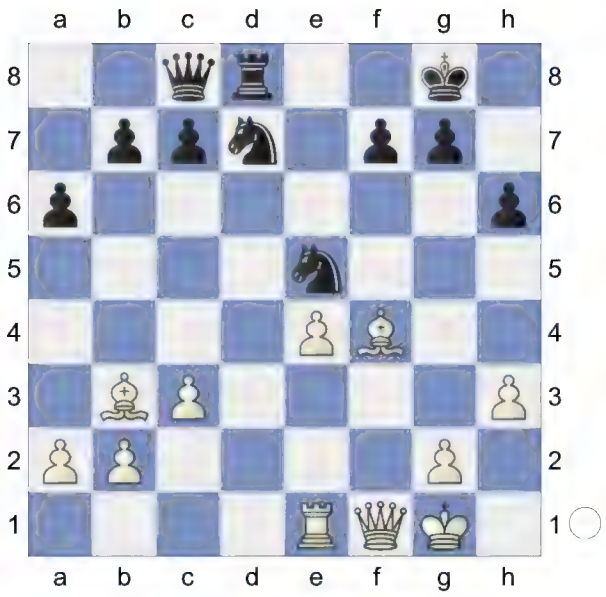
[16...Rfe8= 0.00/22 17.Ne4 Re5]

17.Qf1!± Be7 18.Nf5↑ White has the initiative. **18...Rfe8 19.Nxe7+ Rxe7 20.Rxe7 Nxe7**

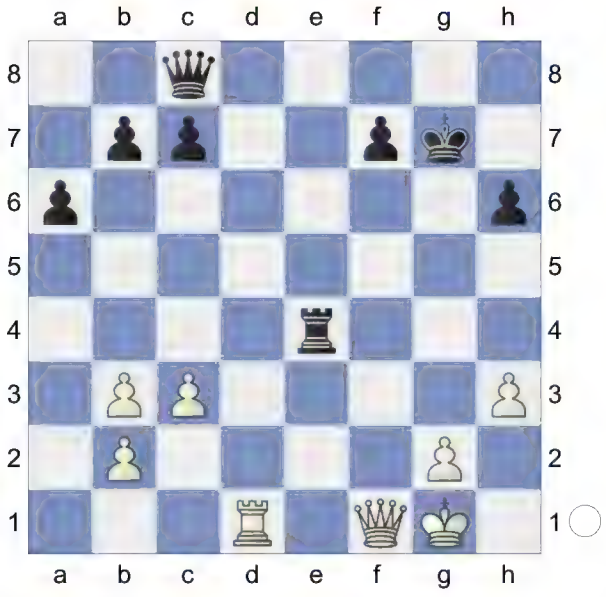


21.Ne4 Against Nc5 **21...Bg6 22.f3 h6 23.Bf4 Nc6 24.Re1** White has more active pieces. **24...Bxe4 25.fxe4 Nce5**

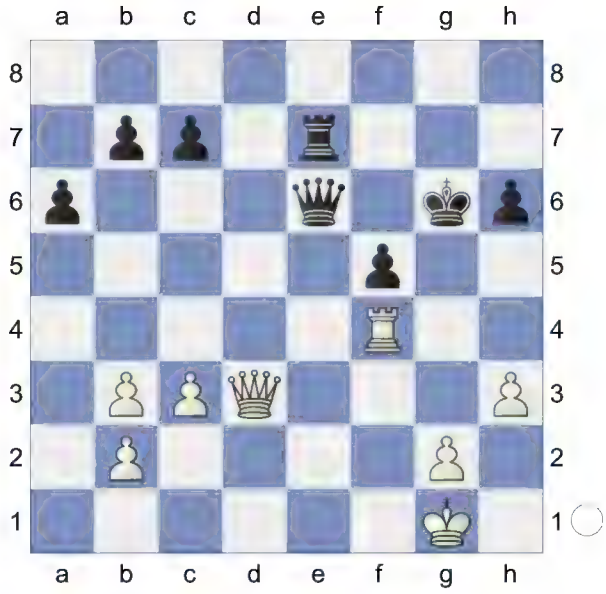
(Diagram)



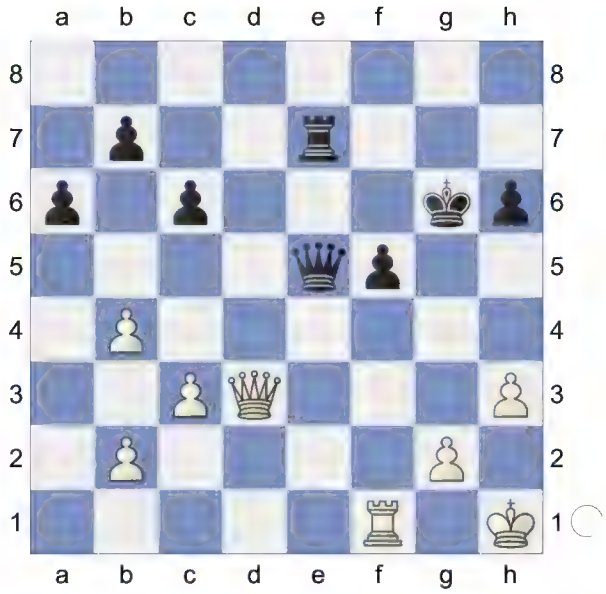
26.Bg3 A strong pair of Bishops.
26...Re8 27.Rd1 Nc5 28.Bxe5 0.15/18
[28.Bc2± 0.52/22 deserves consideration.]
28...Nxb3!= 29.Bxg7 Kxg7 30.axb3 Rxe4±



Endgame KQR-KQR **31.Qf3 Re7** 0.86/21
[31...Re5= 0.16/18]
32.Rd4 0.15/21
[32.Rf1± 0.86/21 Black must now prevent Qf6+. Kg8 33.c4]
32...Qe6= Prevents Qf6+. The position is equal. **33.Rg4+ Kh7 34.Qd3+ f5 35.Rf4 Kg6**

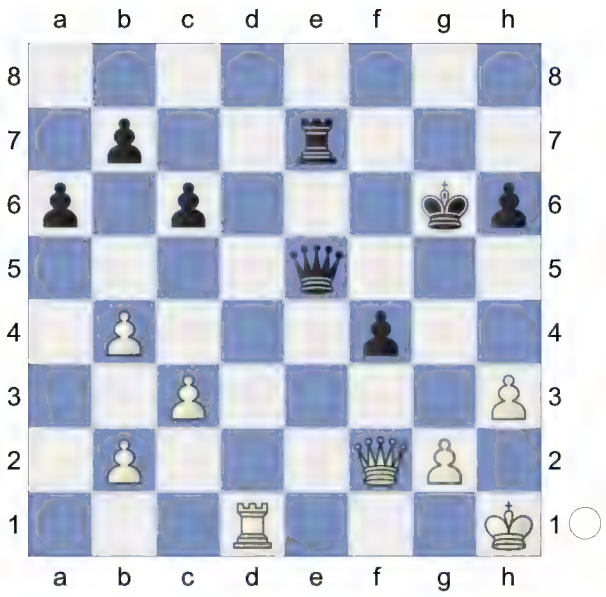


36.Qg3+ Kh7 37.Qd3 Kg6 38.Kh1 Qe1+ 39.Rf1 Qe5 40.b4 c6

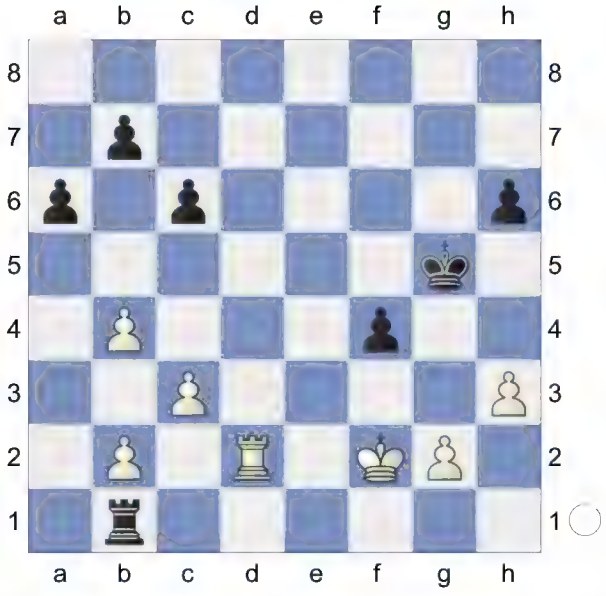


41.Qd8 Re8 42.Qd3 Re7 43.Qd2 Re6 44.Qf2 Re7 45.Rd1 f4

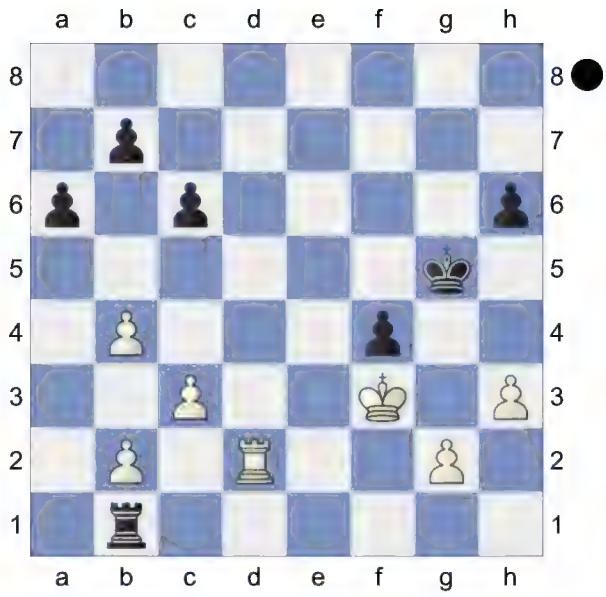
(Diagram)



46.Kg1 Qe2 47.Rd6+
[47.Rd4 simplifies Qe1+ 48.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 49.Kf2]
47...Kg5 48.Rd2
[48.h4+ seems wilder. Kg4 49.Rg6+ Kh5 50.Rf6]
48...Qe1+ 49.Qxe1 Rxe1+ KR-KR
50.Kf2 Rb1



51.Kf3 Rf1+ 52.Ke2 Rb1 53.Kf3 Rf1+ 54.Ke2 Rb1
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
55.Kf3



Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?
1-0

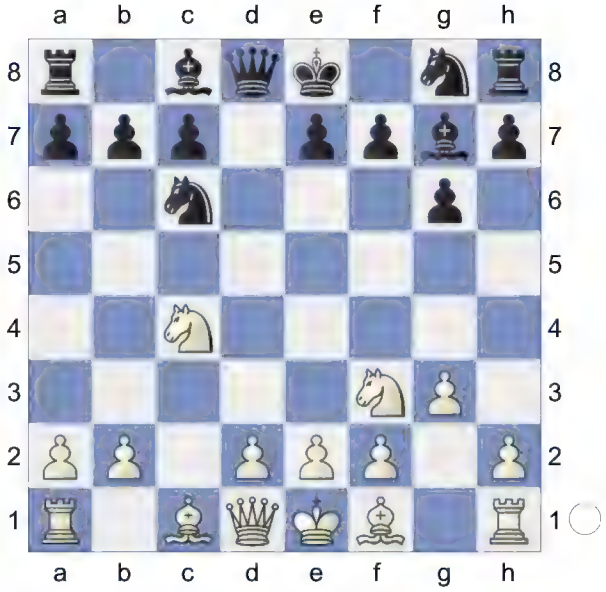
187 **A07**
□ **Praggnanandhaa,R** **2684**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
Tata Steel India Blitz (17.2) 04.12.2022
[TA]

A09: Réti Opening: 1 Nf3 d5 2 c4
Baburin (www.chesstoday.net): 'What is wrong with 1.e4!? or 1.d4!? ?? :-)' Bojkov,Dejan: 'Alex Baburin (www.chesstoday.net): 'What is wrong with 1.e4!? or 1.d4!? ?? :-)" After the first two "warm-up games" we started to see real fights in the World Championship. Atalik,Suat: 'Bojkov,Dejan: 'Alex Baburin (www.chesstoday.net): 'What is wrong with 1.e4!? or 1.d4!? ?? :-)'' Mark Crowther: ' Baburin (www.chesstoday.net): 'What is wrong with 1.e4!? or 1.d4!? ?? :-)' After the first two "warm-up games" we started to see real fights in the World Championship.' Mark Crowther: 'Bojkov,Dejan: 'Alex Baburin

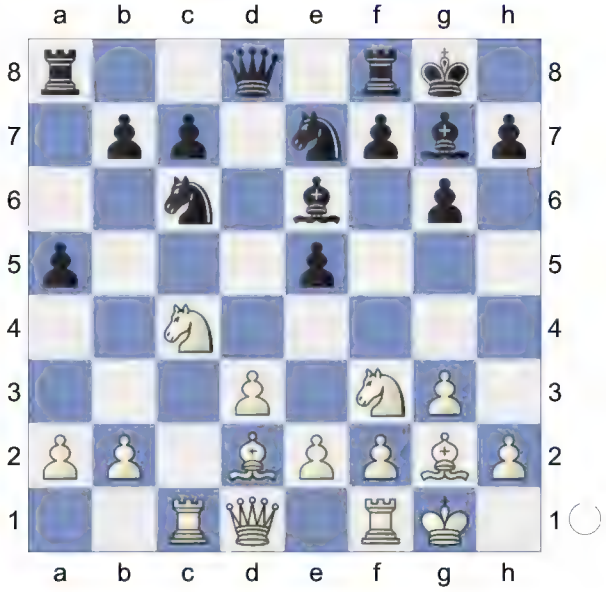
(www.chesstoday.net): 'What is wrong with 1.e4!? or 1.d4!? ?? :-)" After the first two "warm-up games" we started to see real fights in the World Championship." I hope our readers will forgive me for presenting a rapid game, considering that it contains the most beautiful move in World Championship history! **1.Nf3** Marin,Mihail **1...d5 2.g3 g6 3.c4 dxc4 4.Na3N**

[4.Qa4+ Nc6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.Nc3 e5 7.Qxc4 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.d3 h6 10.Bd2 Nd4 *(10...a5 11.Rfc1 Be6 12.Qa4 Nd4 13.Qd1 b6 14.Ne1 Rc8 15.e3 Ndf5 16.Ne4 c5 17.Bc3 Nd5 18.Nf3 Nxc3 19.Nxc3 Ne7 20.Qe2 Qd7 21.Nd2 Rfd8 22.Bf1 Rb8 23.Qd1 f5 24.Nc4 b5 25.Nxa5* 1-0 (60) Grigoryan,K (2619)-Andersen,M (2610) ESP-chT CECLUB Div1 2023 (3.2)*; 10...Be6 11.Qh4 Qd7 12.Qa4 f5 13.Rfc1 Rad8 14.b4 a6 15.Rab1 g5 16.Be1 Nd5 17.b5 axb5 18.Rxb5 Nb6 19.Qa3 Ra8 20.Qc5 Rfe8 21.a4 g4 22.Nh4 Nd4 23.Rb2 Bf7 24.Qa3 Bf8 25.Qa1* 0-1 (27) Olafsson,F-Ivkov,B World U20-ch01 1951 (2) *)* 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Ne4 c6 13.Bb4 Be6 14.Qc1 Bd5 15.a4 b6 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.a5 Rab8 18.Re1 Rfc8 (51) Chapter Game3-Games Chapter Game3 19.axb6 axb6 20.Qf4 Rd8 21.h4 Kh7 22.Nd2 Be5 23.Qg4 h5 24.Qh3 Be6 25.Qh1 c5 26.Ne4 Kg7 27.Ng5 b5 28.e3 dxe3 29.Rxe3 Bd4 30.Re2 c4 31.Nxe6+ fxe6 32.Be4 cxd3 33.Rd2 Qb4 ½-½ (51) Carlsen,M (2870)-Anand,V (2775) WCh 2013 Chennai IND (3) 34.Rad1 Bxb2 35.Qf3 Bf6 36.Rxd3 Rxd3 37.Rxd3 Rd8 38.Rxd8 Bxd8 39.Bd3 Qd4 40.Bxb5 Qf6 41.Qb7+ Be7 42.Kg2 g5 43.hxg5 Qxg5 44.Bc4 h4 45.Qc7 hxg3 46.Qxg3 e5 47.Kf3 Qxg3+ 48.fxg3 Bc5 1-0 (51) Carlsen,M (2853)-Karjakin,S (2772) World Championship Playoff 2016]

4...Bg7 5.Nxc4 Nc6



6.d3 e5 7.Bd2 Nge7 8.Bg2 The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.Rc1!?** A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante. **9...a5 10.0-0 Be6**

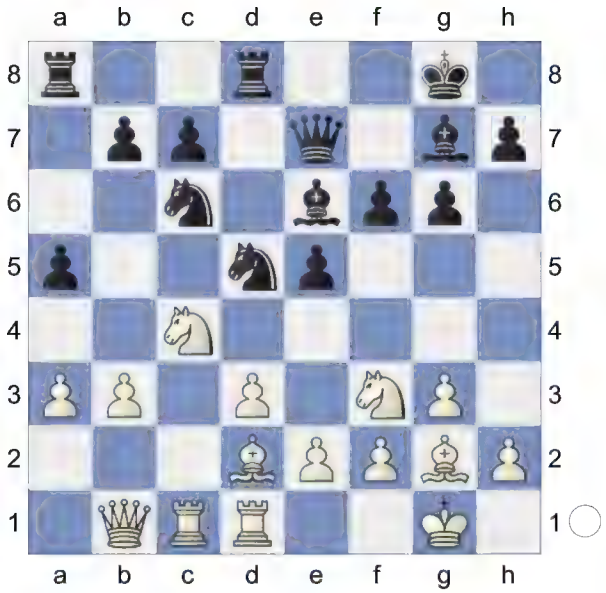


11.b3 f6 12.a3N

[Vorgänger: 12.Qc2 Qd7 13.Rfd1

Rfd8 14.Bc3 Nd5 15.Bb2 Bh6! 16.e3 a4 17.a3 Prevents Ndb4 axb3 18.Qb1 -1.27/19 *(⌓18.Qe2 -0.91/21)* 18...Bf8 -0.63/19 *(18...Na5!∓ -1.27/19 19.Nxa5 Rxa5)* 19.d4 -1.50/21 *(19.Nfd2!∓ -0.63/19)* 19...exd4 -0.74/21 *(⌓19...e4! -1.50/21 20.Qxe4 b5)* 20.Bxd4 -1.11/20 *(20.Nxd4 -0.74/21 Nxd4 21.Rxd4)* 20...Qf7 21.Qxb3 -2.03/21 *(21.Bb2∓ -0.78/19)* 21...Nb6!-+ 22.Nfd2 -3.30/20 *(22.Bxb6 -2.14/18* was the only defense. *Bxc4 23.Rxc4 Rxa3 24.Qc2 Rxd1+* Deflection *25.Qxd1 Qxc4 26.Bf1)* 22...Nxc4-+ 23.Nxc4 Na5 0-1 (23) Gledura,B (2589)-Nakamura,H (2785) Caleta 2017 CBM 177 [Marin,Mihail]]

12...Nd5 13.Qc2 Qd7 14.Qb1 Qe7 15.Rfd1 Rfd8



16.h3 Ra6 0.26/20

[16...Bf8∓ -0.33/17]

17.e4!= Nb6 18.Be3! Nd7 0.63/17

[18...Bf8= -0.02/20]

19.a4± Raa8 20.d4 exd4

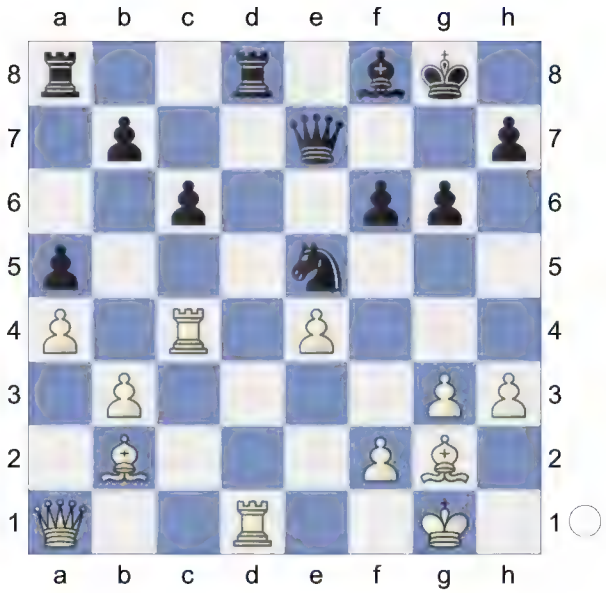
(Diagram)

21.Nxd4 Nxd4 22.Bxd4 c6 23.Bb2 0.40/19

[23.Qc2± 0.84/18]

23...Bf8 24.Qa1 White is more active.

24...Bxc4 25.Rxc4 Ne5



26.Rcd4 Bg7 1.14/20

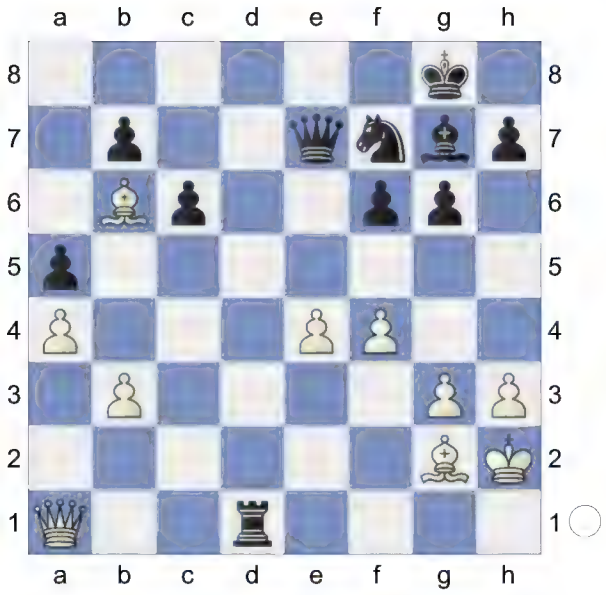
[26...Rxd4± 0.42/19 27.Rxd4 Qf7]

27.f4± Nf7 28.Kh2 Rxd4 29.Bxd4 Rd8 30.Bb6 0.55/19

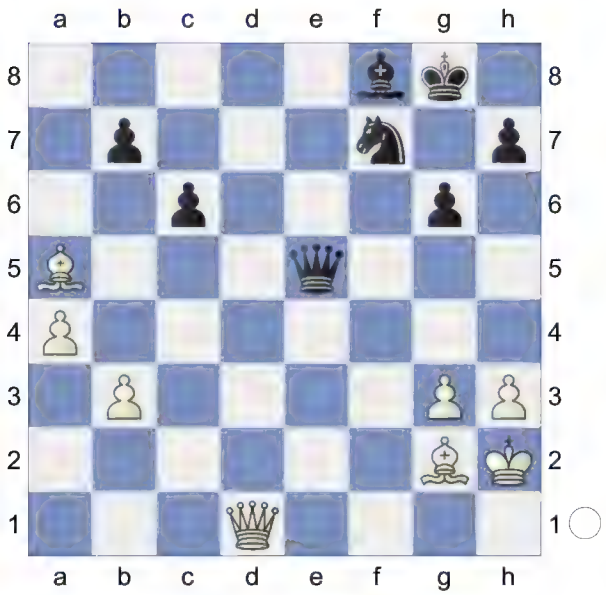
[White should try 30.Qc3± 1.24/18]

30...Rxd1±

(Diagram)



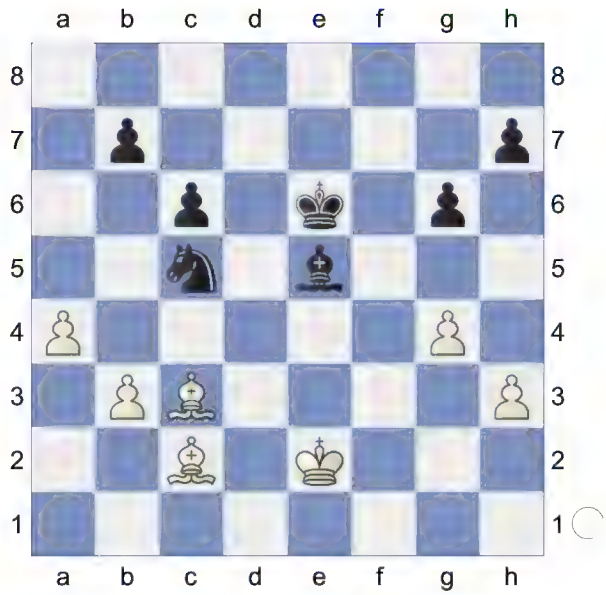
31.Qxd1 Qb4 32.Bc7 0.18/17
[32.Bf2± 0.62/20]
32...Bf8= 33.e5 fxe5 34.fxe5 Qe7 Prevents Qd7. **35.Bxa5 Qxe5**



36.Qe1 Qxe1 37.Bxe1 Endgame KBB-KBN **37...Ne5 38.Be4 Bd6 39.Kg2 Kf7 40.Kf2 Ke6**

(Diagram)

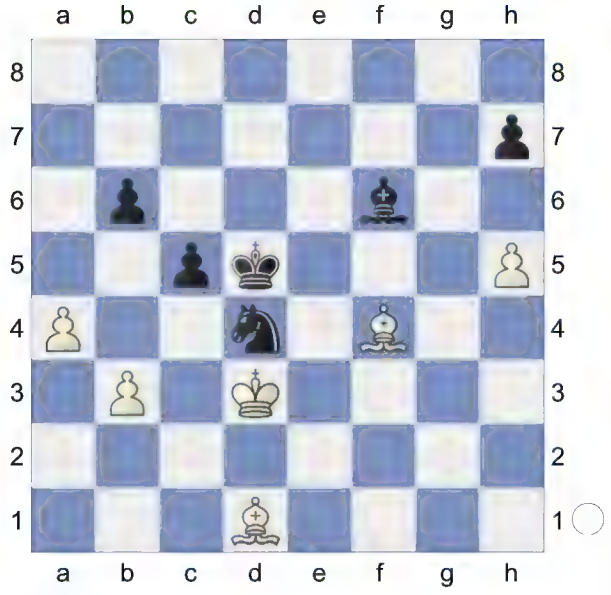
41.Ke3 Nd7 42.Ke2 Nc5 43.Bc2 Kd5 44.g4 Ke6 0.38/20
[44...Ne6= -0.01/21 was preferable.]
45.Bc3 Be5



46.Bd2 Kd5 47.Kf3 Ne6 aiming for ... Nd4+. **48.Bd1 Nd4+ 49.Ke3 c5 50.Kd3 Bc7**

(Diagram)

51.h4 Bd8 52.h5 gxh5 53.gxh5 Be7 54.Be3 b6 55.Bf4 Bf6 1.28/22
[55...Bd6= 0.10/23 keeps the balance. 56.Bg5 Bg3]



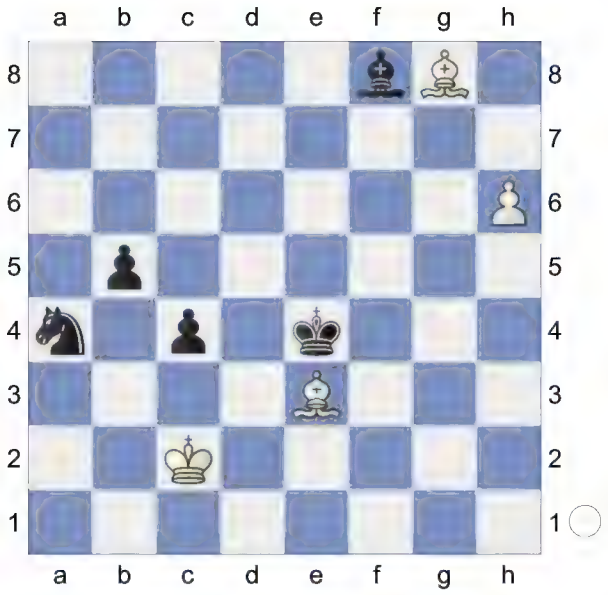
56.Bc7 0.06/24
[56.h6!± 1.28/22]
56...Kc6 57.Bf4 Kd5 1.17/22
[57...b5± 0.45/20]

(Diagram)

58.h6!± Be7 1.81/24
[58...Be5!± 0.44/20 59.Bd2 Kc6]
59.Be3? 0.11/22
[59.Bh5+- 1.81/24]
59...Bf8 60.Bg4 Nxb3

61.Bf5 Hoping for Be4+. **61...c4+ 62.Kc3 Nc5 63.Bxh7** This pair of bishops is nice. **63...Nxa4+ 64.Kc2 b5 65.Bg8+ Ke4**

(Diagram)

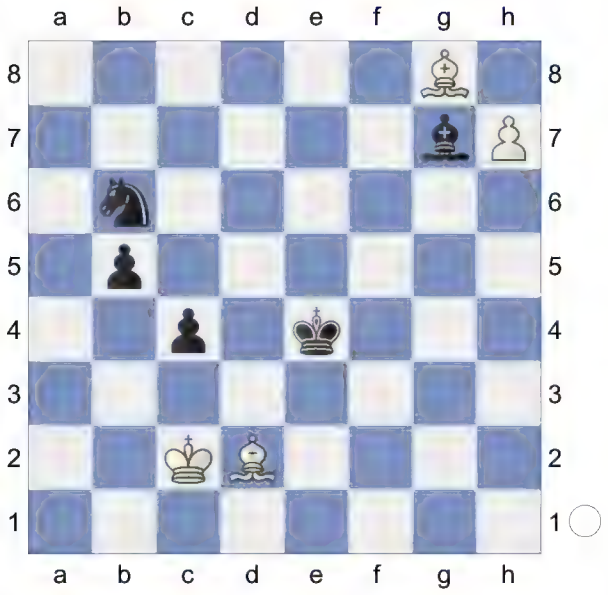


66.Bd2 Nb6? 6.55/21

[66...c3= 0.01/25 67.Bxc3 Bxh6 *(67...Nxc3 68.Kxc3 Bxh6 69.Bh7+ Ke5 70.Bd3=)*]

67.h7+- White is clearly winning.

67...Bg7

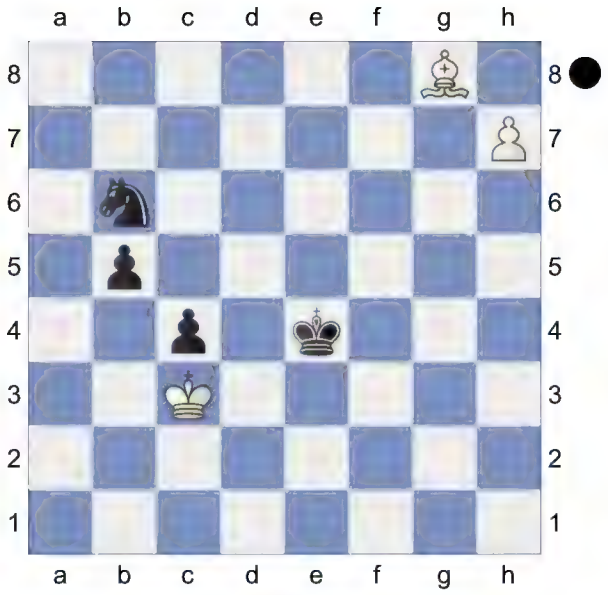


68.Bc3! Bxc3

Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.21 (precise)

69.Kxc3

(Diagram)



1-0

188 **E04**

□ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2730**

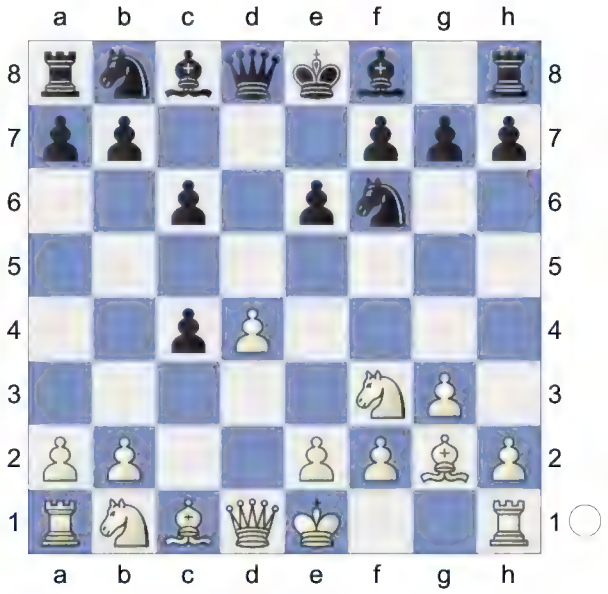
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**

Tata Steel India Blitz (6.4) 03.12.2022

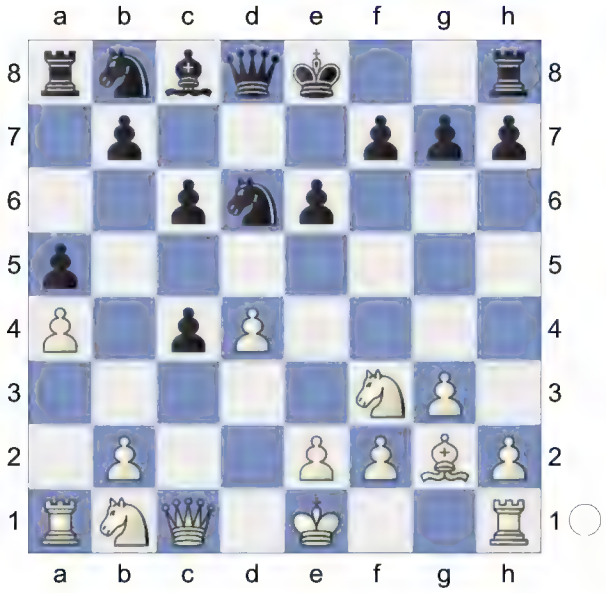
[TA]

E04: Open Catalan: 5 Nf3

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 c6



6.a4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 a5 8.Qc2 White has an edge. **8...Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Ne4 10.Qc1** White has compensation. **10...Nd6**



11.Nbd2

[11.0-0 0-0 12.Rd1 Na6 13.Na3 Nb4 14.Ne5 Vidit,S (2642)-Pogonina,N (2454) Gibraltar 2016 CI1-130 [Petronijevic,Zoran]]

11...b5 12.Ne5! Strongly threatening axb5. is more profitable than 12.0-0 at the moment.scheint profitabler als 12.0-0. **12...Bb7 13.b3 Qb6N**

[Vorgänger: 13...f6 14.Nef3 cxb3 15.Nxb3 Nd7 16.0-0 0.04/21 *(16.Nc5± 0.46/23* deserves consideration.*; 16.Nfd2 b4 17.0-0 Qe7 18.Bxc6 Bxc6 19.Qxc6 0-0 20.Rfc1 Rfc8 21.Qf3 Nb6 22.Rc5 Qd7 23.Rxc8+ Rxc8 24.Nc5 Qf7 25.Ndb3 Ndc4 26.e4 Qe7 27.Qe2 Qe8 28.Rc1 Na3 29.Qa6 Nxa4 30.Qxa5 Nxc5* Imomkuzieva,N (1983)-Mikheeva,G (2238) Petrovac 2025 ½-½ (40) *)* 16...b4= 17.Ne1 0-0 18.Nd3 Prevents c5. Qc7 0.83/22 *(18...Nb6=* 0.17/20 keeps the balance. *)* 19.Nf4 -0.01/21 *(19.Ndc5±* 0.83/22 *)* 19...Rfe8 ½-½ (42) Lysyj,I (2606)-Khegay,D (2523) Sochi 2021]

14.e3 -0.34/23

[14.bxc4± 0.47/23 Qxd4 15.Ndf3]

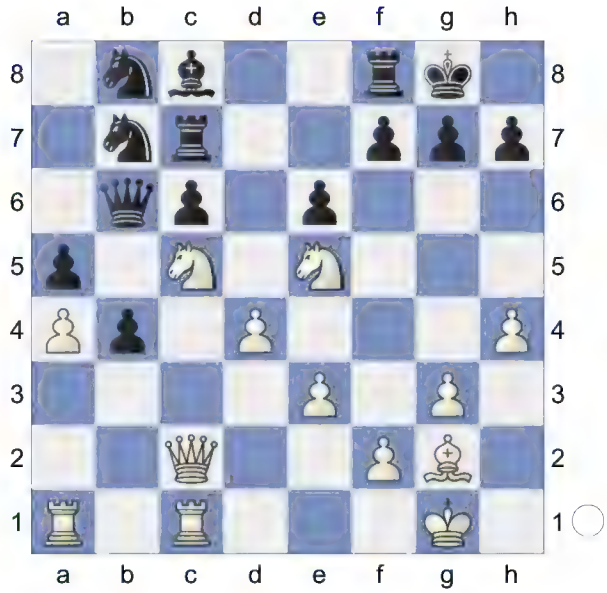
14...cxb3 0.43/23

[14...c5∓ -0.34/23 15.Bxb7 Qxb7]

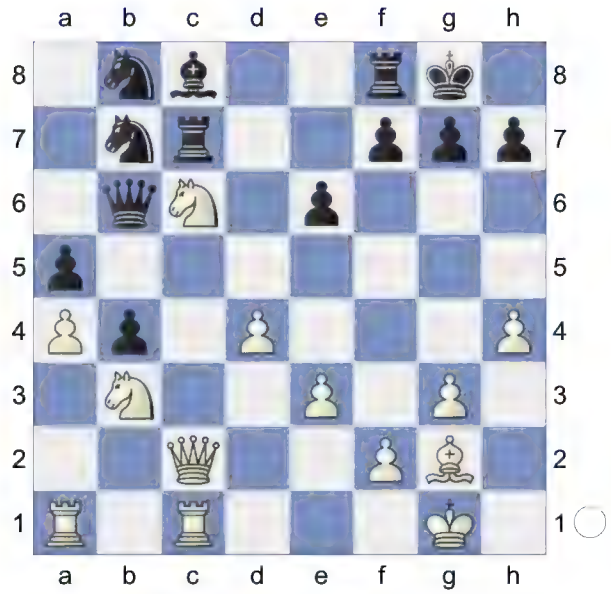
15.Nxb3± b4

16.0-0 0-0 17.Nc5 Bc8 Prevents Ned7. **18.Qc2 Ra7 19.Rfc1 Rc7 20.h4 Nb7** 0.88/20

[20...Nd7± 0.56/24]



21.Nb3!± 0x0.002fd1a72e1ddp-1022s more active pieces. **21...Nd7 22.Nxc6** Threatens to win with Ne7+. **22...Nb8!**



23.Qe4 0.78/26

[White should play 23.Qc4! 1.18/30 Hoping for Qb5. Nxc6 24.Qb5 *(24.Bxc6 Bd7∓)* 24...Qxb5 25.axb5 Nxd4 26.exd4 Rxc1+ 27.Nxc1]

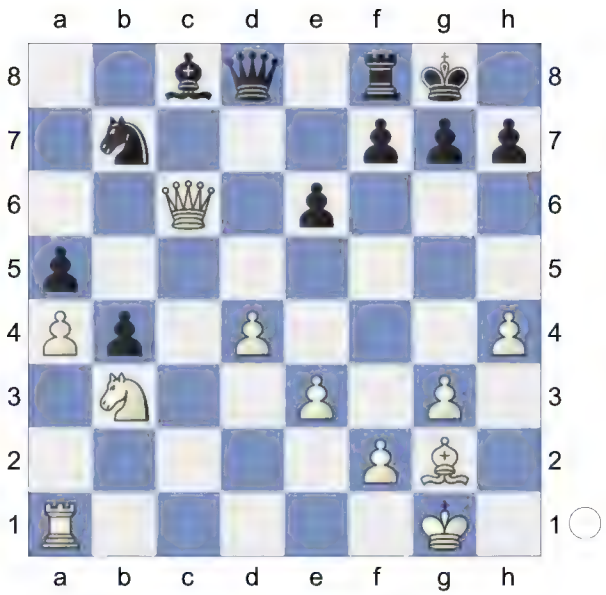
23...Nxc6? 2.32/20 This move loses the game for Black.

[23...f5± 0.78/26 24.Qf3 Nxc6 25.Rxc6 Qxc6 26.Qxc6 Rxc6 27.Bxc6 Rf7]

24.Rxc6+- Rxc6 25.Qxc6 Qd8 5.49/24

[25...Qxc6 1.93/24 is a better chance. 26.Bxc6 g6]

(Diagram)



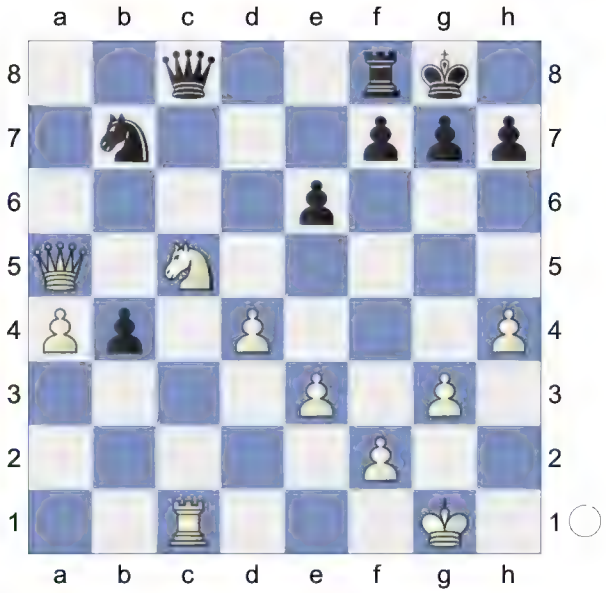
26.Rc1 Nd6 27.Qc7 Against Bb7

27...Qd7? 7.12/22

[27...Qxc7 3.94/25 28.Rxc7 Rd8 29.Nxa5 Ba6]

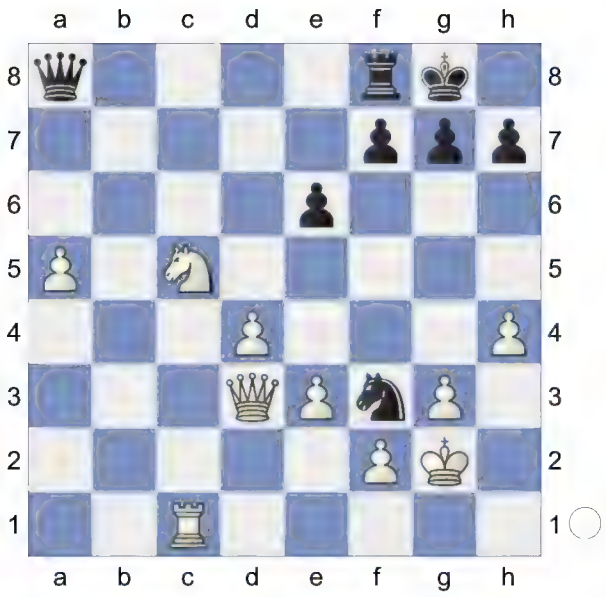
28.Qxa5 White is clearly winning.

28...Bb7 29.Nc5 Qc8 30.Bxb7 Nxb7

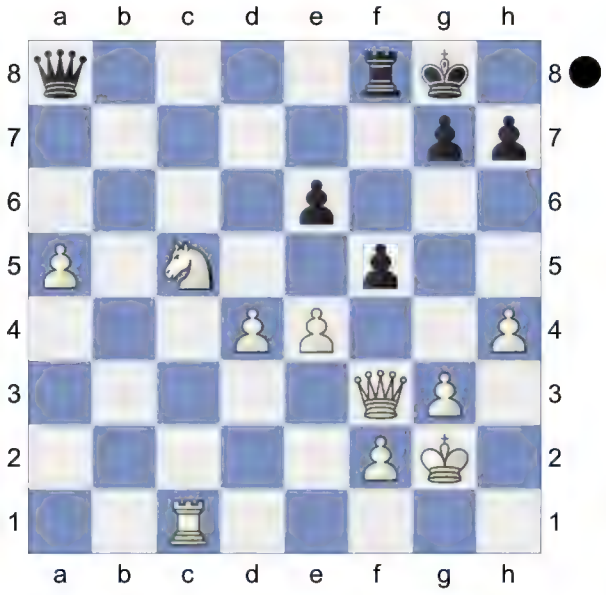


31.Qxb4 Nd6 32.a5 Ne4 33.Qa3 Nd2 34.Qd3 Nf3+ 35.Kg2 Qa8

(Diagram)



36.e4 f5 37.Qxf3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.41

1-0

189 **C11**

□ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2719**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**

Tata Steel India Blitz (2.3) 03.12.2022

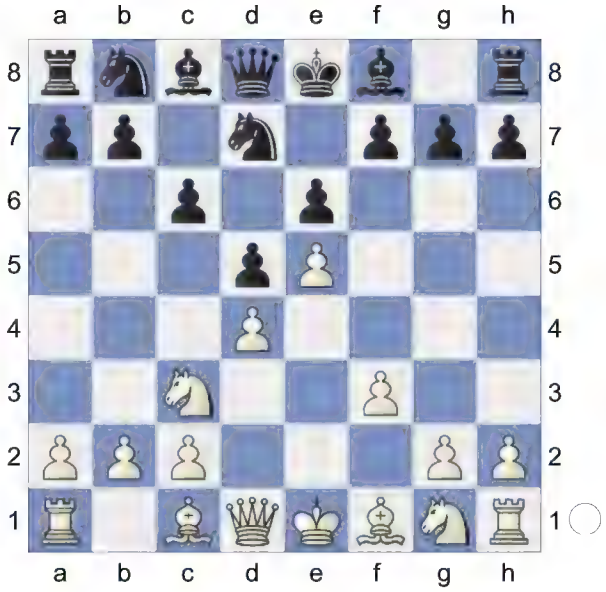
[Kitty Kat]

C11: French: Classical System: 4 e5 and 4 Bg5 dxe4

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e5

[5.Be3 Bb4 6.e5 Nfd7 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 b6 9.f4 Ba6 10.Qg4 g6 11.Bd3 c5 12.Qd1 cxd4 13.cxd4 Qc8 14.Nf3 Nc6 15.0-0 Ne7 16.a4 Bc4 17.Bc1 Qc6 18.Qe1 Bxd3 19.cxd3 h5 1-0 6.♗f4 ♘bd7 7.e3 54520 (2569)-Jessup,D (2510) (ch) 44/42 Romania 1987 (1)]

5...Nfd7

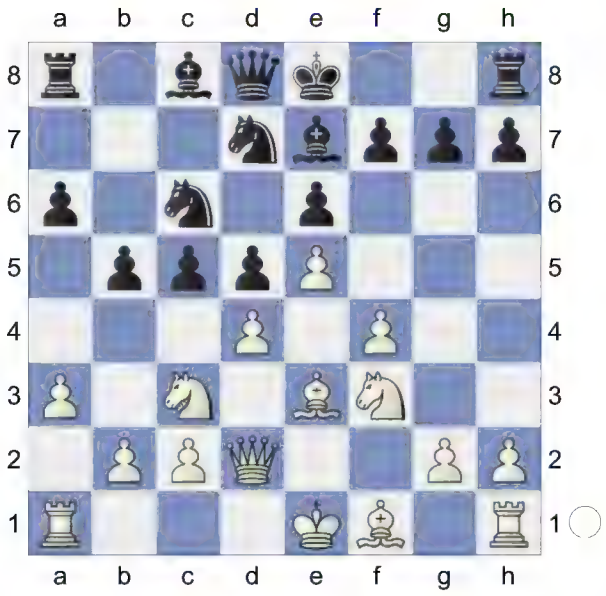


6.f4N

[6.Nce2 b6 7.f4 Ba6 8.Nf3 c5 9.c3 Nc6 10.g4 cxd4 11.cxd4 Be7 12.Ng3 Bxf1 13.Kxf1 Qc8 14.Qe2 a5 15.Bd2 Caro Kann-5.♘f3 ♘gf6 6.♘g3 e6 7.î Survey 2019]

6...c5 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Be3 Be7 9.Qd2 a6 10.a3 b5 0.43/18

[10...0-0= 0.06/17 is superior.]



11.dxc5± Nxc5 12.Qf2 White is slightly better. **12...Nd7 13.Bd3 Bb7** 0.79/18 13...f6 is the recent fashion.13...f6 ist aktuell in Mode.

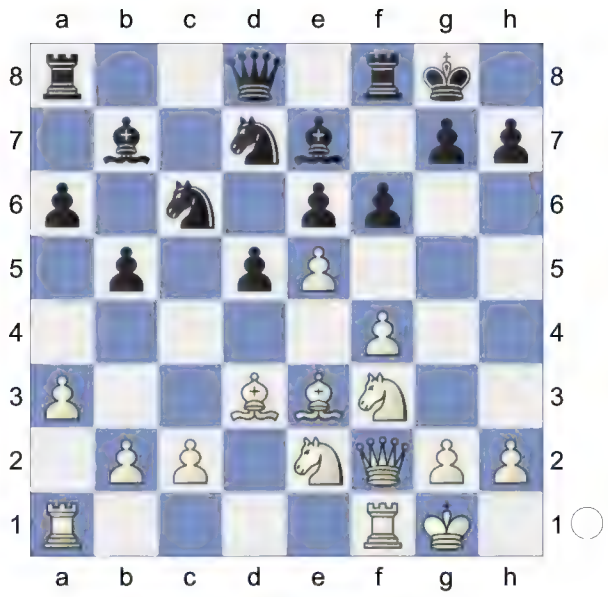
[13...b4= 0.24/17 remains equal.]

14.0-0± 0-0 15.Ne2 f6N 1.10/18

[Vorgänger: 15...Qc7 16.b4 a5 17.c3 Ba6 18.Kh1 Rfb8 19.Qg3 f5 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.Qh3 Nf8 22.Ng5 Bxg5 23.fxg5 1-0 (40) Song,J (2312)-Lyell, M (2198) Budapest 2021]

[Black should try 15...b4± 0.54/17]

(Diagram)



16.exf6 0.68/18

[Better is 16.Qh4± 1.10/18 f5 17.Qf2]

16...Nxf6 1.09/17

[16...Rxf6± 0.68/18 feels stronger. 17.Qh4 h6]

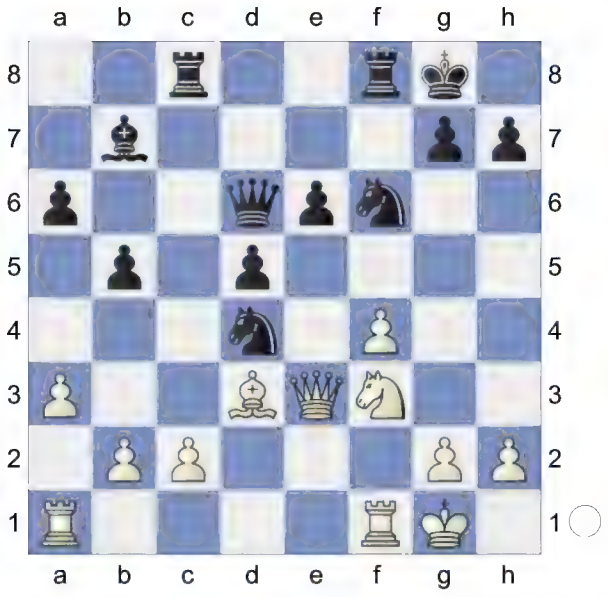
17.Bc5 0.66/18

[White should play 17.Ned4± 1.09/17]

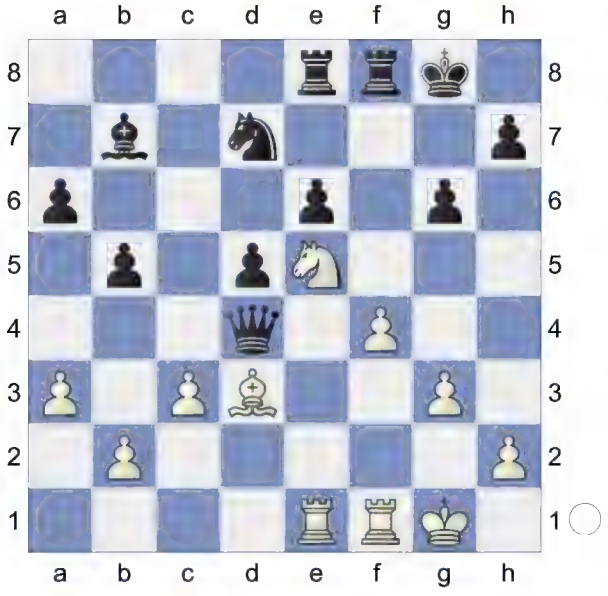
17...Bxc5 18.Qxc5 Rc8 19.Qe3 Wards off Nf6-e4. White is much more active. **19...Qd6 20.Ned4 Nxd4** 1.04/20

[20...Ne4± 0.62/20 is more appropriate.]

(Diagram)

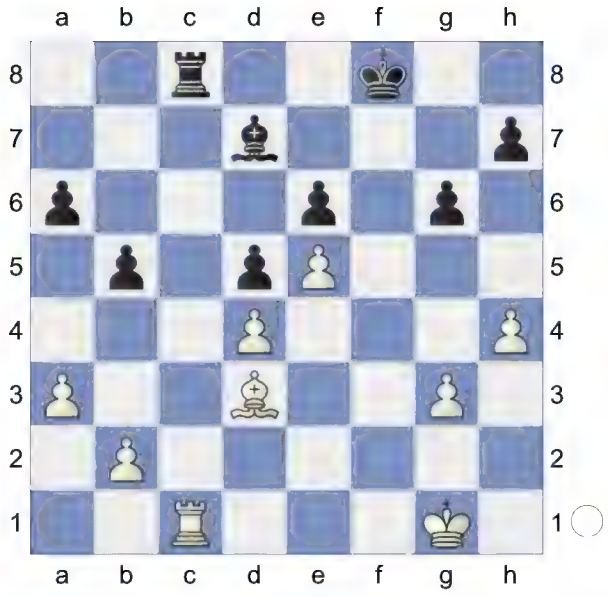


21.Qxd4 g6 22.Rae1 Rce8 1.51/19
[⌓22...Rb8 1.11/17 23.g3 Bc8]
23.g3 Nd7 24.Ne5 Qc5 25.c3 Qxd4+

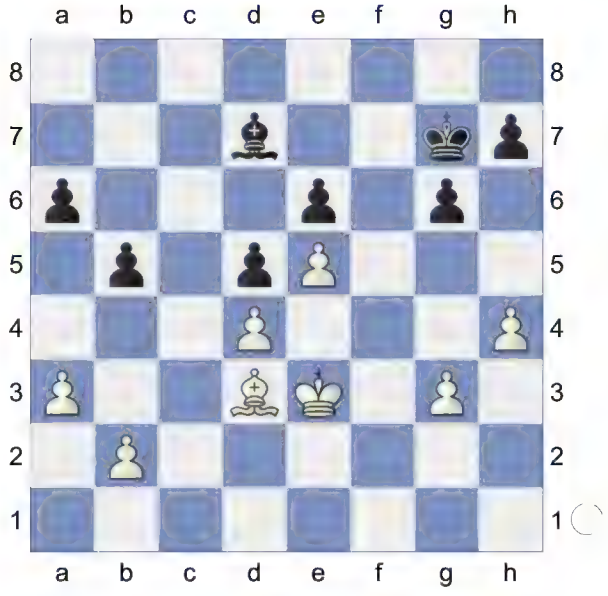


26.cxd4 Nxe5 27.fxe5 Rc8 28.h4 Bc6 1.58/25
[⌓28...Rc7 1.19/20 29.Rxf8+ Kxf8]
29.Rc1 Bd7 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8

(Diagram)

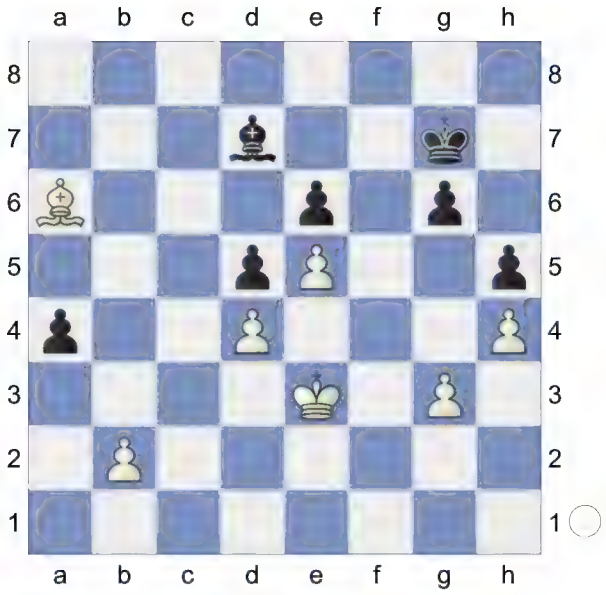


31.Rxc8+ Bxc8 Endgame. KB-KB
32.Kf2 Kg7 2.67/27
[⌓32...Ke7 1.78/26 33.Ke3 Bb7]
33.Ke3+- Hoping for Ke3-d2. **33...Bd7**

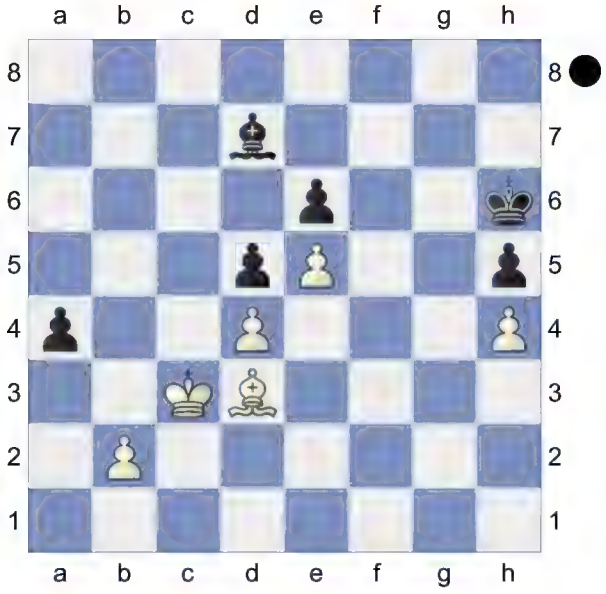


34.a4! Ke3-d2 would now be deadly.
34...bxa4 3.48/27
[⌓34...Kh6 2.22/24 35.a5 g5]
35.Bxa6 h5? 7.18/26
[35...g5 3.35/24 36.hxg5 Kg6]

(Diagram)



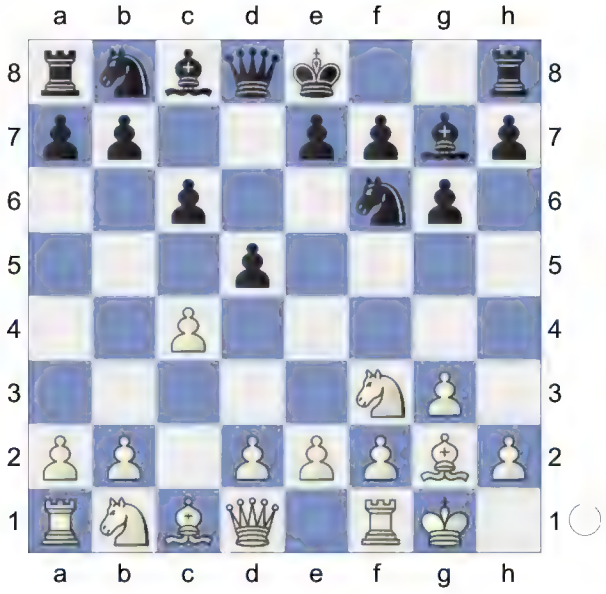
36.Bd3 White is clearly winning.
36...Kh6 37.Kd2 g5 38.Kc3 gxh4 39.gxh4



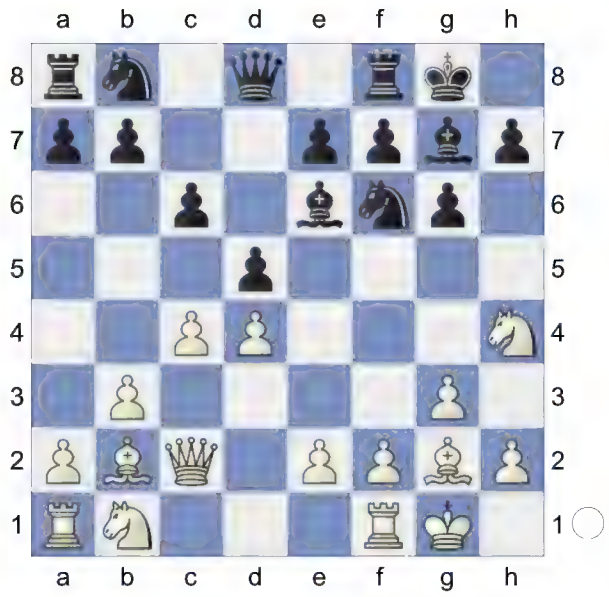
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.30
1-0

190 **A11**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Sethuraman,Sandeep** **2643**
Tata Steel India Rapid (8.4) 01.12.2022
[Kitty Kat]

D78: Fianchetto Grünfeld: 6 0-0 c6
1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 Nf6



6.b3 Ne4N
[6...dxc4 7.bxc4 Ne4 8.d4 c5 9.Qc2 Nc6 10.Qxe4 Bf5 11.Qe3 Nxd4 12.Ne1 Nxe2+ 13.Qxe2 Bxa1 14.Bxb7 Rb8 15.Bc6+ Kf8 16.Nd2 Bb2 17.Nb3 Bxc1 18.Nxc1 Qd6 19.Bd5 Kg7 20.Nb3 Rhd8 21.Qe3 ½-½ (34) Marosi,G (2726)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2764) E-7-008/98XP248 1998 (9)]
[6...0-0 7.Bb2 Nbd7 8.e3 b5 9.cxb5 cxb5 10.Nd4 a6 11.Nc6 Qe8 12.Ba3 Part,I-g6/Bg7 Setups #1 Short & Sweet: Shankland's Neo-Catalan 2023]
7.d4 0-0 8.Bb2 Bf5 9.Nh4
9.e3 is setting a new trend.9.e3 setzt einen neuen Trend. **9...Be6 10.Qc2 Nf6**



11.Nd2 White is slightly better. **11...a5 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Bxe4 Nd7N** 0.61/20

[Vorgänger: 14...Bh3 0.49/20 14...a4 0.11 15.Rfe1 Nd7 16.Rad1 Nf6 17.Bh1 a4 18.bxa4 0.14/19 *(18.b4± 0.66/18)* 18...e6 0.77/21 *(18...Qa5= 0.14/19)* 19.Bc3± Re8 20.Rb1 -0.31/18 *(20.a5± 1.08/18)* 20...Qc7 0.94/18 1-0 (40) Magalashvili, D (2456)-Mischuk,D (2364) Chess.com INT 2020 *(20...g5!∓ -0.31/18)*]

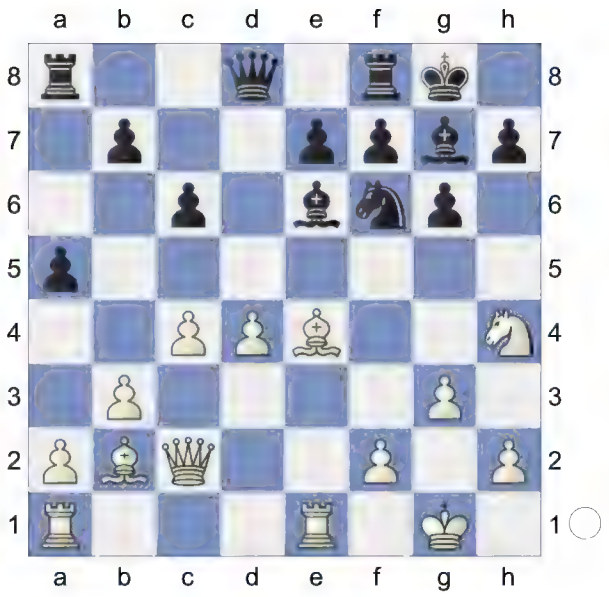
[14...a4= 0.09/19]

15.Rfe1 0.24/18

[15.Bg2± 0.61/20]

15...Nf6

(Diagram)



16.Bg2 a4! 17.Bc3 axb3 18.axb3 Rxa1 19.Rxa1 Qc8 20.Qe2 Re8

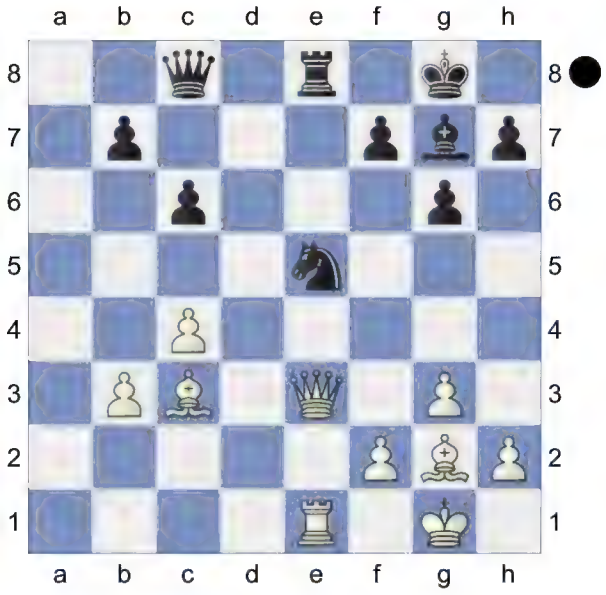
21.Nf3 Bh3 22.Bh1 0.02/21

[22.Bxh3± 0.40/17 should be considered. Qxh3 23.Ra7]

22...Bg4 23.Qe3 Bxf3 24.Bxf3 e5 25.dxe5 Nd7!

(Diagram)

26.Bg2 Nxe5 27.Re1



Re6! 28.Qd2 Qd7 29.f4 Qxd2

[29...Rd6 is interesting. 30.Qe2 Nd3 31.Qe8+ Bf8]

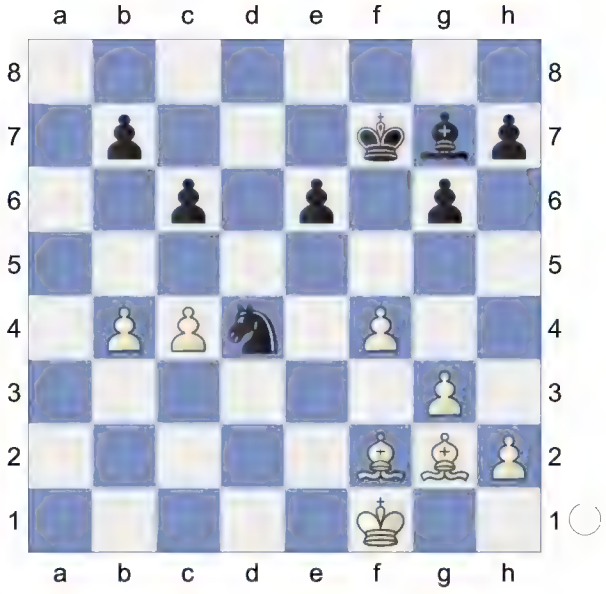
30.Bxd2 A strong pair of Bishops.

30...Nd3

(Diagram)

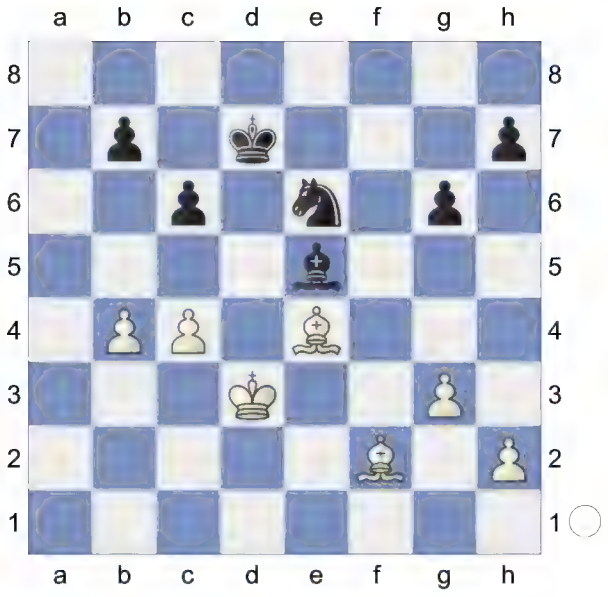
31.Rxe6 fxe6= Endgame KBB-KBN

32.Kf1 Nc5 33.b4 Nb3 34.Be1 Nd4 35.Bf2 Kf7

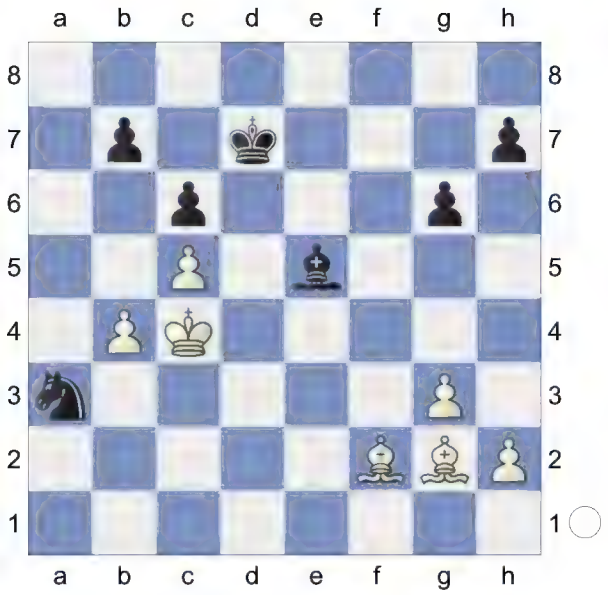


36.Be4 e5 37.fxe5 Bxe5 38.Ke1 Ke7 39.Kd2 Ne6 40.Kd3 Kd7

(Diagram)

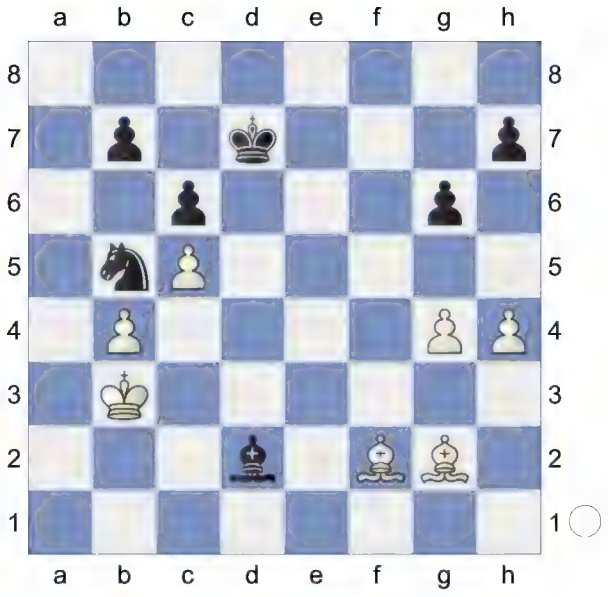


41.Be3 Bd6 42.c5 Be5 43.Kc4 Nc7 44.Bf2 Nb5 45.Bg2 Na3+

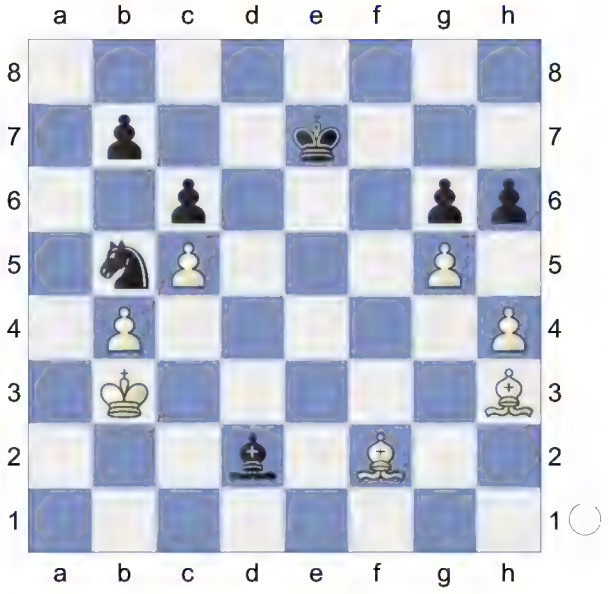


46.Kd3 Nb5 47.h4 Bc3 48.Kc4 Bd2 49.g4 Na3+ 50.Kb3 Nb5

(Diagram)

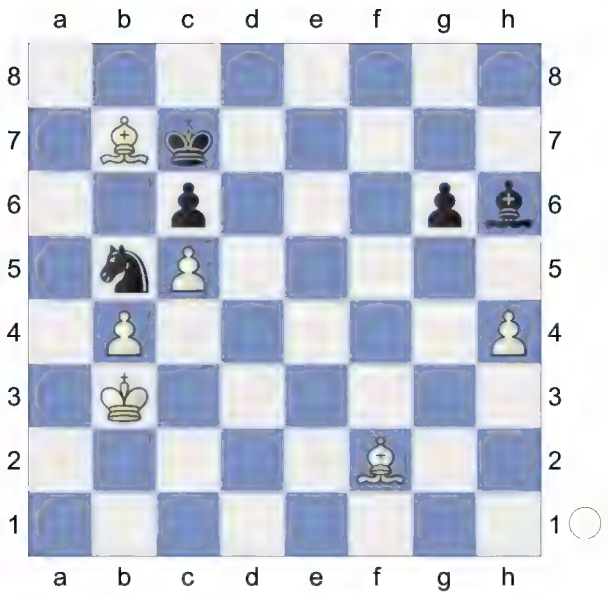


51.g5 Ke7 52.Bh3 h6 0.84/25
[52...Kd8= 0.15/21]

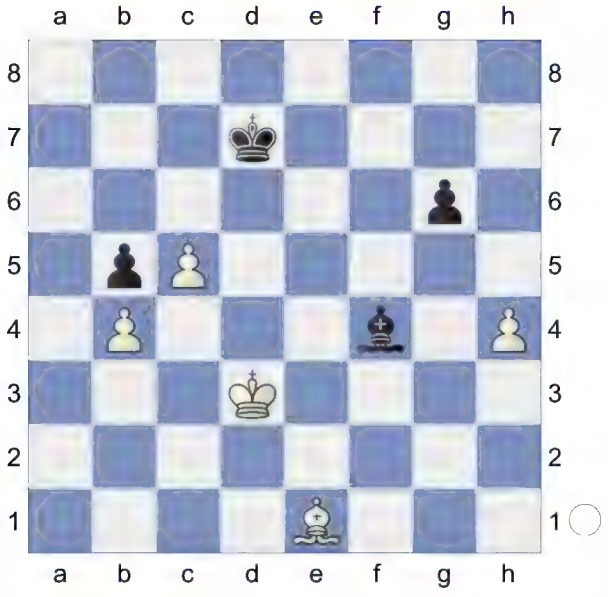


53.gxh6 0.10/19
[White should try 53.h5!± 0.84/25]
53...Bxh6 54.Bc8 Kd8 55.Bxb7 Kc7 0.95/25
[55...Kd7!= 0.24/22]

(Diagram)

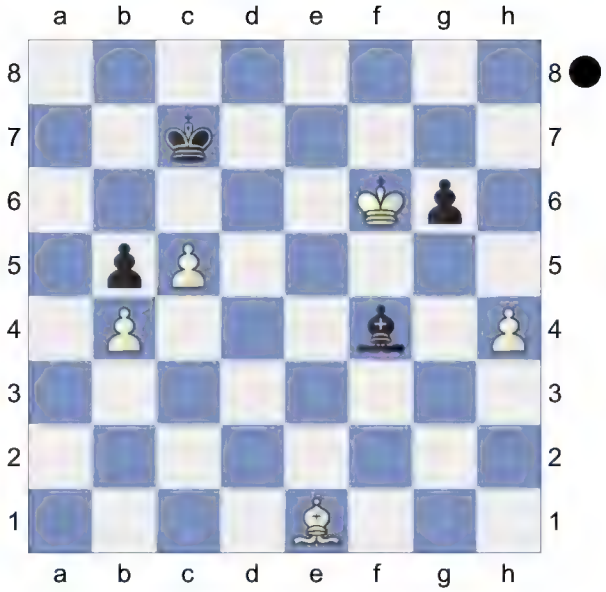


56.Ba6± Black cannot hold the game after this. **56...Bf4** 4.04/23 Against Bg3
[56...Bd2± 0.73/20 is a better chance.]
57.Kc4+- Na3+ 58.Kd3 aiming for Ke4.
58...Kd7 59.Be1 Nb5? 7.07/19
[59...Bc7 2.01/20 60.Bf2 Be5]
60.Bxb5 White is clearly winning.
60...cxb5



61.Ke4 Bh2 62.Kd5 Kc7 63.Ke6 Bf4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.33

64.Kf6



1-0

191 **B11**
□ **Rapport,Richard** **2740**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
Baku rapid 12.2022
[Daniel Fernandez]

B11: Caro-Kann: Two Knights Variation
1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6

(Diagram)

6.d3 This move and the next don't inspire any sort of confidence that White will be fighting for an opening edge. Still, the ease with which Black starts to do so might come as a surprise to some.

[Among minor moves, I find 6.a3 relatively playable. Nd7 *(6...Nf6 7.g3* and White can claim to have avoided the sometimes-annoying ...Ne7 type lines. *)* It is noteworthy that after 7.d4 neither the f8-bishop nor g8-knight can really be satisfactorily developed immediately, so without Qb6! Black would be struggling a bit.]

6...Nd7 7.a3 Ngf6 8.g3

[8.g4 g6 9.g5 Nh5 10.Be2 Bd6 11.d4 Qb6 12.e5 Be7 13.Qd3 Ng7 14.h4 Nf5 15.h5 Qxd4 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.f4 Qxd3 18.cxd3 Nc5 19.Bd2 Nb3 20.Rb1 Nxd2 21.Kxd2 0-0 22.Rh3 Rf7 1-0 (46) Adamczewski,J (1938)-Diermair,A (2446) EU-ch Blitz Katowice 2022 (12)]

8...h5N White has spent so long on pawn moves that a sharp move like this is ideal to place them under scrutiny.

[8...Qa5 9.Bd2 Qb6 10.Bg2 Qxb2 11.0-0 Qxc2 12.Qe2 dxe4 13.dxe4 Nc5 14.Rfd1 Qd3 15.Qe1 Qd7 16.Bf4 Qc8 17.Qe3 Be7 18.g4 h6 19.Bf3 Nfd7 20.e5 Nb6 21.g5 hxg5 22.Bxg5 Qc7 23.Rac1 0-1 (30) Ravinet,J-Maury,F FRA-ch41 Grenoble 1966 (10)]

[8...Bc5 9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0 a5 11.Bf4 b5 12.exd5 exd5 13.Nd1 Re8 14.Ne3 Ne5 15.Bxe5 Rxe5 16.Ng4 Nxg4 17.Qxg4 ½-½ Riff,J (2444)-Conquest,S (2522) FRA-chT Top 16 GpA 2006 (3)]

9.Be2 -0.25/19 A slightly inconsistent move, giving Black some attractive options.

[9.d4 is the engine suggestion, which basically says all you need to know. Black can now handle this in either French or Caro style. Nxe4 *(9...Qb6!? 10.e5 Ng8∞)* 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Qxe4 Nf6 This is the pure Caro approach, and the dithering nature of some of White's pawn moves means they will be unable to get to a coherent kingside castled position. 12.Qd3 Qd5! Against Bg2 13.Rg1 0-0-0=]

[It's not very enticing to play 9.h4 since Black definitely can use the time to take over the initiative to some extent. Qa5 10.Bd2 Qb6 11.exd5 *(11.0-0-0* -0.75/18 11.Nd1 0.06 *d4 12.Nb1 Nc5∓; 11.Nd1 dxe4 12.dxe4 0-0-0↑)* 11...cxd5 12.Bg2 g6 -0.01/21 *(12...Bd6∓* -0.40/17 *)* 13.0-0= Bg7↑]

[9.d4 0.24/22]

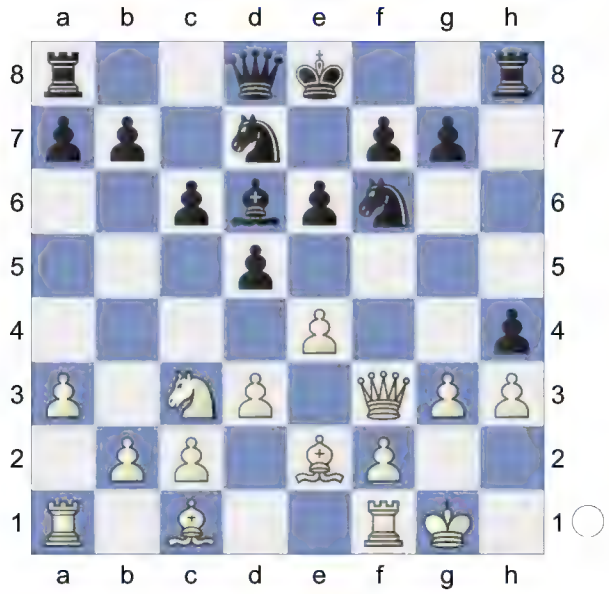
9...Bd6 0.24/21 A reasonably good rule of thumb for these lines is that ...Bd6 can be met by d4. Of course, White would rather have 0-0 and Bg2 rather than Be2 and a3.

[9...d4!? 10.Nb1 h4 is already an option, poking away at some of those

dark squares.]
[9...d4 -0.25/19 10.Nb1 h4]

10.0-0 -0.42/19
[The lesser evil is probably now 10.d4 : since Black hasn't got easy access to ...Qd5, White will at least be able to castle short and hope to make use of the bishop pair on some future occasion. Black must now prevent e5. Nxe4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Qxe4 Nf6 13.Qf3 Bc7 14.c3 Maybe all hope is not yet lost for the bishop pair to become a defining feature in assessing this position.]
[White should play 10.d4= 0.24/21]

10...h4 -0.01/19
[10...d4!∓ -0.42/19 11.Nb1 e5]

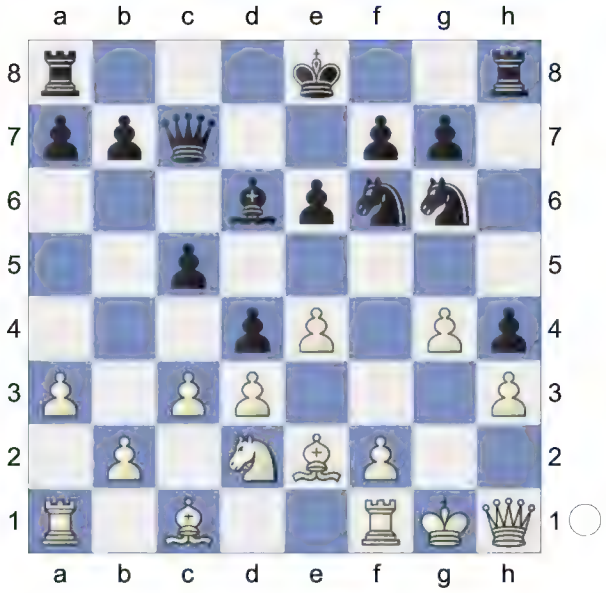


11.g4 -0.43/18
[11.exd5!= -0.01/19 exd5 12.Qe3+ Kf8 13.g4]

11...d4∓ 12.Nb1 White is weak on the dark squares **12...Qc7!** Preparing for the day (that turns out to be almost upon us) when ...Bf4 becomes an option. Black would still much rather trade dark square bishops if possible. **13.c3 c5 14.Nd2 Ne5↑** Black is more active.

15.Qh1 -0.77/19
[15.Qg2= -0.06/22 keeps the balance. Ng6 16.Kh1]

15...Ng6!∓

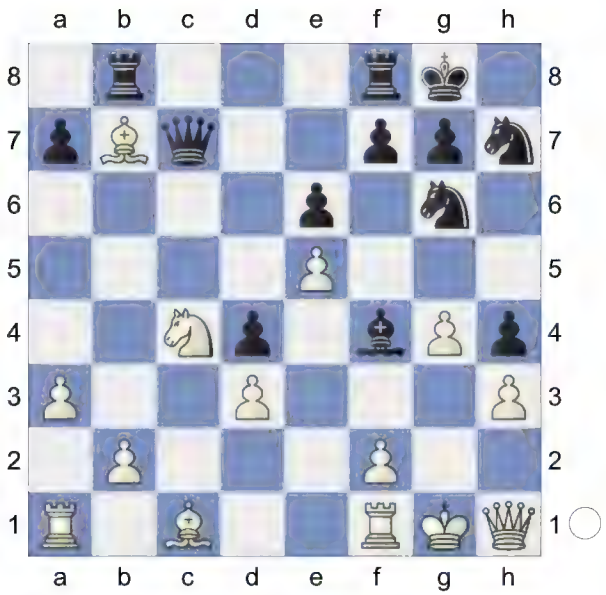


16.cxd4 cxd4 17.Nc4 Bf4 18.e5 Nh7 -0.07/19
[18...Bxe5 19.Nxe5 Qxe5∓]
[18...Bxe5∓ -0.99/21 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 *(19...Nxe5 20.Bf4=)*]

19.Bf3? -1.56/17
[19.Nd6+= -0.07/19 Ke7 20.Bxf4 Nxf4 21.Bd1]

19...0-0! Black's advantage has really snowballed over the last 5 moves or so and White now finds themselves in a desperate position. **20.Bxb7 Rab8**

(Diagram)



21.Be4 Ng5 22.b4 Bxc1! 23.Rfxc1 Nf4 24.Kf1 -2.95/17

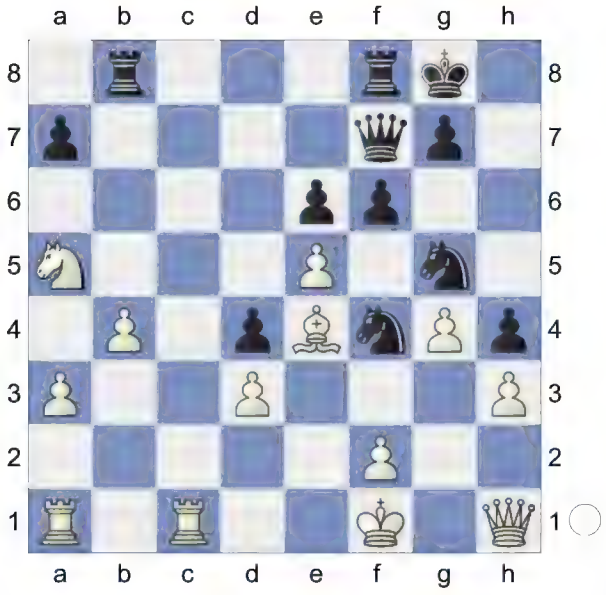
[24.Kh2 -1.79/17 was called for.]

24...f6!-+

[24...Ngxh3 25.Bg2 Nxf2 26.Kxf2∓]

25.Na5 Qf7

[25...Qxe5 26.Nc6 Qd6 27.Nxb8 *(27.Nxa7? f5-+)* 27...Qxb8 28.Rc2=]



26.Nc6 Rbc8 27.Ke1 -4.10/17

[⌓27.b5 -2.88/18 fxe5 *(27...Nfxh3 28.Bg6∓; 27...Ngxh3 28.a4=)* 28.Ra2 *(28.Nxe5 Rxc1+ 29.Rxc1 Qe7∓)*]

27...fxe5

[27...Nfxh3? 28.Bg6 Qc7 *(28...Qxg6 29.Ne7+* Discovered Attack, Double Attack *Kf7 30.Nxg6±; 28...Qb7? 29.exf6 Rc7 30.Be4∓)* 29.Rc2∓]

[27...Ngxh3 28.Kf1∓]

28.Nxe5 Qf6 29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Nd7

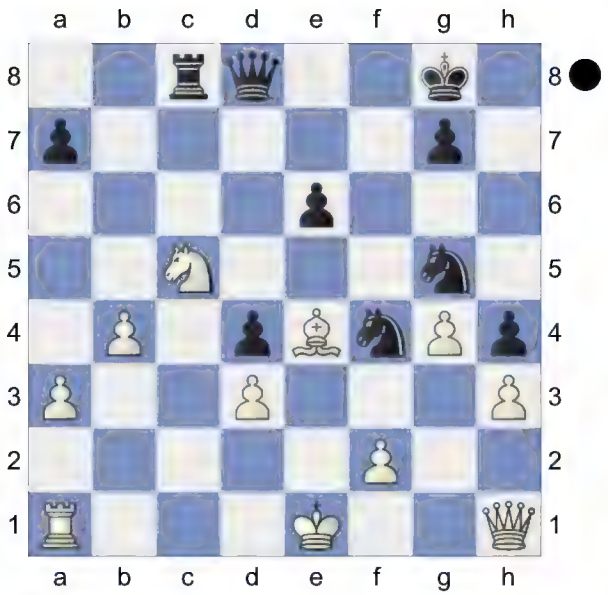
Black now starts to miss some wins, as the best method of breaking through might not be that easy to find. **30...Qd8** -2.39/17

[30...Qf7 31.Nc5 Nfxh3! was the simplest win in the whole game *(31...Rf8-+)*]

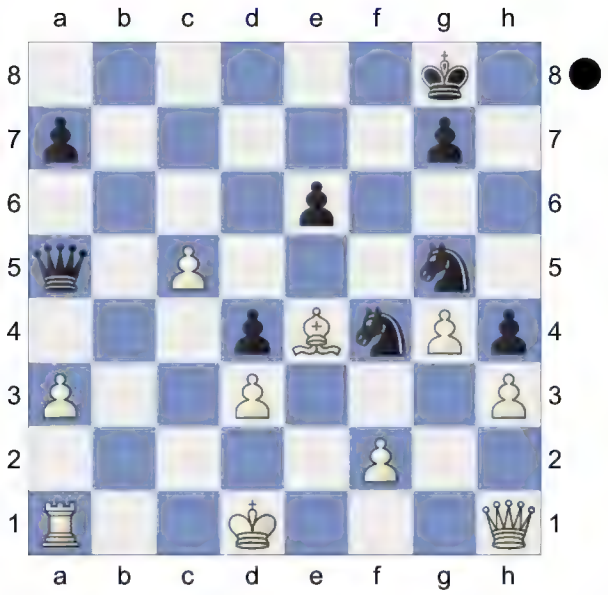
[⌓30...Qf7 -4.39/20 31.Nc5 *(31.Ne5? Qc7-+)* 31...Nfxh3 *(31...Ngxh3 32.Kf1-+)*]

31.Nc5

(Diagram)



Rxc5! Deflection **32.bxc5** **Qa5+** **33.Kd1**



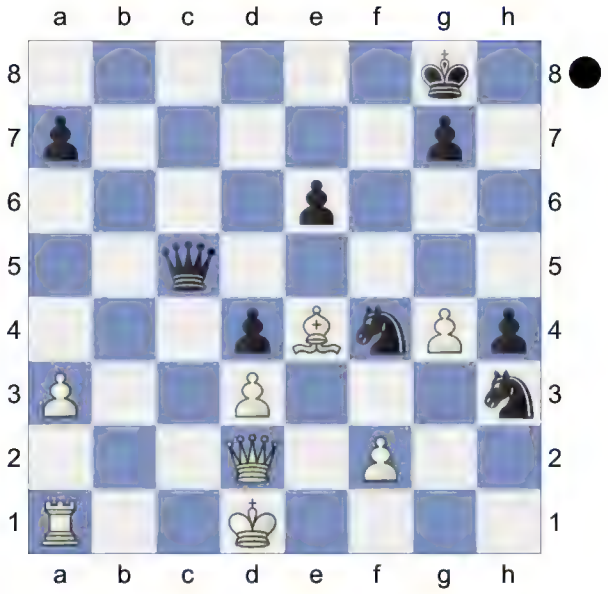
Now things are starting to get a bit tangled,and (after Black's next) become almost irretrievably so. **33...Ngxh3** -0.64/20 Excellent horsemanship.

[33...Qb5! a beautiful quiet move to continue conducting the attack against the enemy king, at the pace which it deserves!]

[33...Qb5!-+ -1.95/20 34.Kc2 Qxc5+ *(34...Ngxh3 35.Rc1=)* 35.Kb1 Ne2 *(35...Ngxh3 36.Ra2=)*]

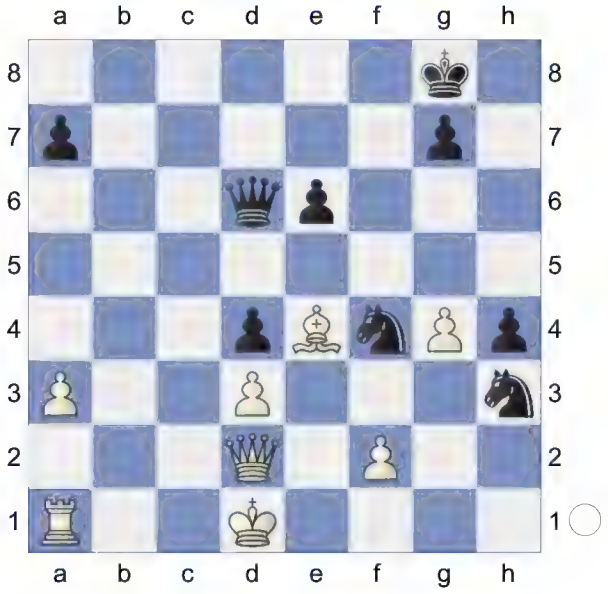
34.Qe1!∓ **Qxc5** Black is much more active. **35.Qd2** -1.19/19

[35.Rc1∓ -0.61/21 Qxa3 36.Qd2 *(36.Rc8+ Kf7=)*]



35...Qd6 0.04/21

[35...Nd5!∓ -1.19/19 36.Bxd5 Qxd5]



36.Rb1 **Qxa3** 0.16/24

[36...Nd5∓ -0.31/22 37.Bxd5 Qxd5]

37.Qc2 **Qc3** **38.Qa2** At least in practical terms, this counts as a mistake since the alternative provides a

reasonably safe ending, whereas here Black's pieces continue to swarm around the king. Threatening mate with Rb8+.

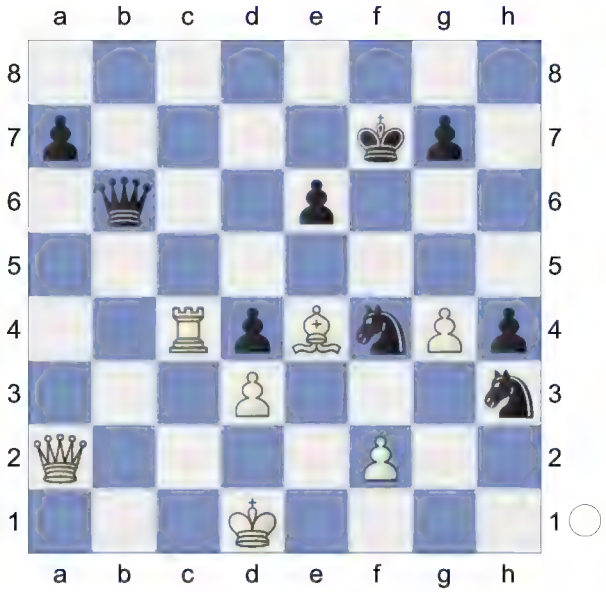
[38.Qxc3 dxc3 39.Kc2 Nxf2 40.g5∞ is difficult for both sides to play, and objectively not a problem for White.]

38...Kf7 Dancing on a razor blade.

[38...Nxd3 39.Qxe6+ Kf8 40.Rb8+]

39.Rc1 Qb4 The position now continues to be desperately unclear for several moves, though as mentioned White's king safety is worse by some margin.

40.Rc4 Qb6



41.Rc6! Qb8 42.Rc4 -1.18/20

[42.Rc5!∓ -0.65/19]

42...Kf6 -0.79/17

[⌓42...Ng5 -1.18/20 43.Bc6 *(43.Rxd4 Nxe4 44.Rxe4 h3-+)* 43...Kf6 *(43...Nxd3 44.Rxd4 Ne5 45.Bh1∓)* 44.Rxd4 Qe5]

43.Rxd4∓ Qb6 44.Qa1 Nxf2+

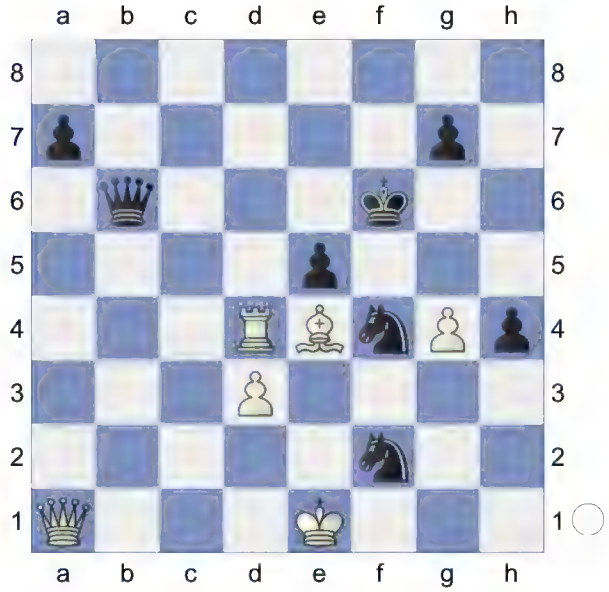
45.Ke1?? -7.36/17 A final mistake draws the battle to a close.

[45.Kc2 kept things extremely messy. e5! is still called for, and now 46.Ra4□ Qc5+ -0.30/18 *(46...Qb8∓* -0.67/20 might be stronger. *47.Qe1 Qb5 48.g5+ Kxg5)* 47.Rc4= Qe7 aiming for ...Nxe4!. 48.Qa5!∞ is the computer line, threatening a rook incursion to c6 or (more likely) c7.]

[45.Kc2∓ -0.33/18 e5 *(45...Nxg4? 46.Rd6+ Ne5 47.Rxb6+-; 45...Kg5 46.Rc4=)* 46.Ra4 Qc7+ *(46...Nxg4? 47.Ra6+-* Pin *)* 47.Rc4]

45...e5!-+

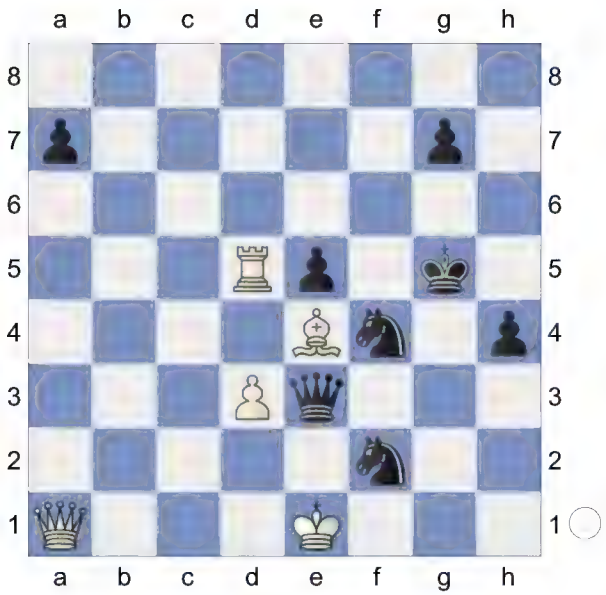
[45...Nxg4? is the wrong capture. 46.Rd6+ Ne5 47.Rxb6+-]



The rook is simply pinned against a lethal check on e3 and there is nothing to be done. **46.g5+ Kxg5 47.Rd5** Weighted Error Value: White=0.62/ Black=0.25 (precise)

47...Qe3+

(Diagram)

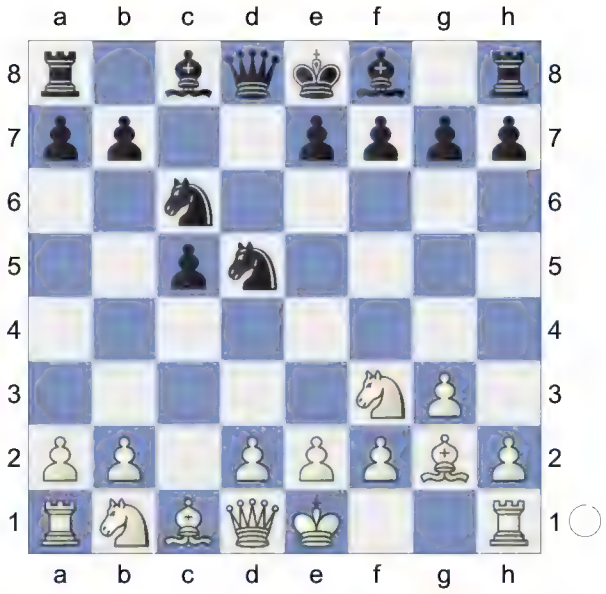


Decoy
0-1

192 **A05**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2713**
Tata Steel India Rapid (5.1) 30.11.2022
[David Cummings]

A34: Symmetrical English: 2 Nc3, lines with ...d5

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.c4
[4.0-0 e5 5.e4 d6 6.c3 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bg4 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Nc3 Bg7 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxd8+ Rxd8 13.Bxf3 0-0 14.Kg2 Nd4 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nd5 Rd6 18.Rac1 Bd8 0-1 (69) Firouzja,A (2728)-Carlsen,M (2863) 146/55 Stavanger 2020]
4...d5N
[4...g6 5.b3 Bg7 6.Bb2 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.cxd5 Qxd5 9.Nc3 Qd7 10.Na4 b6 11.d4 Ne4 12.dxc5 Bxb2 13.Nxb2 bxc5 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Bxe4 Rb8 16.Qxd7 Bxd7 17.Rac1 Rfc8 18.Rfd1 Bb5 19.f4 1-0 (51) Kujawski,A (2115)-Zepeda Berlanga,J (1856) Titled Tuesday intern op 26th Nov Late blitz 2024 (6)]
5.cxd5 Nxd5



6.0-0 As strange as it seems, this may be a slightly inaccurate move order for White. Instead:
[6.d4 has also been played. cxd4 and now:
A) 7.0-0!? a very rare choice e5? *(7...Nb6* challenges White to prove compensation for the gambit pawn. *)* 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.Qxd4 Nc6 10.Qxd5 with an extra pawn for nothing, Dubov,D (2708)-Xiong,J (2692) Chess.com INT 2022 1-0 (90);
B) 7.Nxd4 Ndb4 8.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 9.Kxd1 Nxc6 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Be3 e5 12.f3 Be6 13.Ke1 a5 was level in Aronian,L (2765)-So,W (2776) Bucharest 2022 \ -\ (39)]
6...e5 The most ambitious.
[6...g6 can be well met by 7.d4]
7.Nc3 Nc7 Black agrees to enter the Rubinstein variation by transposition, but could have instead played:

transposes to the main game.

[7...Be6 why retreat the knight if you don't have to? Now 8.e3 *(8.Nxd5 Bxd5 9.Qa4 Bd6 10.d3 0-0 11.Be3 Re8 12.Rfc1 b6* is already a bit better for Black, as White has played too passively, Jumabayev,R (2651)-Sunilduth Lyna,N (2632) Sharjah 2021 0-1 (31) *)* 8...Be7 9.d4 exd4 10.exd4 0-0 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.Bf4 Re8 14.Rc1 Bb6 was fine for Black in Vachier Lagrave,M (2718)-Babula,V (2591) Legnica 2013 \ -\ (42)]

8.a3 Now we have entered one of the mainlines of the Rubinstein. Alternate setups for White are examined in the PGN Archives:

[8.b3 Be7 9.Bb2 0-0 10.Ne1 Be6 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Nf3 f6 - see Maghsoodloo-Sethuraman]

[8.d3 Be7 9.Nd2 0-0 10.Nc4 f6 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxf4 was the course of Niemann-Ganguly]

8...f6 A popular move in this position, but a more accurate approach is:

[8...Rb8! pre-empting the pressure along the long diagonal. Now:

A) 9.e3 -0.28/20 9.Rb1 0.16 Be7 10.d4 -0.69/25 along the lines of the main game, doesn't work well because after *(10.Ne2=* -0.28/21 *)* 10...cxd4 11.exd4 exd4 12.Ne2 d3 -0.30/21 *(12...Bf6∓* -0.81/22 *)* 13.Nf4= Bf5 Black is well developed with no weaknesses, while White has to scramble to regain the pawn.;

B) 9.Rb1 Be7 10.b4

B1) 10...Bf5 0.63/23 10...cxb4 0.03 11.b5 0.03/23 *(White should try 11.d3!±* 0.63/23 *)* 11...Nd4 12.d3 favoured White in Romanishin-Oleksienko, in the Archives.;

B2) 10...cxb4 11.axb4 b5 12.Qc2 Bd7 13.Ne4 0.04/21 Stojanovski,S (2232)-Pultinevicius,P (2510) Chess.com INT 2020 0-1 (65), and now *(13.Rd1±* 0.43/20 *)* 13...0-0= 14.Nc5 Nd5 is roughly balanced.;

C) 9.d3 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Rc1 Bd7 12.Nd2 Nd4 13.Nc4 f6 14.f4 exf4! 15.Bxf4 Nde6 is also OK for Black (who later won) - see Topalov-Caruana in the Archives.]

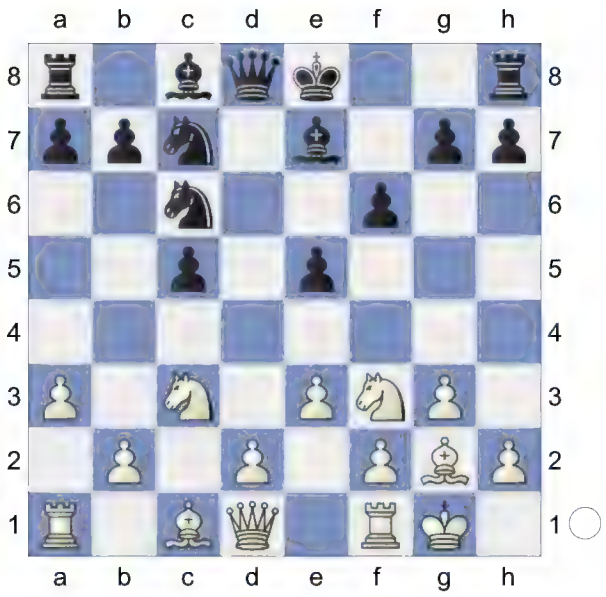
9.e3! White aims to blast the centre open before Black has completed development.The main line 9.e3 scores better than 9.d3.Die Hauptvariante 9.e3 punktet besser als 9.d3.

[9.Rb1 0.08/21 9.e3 0.46 is a slower approach Rb8 10.d3 Be6 11.Be3 Be7 *(11...Qd7* is Tomashevsky-Jakovenko in the Archives*)* 12.Ne4 b6 13.b4 cxb4 14.axb4 Nd5! with a level game, Bejtovic,J (2408)-Nikolov,M (2556) Glasgow 2012 \ -\ (44)]

9...Be7

[9...Qd3 tries to hold up White's central break. After 10.Ne1 Qa6 *(10...Qg6* Svidler,P (2739)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2711) Moscow 2011 1-0 (41), can be met by *11.Qa4 Bd7 12.b4!* with some initiative*)* 11.f4 Be6 Arjun,B (2293)-Kislik,E (2413) Kecskemet 2012 1-0 (76), and here 12.fxe5 Nxe5 13.Rb1 prepares b2-b4, with White slightly for choice.]

(Diagram)



Instead: **10.d4! cxd4**

11.exd4 White is slightly better.
11...exd4 12.Ne2 White will soon recover the pawn, and Black's earlier ...f7-f6 has significantly weakened his light squares. **12...Ne6 13.b4 0-0** Or:

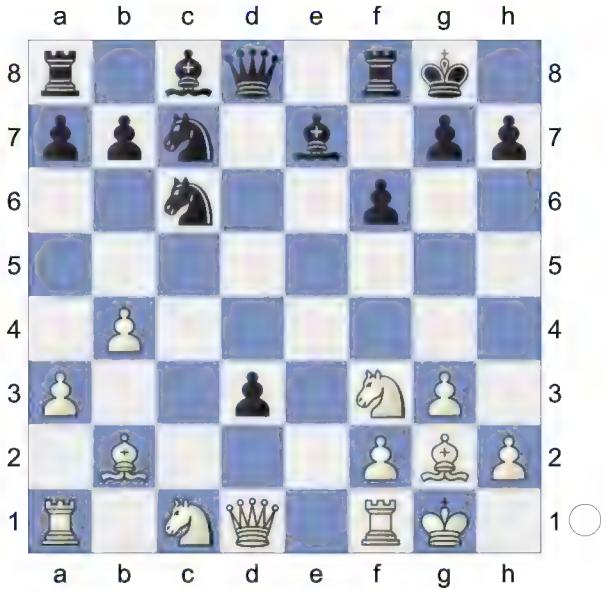
[13...d3 0.90/20 13...0-0 0.46 14.Nf4! Nxf4 15.Bxf4 Bg4 0.96/17 *(15...0-0± 0.58/19)* 16.Qb3± Qd7 17.Rfe1 Inhibits Be6. and b5 should not be overlooked Rd8 1.08/19 Marin,M (2555) -Marjanovic,S (2524) Bucharest 2000 \ -\ (45), and here *(17...a6!± 0.65/20)* 18.b5! 1.56/19 as given by Marin, is very strong. *(⌓18.h3 1.08/19 Bxf3 19.Bxf3)*]

14.Bb2 d3 15.Nc1 Nc7?N 1.10/19

[Vorgänger: 15...a5?! 16.b5! Qb6 1.11/22 *(⌓16...d2 0.75/20)* 17.Qxd3± Ncd8 1.37/15 *(*Better is *17...Ne5* 0.87/19 *18.Nxe5 fxe5)* 18.a4± Nf7 19.Nb3 and White was well on top in Banikas, H (2609)-Popilski,G (2506) Rethymno 2013 1-0 (37) Rd8 1.85/20 *(19...Bb4± 1.41/18 20.Rac1 Rd8)* 20.Qe2+- Bb4 21.Rfd1 Bd7 1-0 (37) Banikas,H (2609)-Popilski,G (2506) Rethymno 2013]

[15...d2 16.Nb3 Qd3 17.Nbxd2 a5 with only a small edge for White, is probably the best Black can hope for, Gasthofer,A (2440)-Lammers,M (2343) Germany 2015 1-0 (26)]

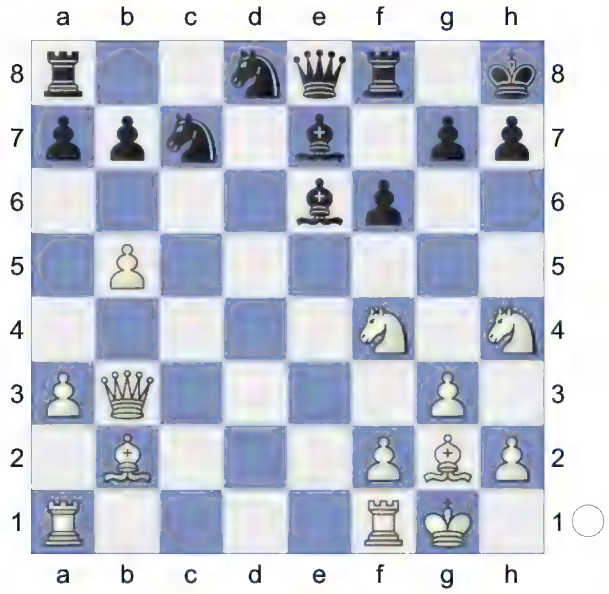
[15...d2± 0.46/21]



The first new move, and an unfortunate one, although Black is already worse. Instead: **16.Nxd3±** All of White's pieces are much more active than their counterparts.

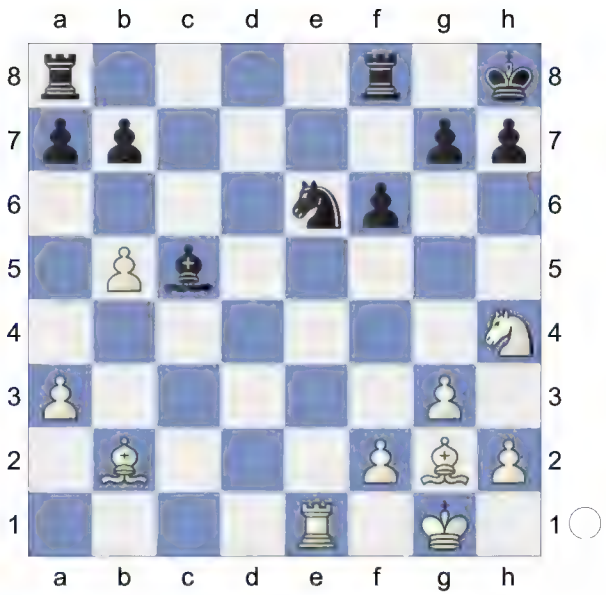
[16.Qxd3?! Qxd3 17.Nxd3 Rd8=]

16...Bf5 17.Qb3+ Kh8 2.06/18
[17...Qd5± 1.10/17 18.Qxd5+ Nxd5]
18.Nf4+- Qe8 19.b5 Gaining more space and pushing Black further back.
19...Nd8 20.Nh4 Be6

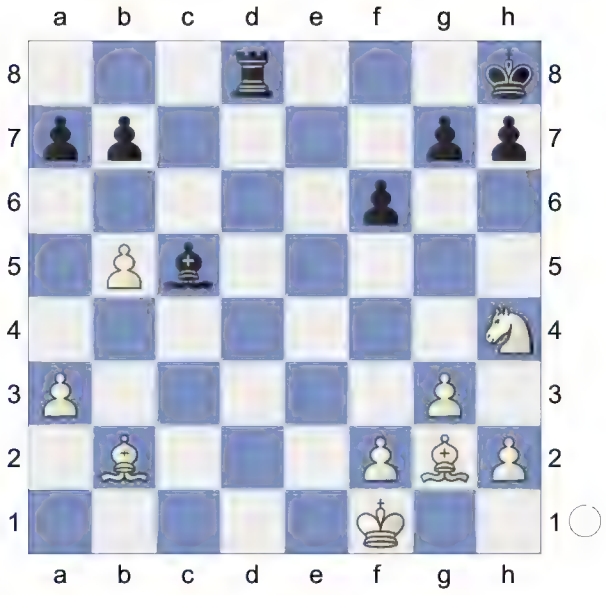


21.Nxe6 Ndxe6 Black is weak on the light squares **22.Rfe1** The two fianchettoed bishops make a nice impression, controlling the whole board.
[22.Bxb7 Rb8 23.Bg2 *(23.Bc6? Qxc6* Pin *24.a4 a6-+)* 23...Qxb5 24.Qxb5 Rxb5∓]
22...Qf7 23.Rxe6 This should win but allows Black to get to an endgame. Perhaps it's just a matter of taste.
23...Qxe6 24.Qxe6 Nxe6 25.Re1!
[25.Bxb7 Rab8 26.Bc6 Bc5-+]
25...Bc5

(Diagram)

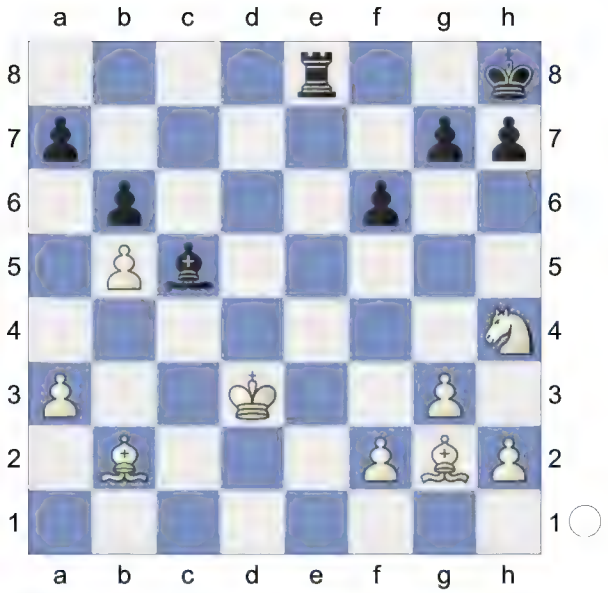


26.Rxe6 White is more active. **26...Rae8**
27.Rxe8 Rxe8 28.Kf1 White's two pieces outgun the rook, despite the reduced material. Prevents Re2.
[28.Bxb7 Re1+ 29.Kg2 Rb1-+]
28...Rd8

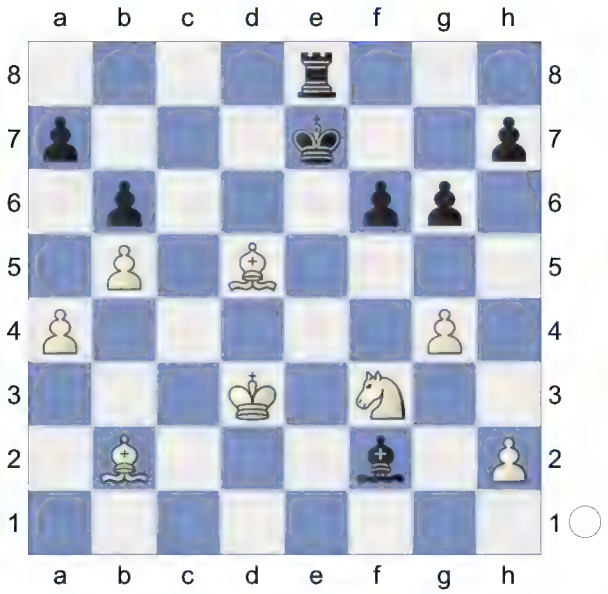


29.Ke2 Against Rd2+
[29.Bxb7 Rd1+ 30.Ke2 Rb1∓]
29...Re8+ 2.14/23
[29...Rd7 1.71/20 was necessary. 30.f4 Bg1]
30.Kd3 b6

(Diagram)

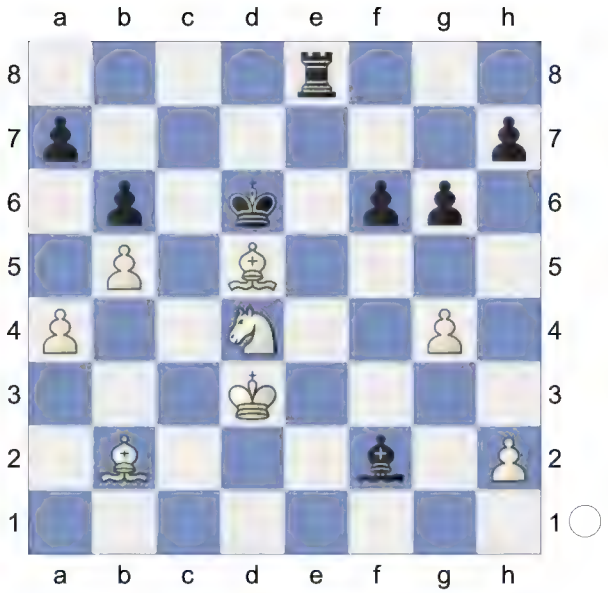


31.Be4 Bxf2 2.13/23 Trying to make White work for the win by nabbing an extra pawn.
[31...Rd8+± 1.53/20 32.Kc2 *(32.Ke2 Bxf2 33.Nf5 Bc5±)* 32...Bxf2]
32.Nf3 Kg8 33.g4 Kf7 34.a4
[34.Bxh7? Re3+ 35.Kc4 Rxf3-+]
34...g6 2.53/20
[⌓34...Rh8 1.78/18 35.g5 Ke6]
35.Bd5+ Ke7

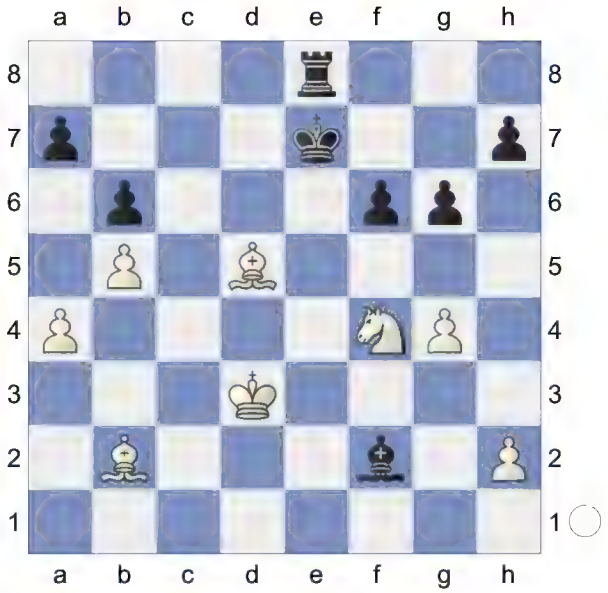


36.Nd4 Kd6

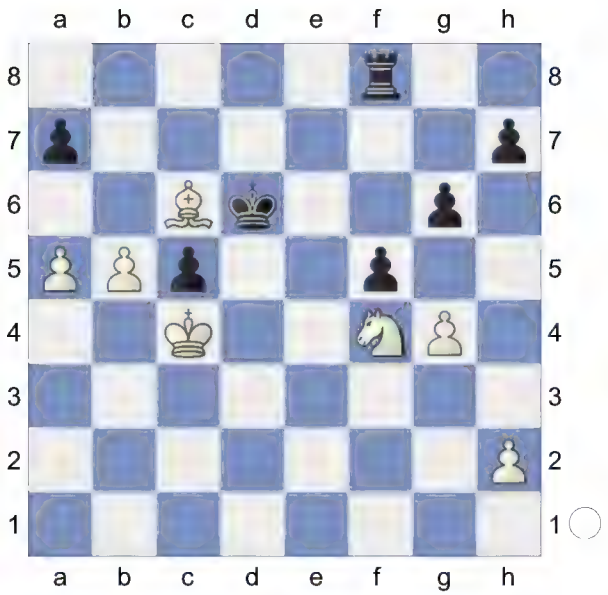
(Diagram)



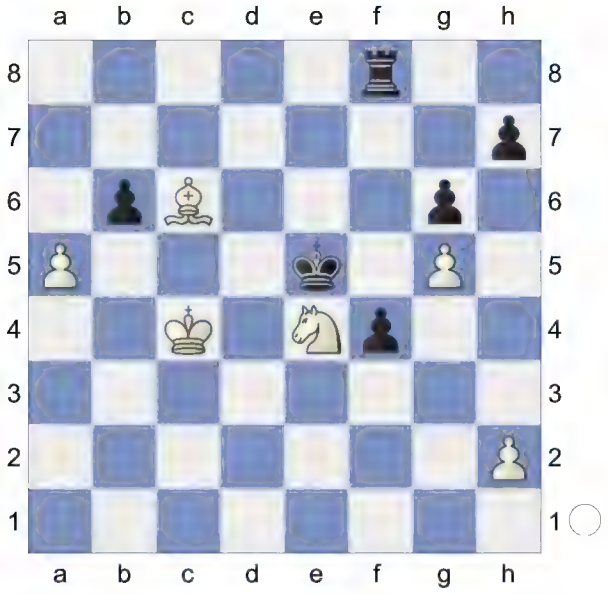
37.Be4 Ke5 2.47/19
[⌓37...Rc8 1.98/19 38.Nc6 Discovered Attack Rf8]
38.Ne2+ Black's king soon gets pushed back. **38...Ke6 39.Nf4+ Kf7 40.Bd5+ Ke7**



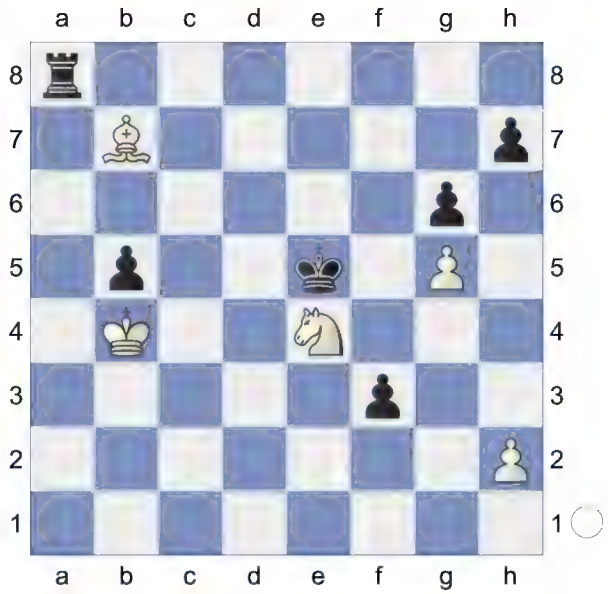
41.Ba3+ This pair of bishops is nice.
41...Bc5 3.58/18
[⌓41...Kd8 2.31/20 42.Ne6+ Kc8]
42.Bxc5+ bxc5 43.Bc6 White has full control - the rook can't generate counterplay in time. **43...Rf8 44.a5 Kd6 45.Kc4 f5**



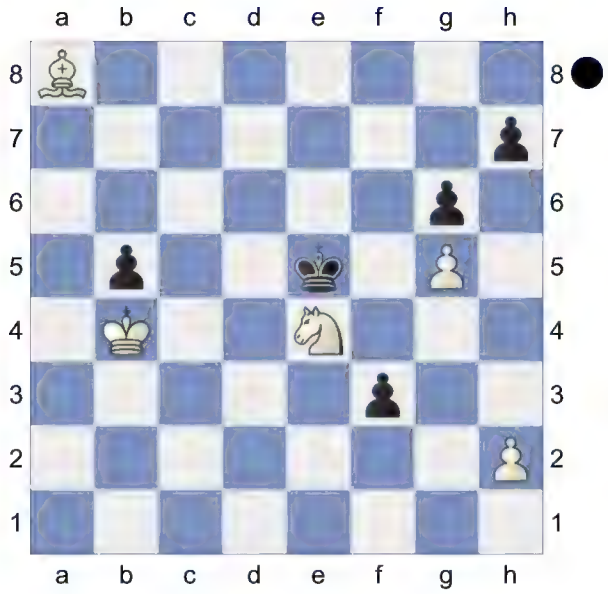
46.g5 1.79/19
[⌓46.Nd3 3.17/24]
46...Ke5? 5.05/20
[46...h6 1.79/19 is a better chance.]
47.Nd3+ White is clearly winning.
47...Kd6 48.Nxc5 f4 49.Ne4+ Ke5 50.b6 axb6



51.a6 Rf7 52.Bb7 b5+ 53.Kb4
[53.Kxb5 f3 54.Nf2 also wins easily]
53...f3 54.a7 Rf8 55.a8Q
[Weaker is 55.a8B f2 56.Nxf2 *(56.Kxb5? perishes. f1Q+ 57.Kc5 Qc1+ 58.Kb6 Qb2+ 59.Kc6 Kxe4-+)*
56...Rxf2∓]
55...Rxa8



Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.34
56.Bxa8



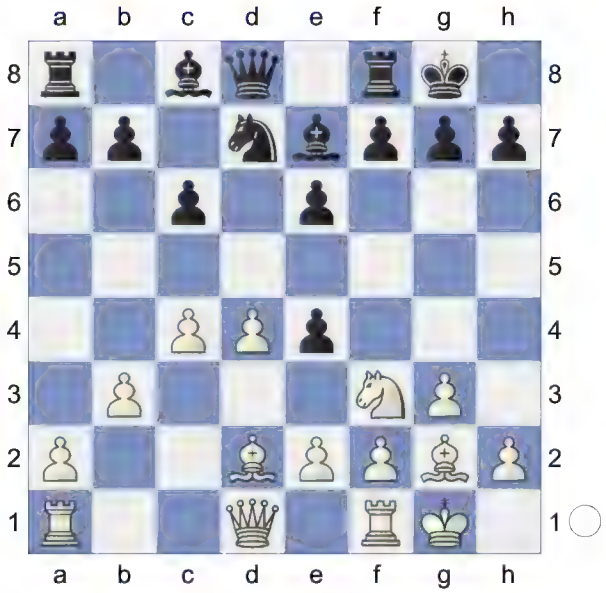
1-0

193 **E10**
□ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2720**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2725**
Tata Steel India Rapid (2.2) 29.11.2022
[Kitty Kat]

E11: Bogo-Indian
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Be7N
[5...Bd6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Qc2 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Rd1 *(9.b3 Ne4 10.Nc3 Nxd2 11.Nxd2 f5 12.Rab1 Qe7 13.e3 b6 14.cxd5 Ba6 15.dxc6 Bxf1 16.Rxf1 Nf6 17.Nb5 Bc7 18.Nc4 a6 19.Nxc7 Qxc7 20.Ne5 Rfd8 21.Rc1* 1-0 Spies (2373)-12.b3 (2144) Dublin 1993 (5) *)* 9...Ne4 10.Nc3 f5 11.e3 Qe7 12.Ne2 Nxd2 13.Rxd2 Nf6 14.Rdd1 Bd7 15.Nf4 Be8 16.a3 Ne4 17.Ne5 g5 18.Nfd3 h5 19.b4 Topalov,V (2813)-Ponomariov,R (2727) Zürich (rapid) 2009 Kh8 20.f3 Nf6 21.a4 Bxb4 22.Nxb4 Qxb4 23.Rab1 Qe7 24.a5 Rc8 25.cxd5 Nxd5 26.Qb3 Rc7 27.e4 Nf6 28.Re1 fxe4 29.fxe4 Nd7 30.Nd3 Bg6 31.Rf1 Rxf1+ 32.Rxf1 Kh7 33.Qc3 c5 34.Nf2 1-0 11...♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2813)-Warlick,J (2727) (m/2) 94/(448) 2005 (6)]

(Diagram)

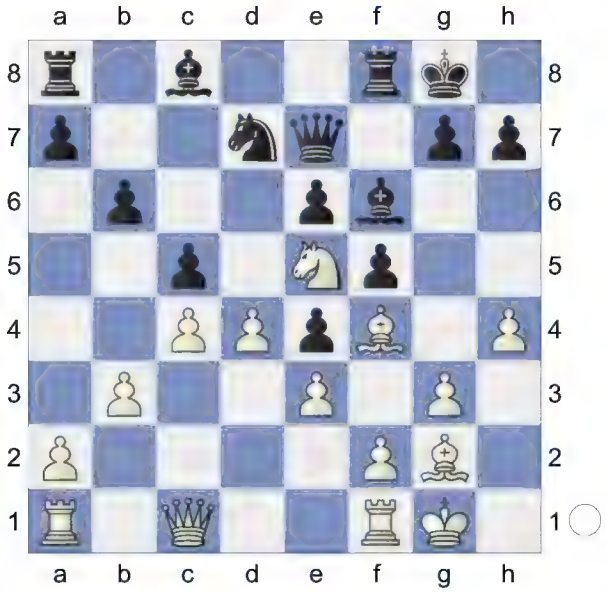
6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.b3 Nbd7 9.Nc3 The main line 9.Nc3 scores better than 9. Bc3. Die Hauptvariante 9.Sc3 punktet besser als 9.Lc3. **9...Ne4!?** Exploring less charted territory.Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain. **10.Nxe4 dxe4**



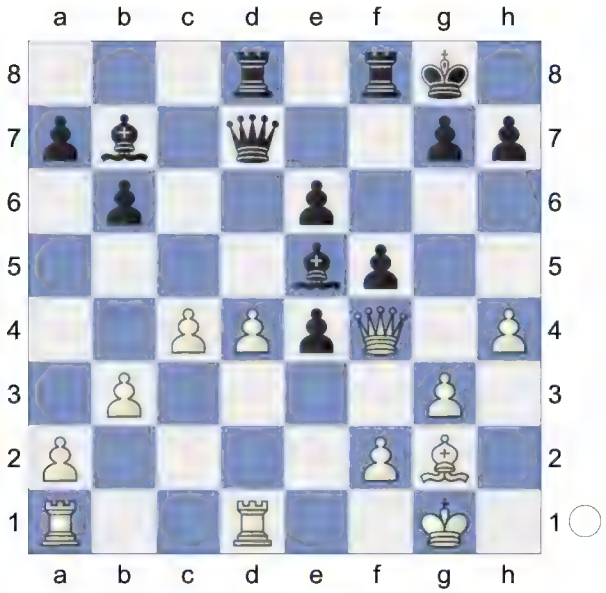
The position is equal. **11.Ne5 f5N**
[Vorgänger: 11...Nf6 12.Bg5 c5 13.e3 Qc7 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Ng4 f5 16.Nh6+ Kg7 17.Qh5 Qd8 0-1 (40) Koloditsova,R (1908)-Havalda, S (1585) Trnava 2022]
12.Bf4 Bf6 13.h4 Qe7 14.Qc1 0.01/21

[14.Nxd7± 0.46/22 Qxd7 15.e3]

14...c5!= 15.e3 b6



16.Rd1 cxd4 17.exd4 Bb7 18.Nxd7 Qxd7 19.Be5 Rad8 20.Qf4 Bxe5

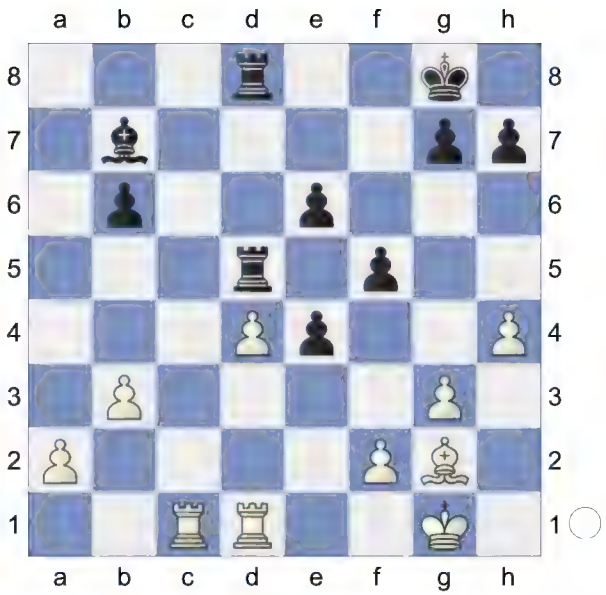


21.Qxe5 Qd6 22.Qxd6 Rxd6 23.c5 Rd5 With the idea ...Rf8-d8. **24.Rac1 Rfd8! 25.cxb6** -0.70/24

[25.f3!= -0.25/27 feels stronger.]

25...axb6∓

(Diagram)

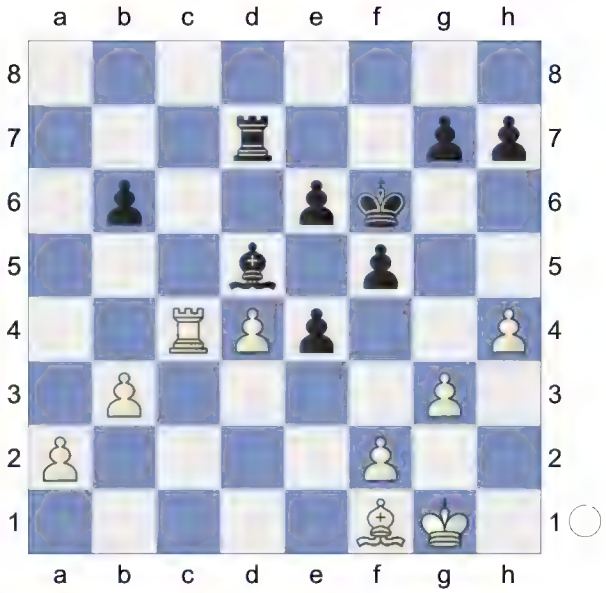


26.Rc7 R8d7 27.Rxd7 Rxd7

Endgame. KRB-KRB **28.Bf1 Kf7 29.Rc1 Kf6**

[29...Rxd4? 30.Rc7+ Kf6 31.Rxb7+-]

30.Rc4 Bd5



31.Rb4 Rd6 32.a4 -0.87/25

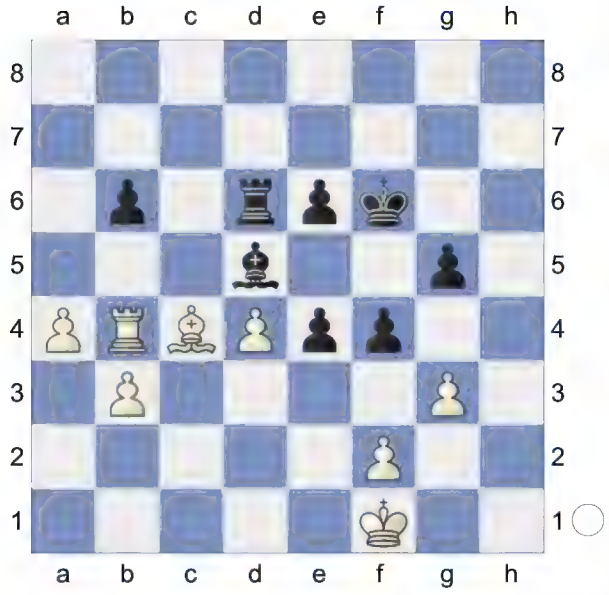
[32.Bc4∓ -0.48/21 is more appropriate.]

32...h6 -0.30/22

[Black should play 32...f4∓ -0.87/25 33.gxf4 Kf5]

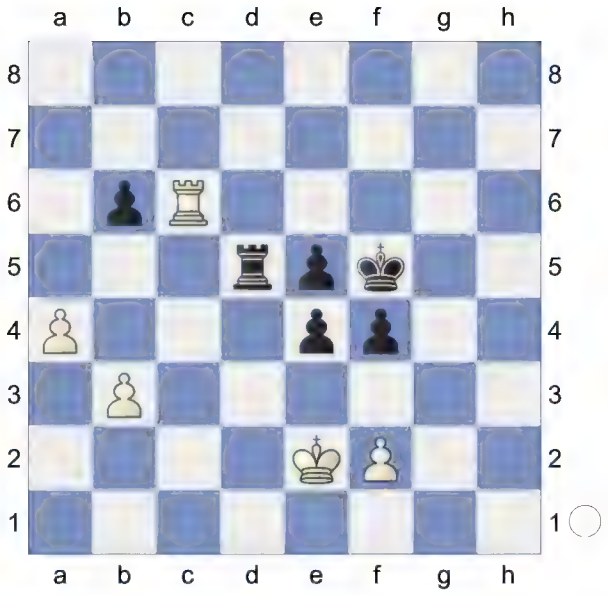
33.Bc4= g5 34.hxg5+ hxg5 35.Kf1

-1.20/24
[35.Bxd5∓ -0.70/26 Rxd5 *(35...exd5 36.Rb5=)* 36.Kf1]
35...f4∓

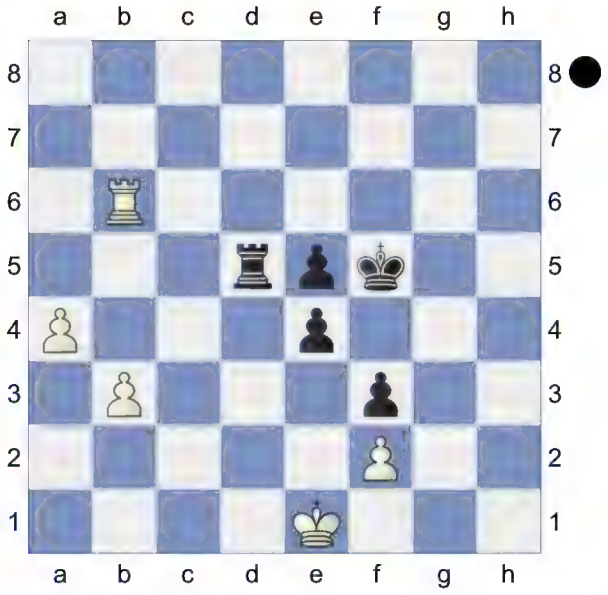


Strongly threatening ...Kf6-f5. **36.gxf4?** -2.40/31
[36.g4∓ -0.77/26 was necessary.]
36...gxf4-+ 37.Ke2 Bxc4+ -0.21/21
[Black should try 37...Kf5-+ -2.91/25 White must now prevent ...Kf5-g4. 38.Bxd5 exd5]
38.Rxc4 KR-KR **38...e5 39.d5** -3.02/27
Kf5
[39...Rxd5 40.Rxe4 Kf5 41.Rb4=]
40.Rc6? -6.20/24
[40.Rc7 -3.03/21 Rxd5 41.Rf7+ Ke6 42.Rb7]
40...Rxd5

(Diagram)

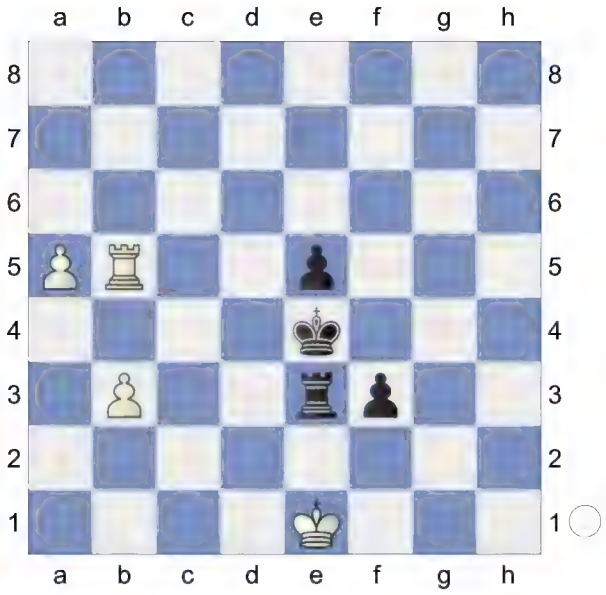


41.Rxb6 f3+ 42.Ke1

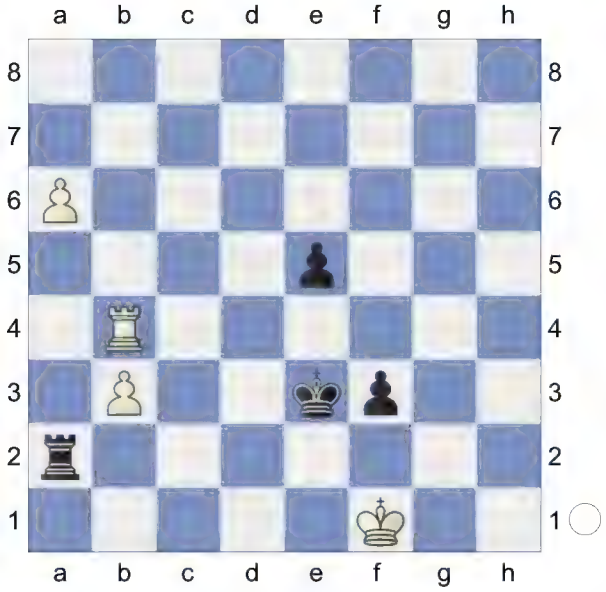


e3? 0.00/36 **43.fxe3= Ke4 44.Rb5! Rd3**
[44...Rxb5 45.axb5 Kd5 46.e4+ Kd6 47.Kf2 Kc5 48.Kxf3 Kxb5 49.Kg4]
45.a5? -7.99/25 White is on the road to losing.
[45.Kf1= -0.03/27]
45...Rxe3+-+
[45...Kxe3 46.Rxe5+ Kf4 47.Re7=]

(Diagram)



46.Kf1 Rc3 47.a6 Rc1+ 48.Kf2 Rc2+ 49.Kf1 Ra2 50.Rb4+ Ke3

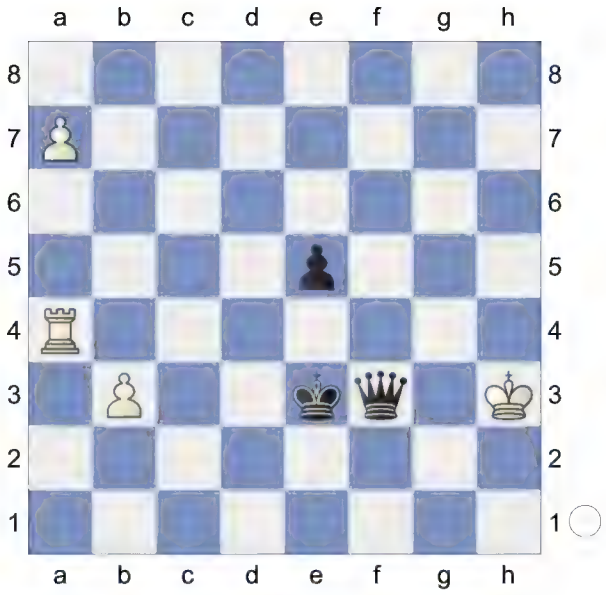


51.Ra4 Rh2 52.Kg1 Prevents Rh2-h1+ **52...f2+ 53.Kxh2 f1Q** KQ-KR

[53...f1R 54.a7 Rf8 55.a8Q *(55.a8B Rb8+-)* 55...Rxa8 56.Rxa8 e4 57.Kg3 Kd4 58.Rc8]

54.a7 Qf2+ 55.Kh3 Qf3+

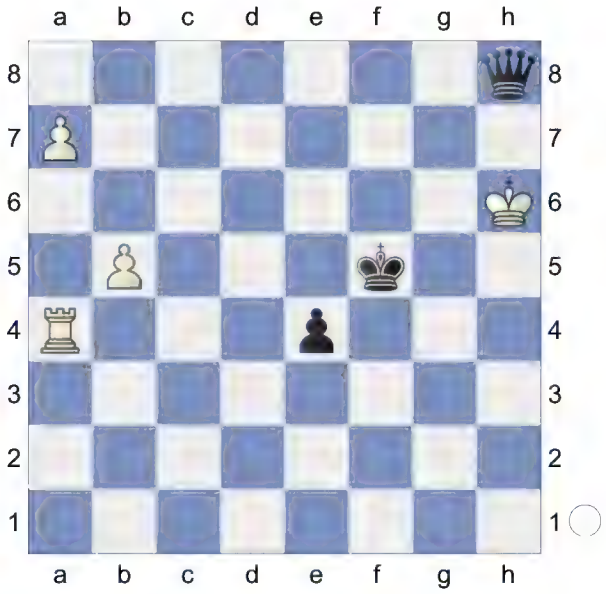
(Diagram)



56.Kh4 Qa8 And now ...Ke3-f3 would win. **57.b4 e4** -7.70/20 **58.b5 Kf4** Black mates. **59.Kh5 Kf5**

[59...Qg8 60.Rxe4+ Kxe4 61.a8R Qxa8 62.Kg6 Ke5 *(62...Qe8+* gets mated. *63.Kf6 Qe5+ 64.Kg6 Qe6+ 65.Kg7 Kf5 66.Kh7 Qf7+ 67.Kh8 Kg6 68.b6 Qh7#)* 63.Kg7 Kf5 *(63...Qb7+ 64.Kg6 Qb6+ 65.Kg7 Qf6+ 66.Kg8 Qg6+ 67.Kf8 Ke6 68.b6 Qf7#)* 64.b6 Qb7+ 65.Kh6 Qf7 66.b7 Qg6#]

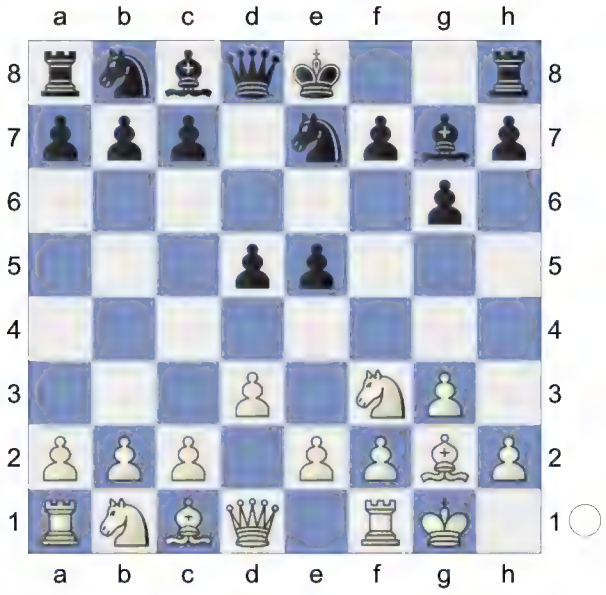
60.Kh6 Qh8#



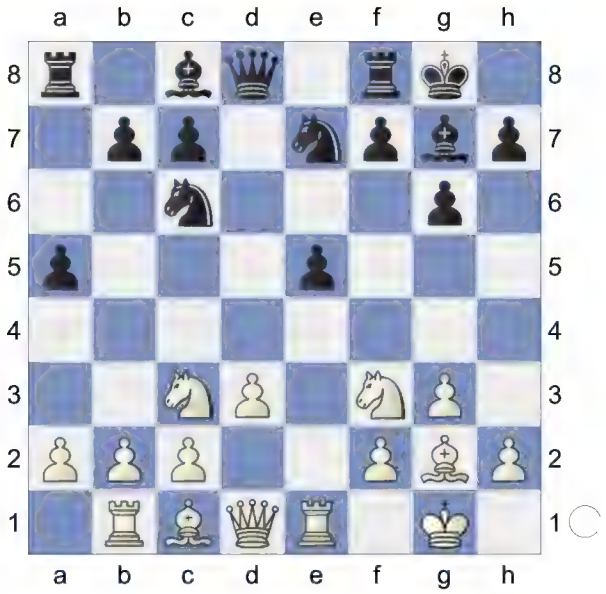
Weighted Error Value: White=0.71/ Black=0.47
0-1

194 **A07**
□ **Rapport,Richard** **2754**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
Aimchess Rapid KO (1.12) 18.10.2022
[Kitty Kat]

A07: Réti Opening: New York and Capablanca Systems
1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 e5 5.d3 Ne7

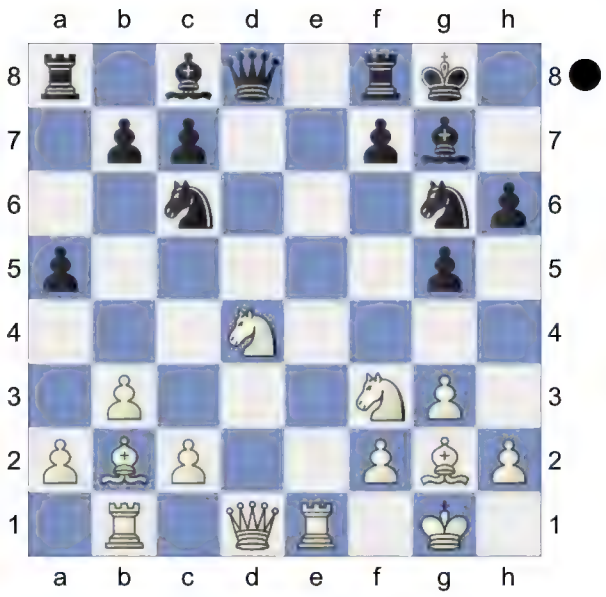


6.e4 0-0 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Re1 Nc6 9.Nc3 The main line 9.Nc3 scores better than 9.Nbd2.Die Hauptvariante 9.Sc3 punktet besser als 9.Sbd2. **9...Nde7 10.Rb1**
[10.a4 h6 *(10...Bf5 11.a5 Qd7 12.Be3 Bg4 13.Qc1 Rad8 14.Ng5 f6 15.Nge4 b6 16.axb6 axb6 17.Ra4 Nd4 18.Nd2 Nec6 19.Qb1 Be6 20.b4 b5 21.Ra6 Nxb4 22.Qxb4 Nxc2 23.Qb1 Nxe1 24.Qxe1 Qxd3 25.Nxb5* ½-½ (43) Amin,B (2694)-Albornoz Cabrera,C (2591) FIDE World Cup 2023 (2.4)) 11.a5 a6 12.Be3 Re8 13.Qd2 Nf5 14.Bc5 Rb8 15.Ne4 b6 16.axb6 cxb6 17.Ba3 Ncd4 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.Qd1 Bb7 20.c3 Nb5 21.Qb3 Qd7 22.Re3 Kh7 23.Rae1 f5 24.Nd2 Bxg2 \ -\ (41) 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4 43147 (2768)-11... ♕c7 12. ♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2772) La 70/(299) Havana 1997 (9)]
10...a5



11.b3 h6N The position is equal.
[11...Bf5 12.a3 Qd7 13.b4 axb4 14.axb4 Bg4 Chapter 3-5...Ne7 2024]
12.Bb2 Re8N
[Predecessor: 12...g5 13.Nb5 Ng6 14.d4 exd4 15.Nbxd4? -2.25/23 *(15.Nfxd4= 0.21/21 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bxd4 17.Nxd4)*

(Diagram)

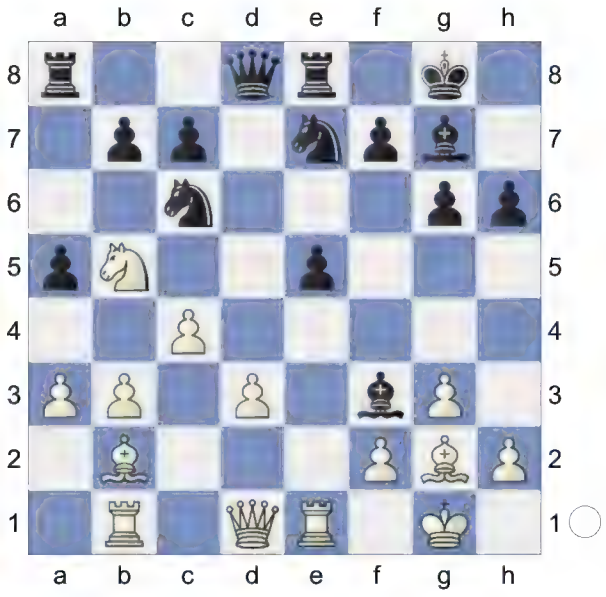


15...Nxd4? 0.16/21 (Black should try *15...g4!-+* -2.25/23 *16.Ba3 Nb4*)
16.Bxd4= Bg4 ...Bxf3 would now be deadly. 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.h3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 ½-½ (35) Kushko,D (2255)-Omelja,A (2451) Chornomorsk 2019]

13.a3 Be6 14.Nb5 Bd5 15.c4

[15.Bxe5? Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nxe5-+ *(16...Bxe5? 17.c3-+)*]

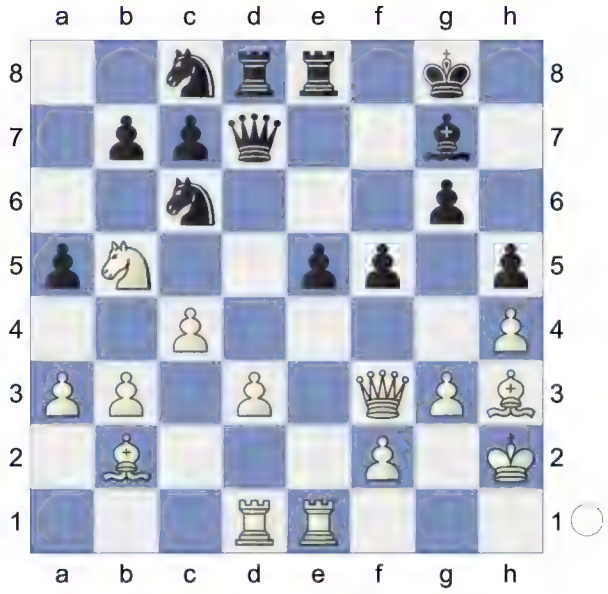
15...Bxf3



16.Qxf3 Qd7 Wards off Bh3 **17.h4 Rad8 18.Rbd1 Nc8** 0.47/20

[18...h5= 0.00/18]

19.Kh2 h5 20.Bh3 A strong pair of Bishops. **20...f5**



21.Qd5+ Kf8 22.Qh1 -0.37/19

[White should try 22.Bg2= 0.23/20]

22...N8e7 0.00/19

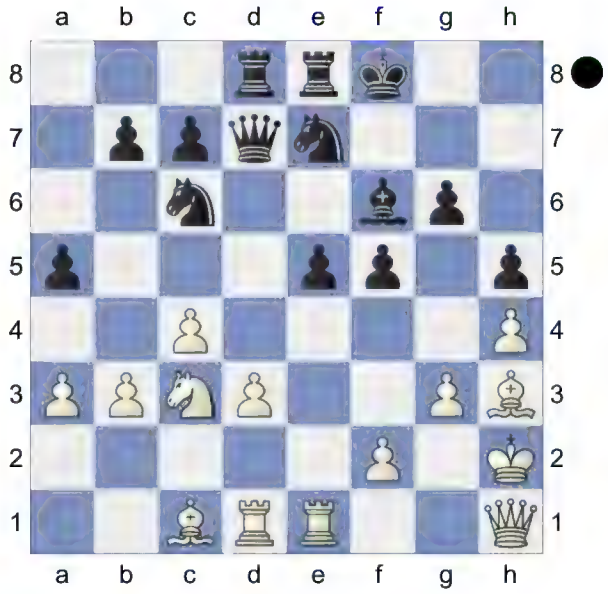
[22...Nd6∓ -0.37/19 might be stronger.]

23.Bc1 Bf6 0.53/21

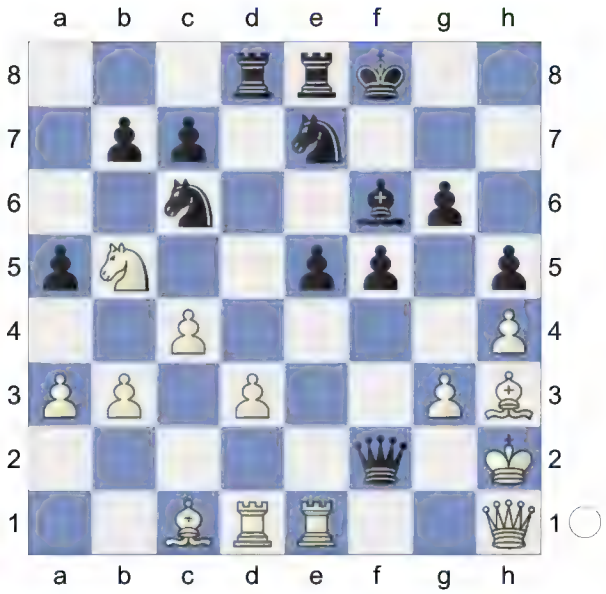
[23...Ng8= 0.00/17]

24.Nc3? -1.52/20

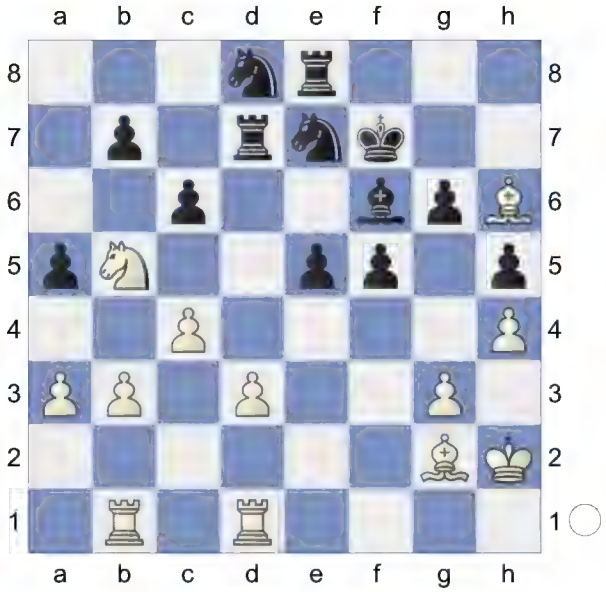
[24.d4± 0.53/21 stays ahead. exd4 25.Bf4]



24...Qd4!∓ 25.Nb5 -1.96/19
[25.Bd2∓ -1.58/18 was called for.]
25...Qxf2+-+

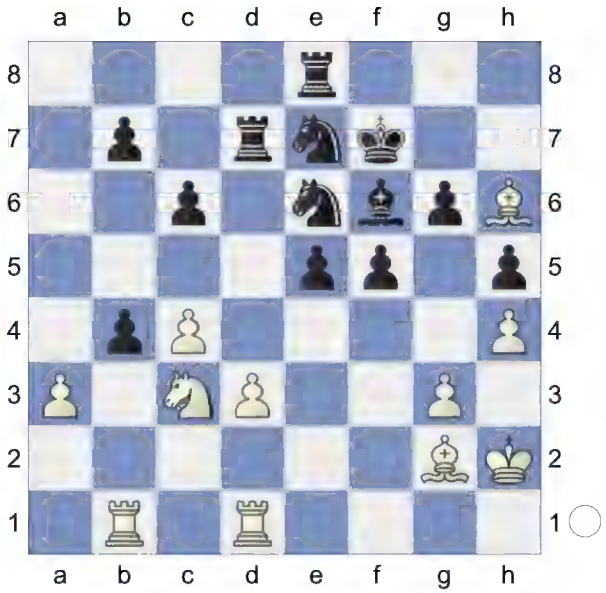


26.Qg2 Qxg2+ 27.Bxg2 Rd7 28.Bh6+ Kf7 29.Rb1 Nd8
[29...Rxd3 30.Nxc7 Rh8 31.Be3∓]
30.Red1 c6



31.Nc3 Ne6 32.b4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.15 (very precise)
32...axb4

(Diagram)

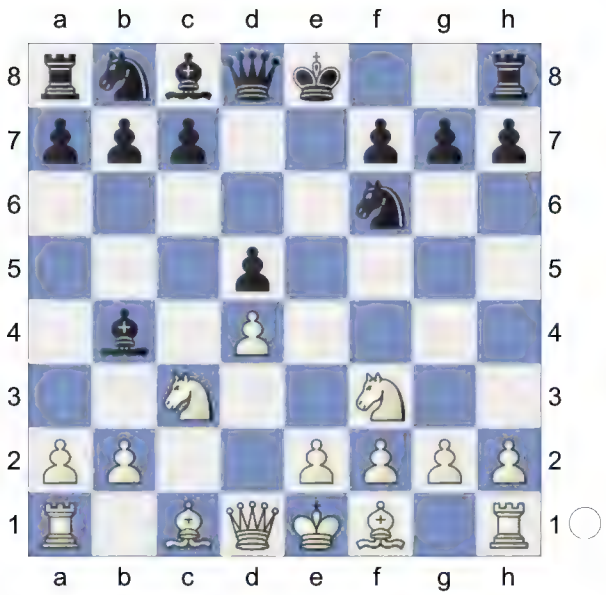


0-1

195 **D38**
□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2713**
■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
Aimchess Rapid Prelim (6.2) 15.10.2022
[TA]

D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4)
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5

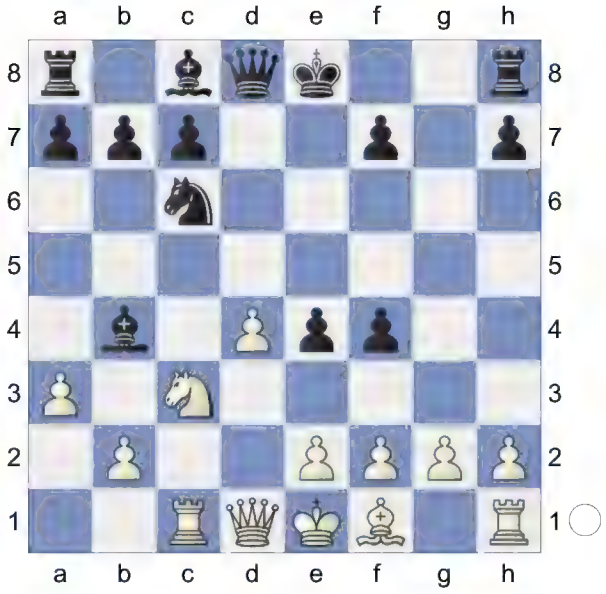
(Diagram)



6.Bf4 Ne4 7.Rc1 Nc6 8.Nd2! White has an edge. **8...g5 9.Ndxe4N** -0.29/20

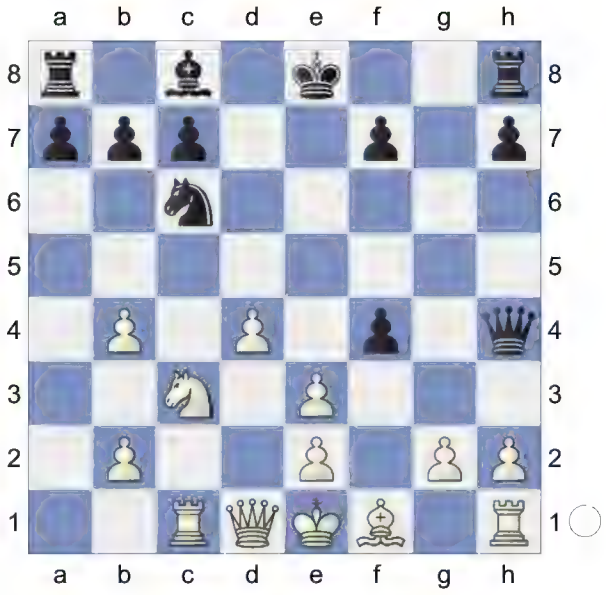
[9.Be3 0.20/24 is more appropriate. Nxc3 *(9...Be6 10.Qb3 a5 11.Qa4 f5 12.a3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 f4 14.axb4 fxe3 15.fxe3 axb4 16.Qb3 bxc3 17.Ne4 Na5 18.Qxc3 dxe4 19.d5 Rf8 20.dxe6 Ra6 21.Qb4 Qd6 22.Qxd6 cxd6 23.g3 Nb3 24.Rb1* 0-1 (48) Ramaekers,H (2295)-Diepstraten,L (2249) Donner Memorial-A 1994 (9)*)* 10.bxc3 Ba3 11.Rb1 f5 12.g3 Bd6 *(12...0-0 13.Qb3 Be7 14.f4 Na5 15.Qc2 c6 16.Bg2 Bd6 17.c4 gxf4 18.gxf4 Be6 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.0-0 Kh8 21.Nf3 Nc4 22.Qd3 b6 23.Kh1 Qe7 24.Ne5 Bxe5 25.fxe5 Rg8 26.Bf4 Rg6 27.Bh3* 1-0 (34) Nakamura,H (2736)-Carlsen,M (2863) Carlsen Inv Prelim rapid 2020 (1.2)*)* 13.Rg1 0-0 14.h4 f4 15.gxf4 g4 16.Rb5 Ne7 17.f5 h5 18.Bg5 c6 19.Rb2 Rxf5 20.e4 Rxg5 21.hxg5 Ng6 22.e5 Bf8 23.Bd3 Nf4 24.Nf1 1-0 (33) Carlsen,M (2863)-Ding,L (2791) Carlsen Inv Prelim rapid 2020 (7.2)]

9...gxf4= 10.a3 dxe4



11.axb4 e3 12.fxe3! Qh4+

[12...fxe3 simplifies 13.g3 Qf6 14.Ne4 Qxd4 15.Qxd4 Nxd4 16.Nf6+ Kf8]



13.g3! fxg3 14.Kd2 Bf5⇄ Black has counterplay

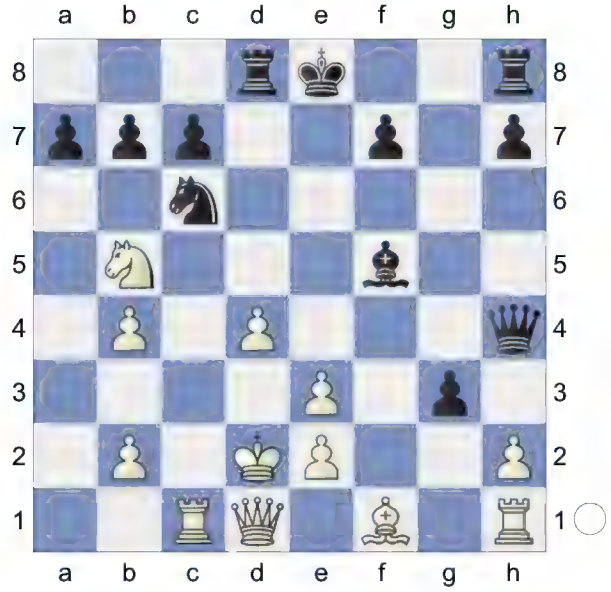
[14...Nxb4 15.Qa4+ Nc6 16.Bg2]

15.Nb5? -2.20/21

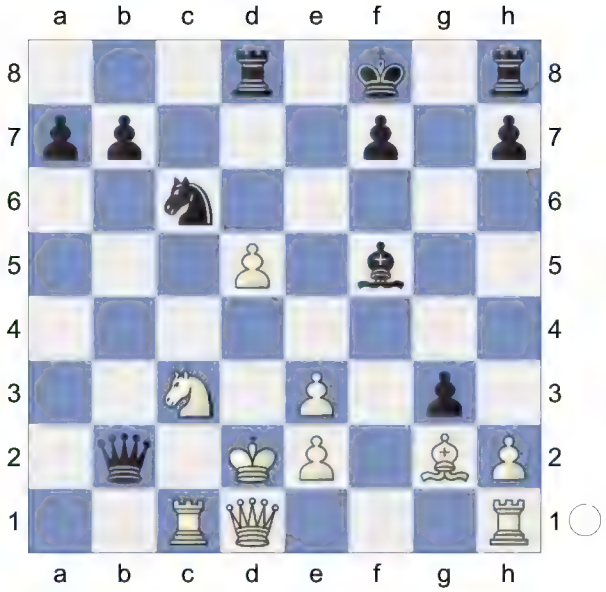
[15.Bg2= 0.04/20 and White has nothing to worry.]

15...Rd8? 0.00/21

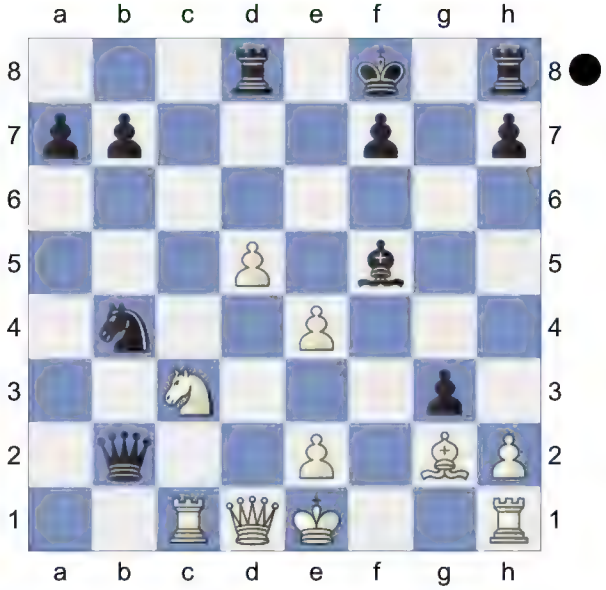
[15...gxh2 16.Nxc7+ Ke7 17.Qe1=]
[15...Qe7-+ -2.20/21 16.Qa4 Be4 *(16...Nxb4? 17.Nd6+ Discovered Attack (Double Check), Double Attack Kd8 18.Nxf5+-)*]



16.Bg2 Qg5
[16...Nxb4? 17.hxg3 *(17.Nxc7+ Kf8±; 17.Qa4 Nc6+-)* 17...Qg5 *(17...Qxg3? 18.Bxb7 c6 19.Qa4+-)* 18.Qa4+- *(18.Nxc7+ Kf8±; 18.Bxb7 0-0=)*]
[16...Nxd4!? 17.exd4 *(17.Nxd4 Rxd4+ 18.exd4 Qxd4+ 19.Ke1 Qf2+ 20.Kd2 Qxg2∓)* 17...Rxd4+ 18.Nxd4 Qxd4+ 19.Ke1 Qf2+ *(19...Qxb4+? 20.Qd2+-)* 20.Kd2 0-0=]
17.Nxc7+ -1.41/20
[17.Bxc6+= -0.01/22 bxc6 18.Rxc6]
17...Kf8!∓ 18.d5 Qe7
[18...Nxb4 19.Qb3 Qe7 20.Rhf1+- *(20.hxg3 Rg8±)*]
19.Nb5? -3.08/20
[19.e4∓ -1.47/20 was worth a try. Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Qxe4 21.hxg3]
19...Qxb4+-+ 20.Nc3 Qxb2+ -1.62/21
[⌓20...Rg8 -3.10/20 21.Qf1 Qxb2+ 22.Kd1 Ne7]

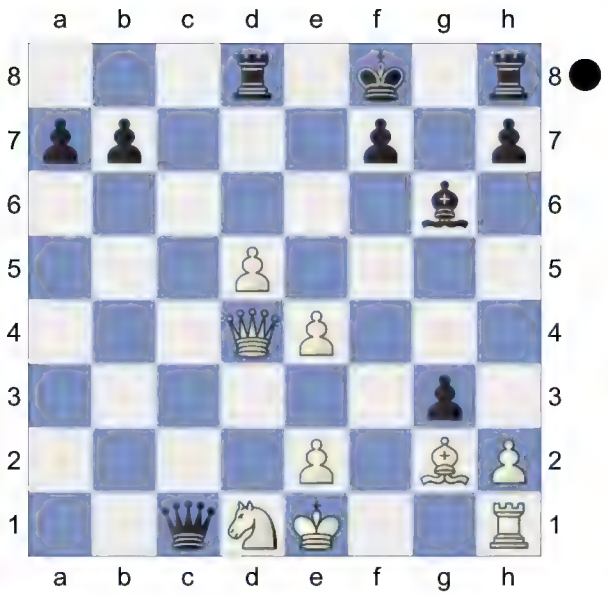


21.Ke1 Nb4? 0.00/25
[21...Rg8-+ -1.62/22 22.hxg3 Rxg3]
22.e4 -1.43/20
[22.Qd2!= 0.00/25 was the only way to keep the balance. Nc2+ 23.Kd1]

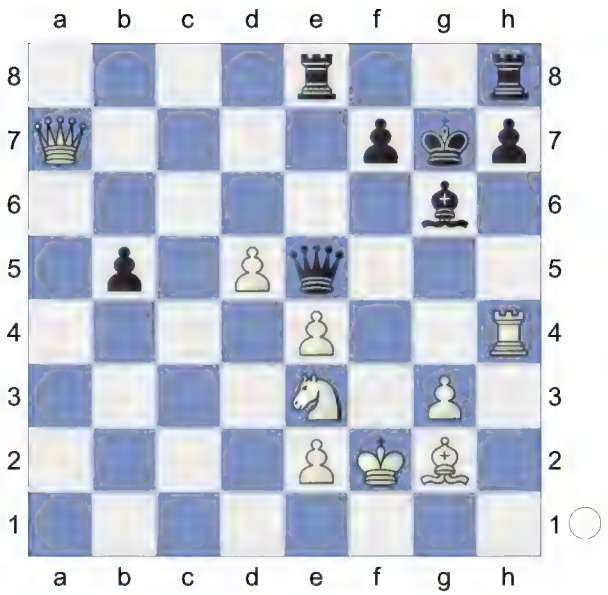


22...Nd3+!∓ Deflection **23.Qxd3 Qxc1+ 24.Nd1 Bg6 25.Qd4**

(Diagram)



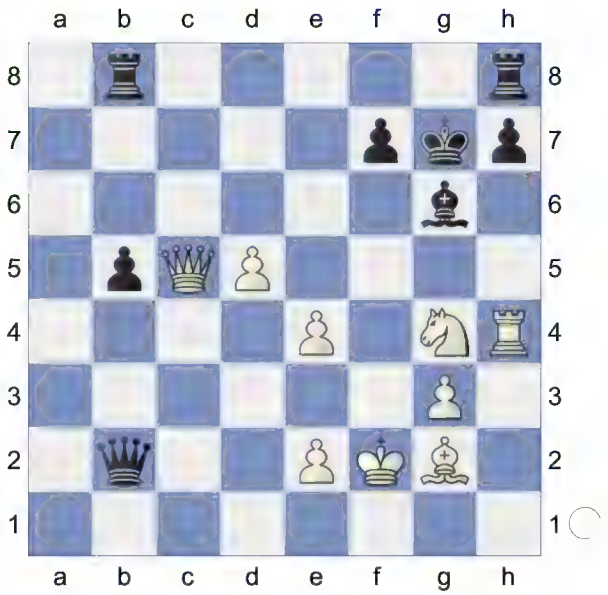
Kg8 -0.63/21
[25...Rg8!∓ -1.05/23 ...gxh2 is the strong threat. 26.hxg3 Qg5]



31.Qc5 Rb8 0.42/22
[31...Rc8= -0.13/20 32.Qb4 h5]
32.Ng4!± White has compensation.
32...Qb2

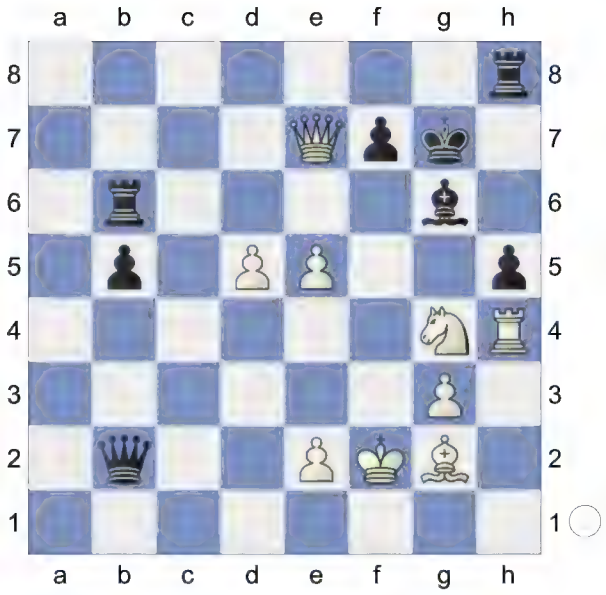
26.hxg3∓ Qg5 0.00/25
[26...h5∓ -0.63/21 27.Qxa7 Qc7]
27.Kf2!= Re8 28.Ne3 Qe5 29.Qxa7 Active counter play! **29...Kg7 30.Rh4 b5**

(Diagram)

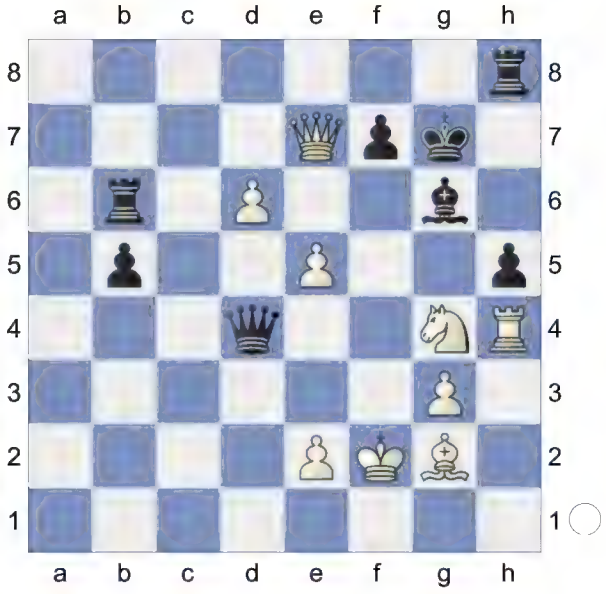


33.e5! Hoping for Qe3. **33...h5** 1.50/22
[⌓33...Rhc8 0.72/23 34.Qe7 Qd4+ 35.Ne3 Qb6]
34.Qe7± The board is on fire. **34...Rb6** 5.53/20
[34...Qd4+± 0.90/19 35.Ne3 Qb6]

(Diagram)

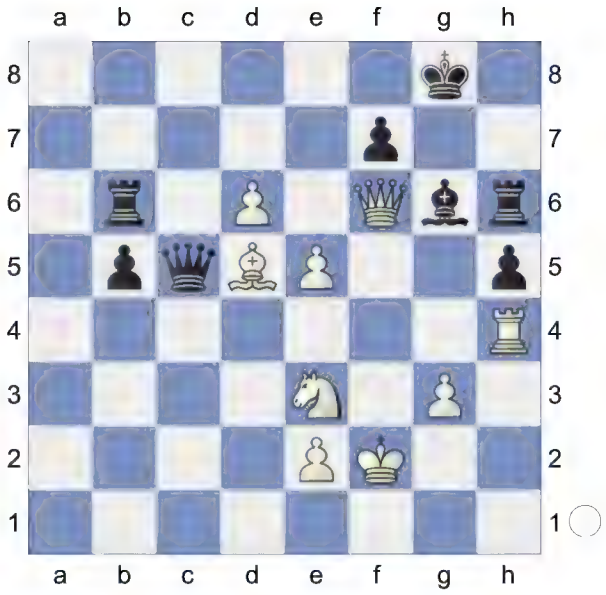


Repels Qf6+ **35.d6!+- Qd4+**
[35...Qa2 36.Qf6+]

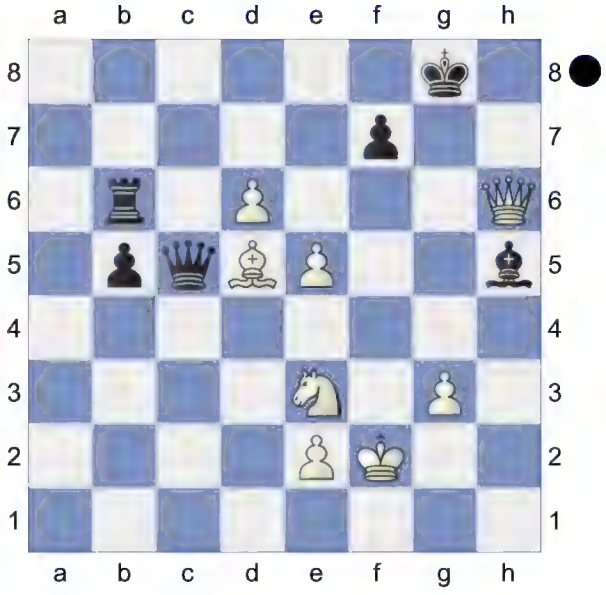


36.Ne3 Qc5 37.Qf6+ Kg8 38.Bd5 Rh6

(Diagram)



39.Rxh5! Bxh5 Quite a comeback for White.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.69
40.Qxh6



1-0

196 **D17**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2732**
■ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2717**
Aimchess Rapid Prelim (5.8) 15.10.2022
[Flear,Glenn]

D17: Slav Defence: 5 a4 Bf5: Lines with 6 Nh4 and 6 Ne5

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5

6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.g3 e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4 Nfd7

11.Bg2 g5 There are over a thousand games on the database with this move and all from the last twenty years. So Slav books from the previous century will be completely off the mark in this particular variation. **12.Ne3 gxf4 13.Nxf5 0-0-0** White is slightly better. **14.Qc2**

[A sensible alternative is 14.0-0 but this leads (sometimes by transposition) to the type of position where Black is well dug in: fxg3 15.hxg3 Nc5 16.Qc2 (now we have reached a standard position that was analyzed on this site a decade or so ago in several games, here is a more recent example...) a5! 17.Rac1!? h5 (the a-pawn is advanced to a5 to stabilize the queenside whereas the h-pawn is placed on h5 with some hopes of going further if the f5-knight moves away) 18.Ne4 0.00/23 *(18.Rfd1± 0.37/20)* 18...Nxe4 0.39/20 *(18...Ne6= 0.00/23)* 19.Qxe4± Kb8 20.Rfd1 Bb4 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Bf3 -0.24/21 *(22.Nd4± 0.34/20)* 22...Nxf3+= 23.Qxf3 Qe5= Van Wely, L - Mamedov, R online blitz 2020, with adequate counterplay.]

[14.gxf4 Nc5 15.Qc2 Nc4∓]

14...fxg3 15.hxg3 Kb8

(Diagram)

Now White often decides that it's the moment to think about his king's future.

16.Kf1

[White was successful with 16.0-0-0 in Edouard, R - Kaufman, R Quebec 2018, see the archives. Bb4 17.Na2 Bc5 18.e3 a5 19.Kb1 Bb6 20.Nc3 Nc5 21.Nd4 h6 22.Rh5 Na6 23.Na2 Nc5 24.Nc3 Grube,J (2686)-C 06/32 (2805) 303 Linz 2014]

[Going short is also possible (it sometimes transposes to lines where White castles somewhat earlier), 16.0-0 and then after h5 we reach a position that occurred in Fridman, D - Ragger, M Rijeca 2010 (see the archives).]

[Rare is 16.Rd1 h5 17.Kf1 but as in the main game the king finds a temporary refuge on f1: a5 18.Ne4 *(18.Bf3* followed by Kg2 is not very ambitious, but it avoids any problems*)* 18...Bb4 19.Qb3 -0.56/22 *(19.e3=* 0.27/22 *)* 19...Nb6!∓ 20.Ne3 -1.29/21 *(20.Kg1∓* -0.44/19 *)* 20...f5∓ Kotanjian, T - Andriasian, Z Yerevan 2013, and White's whole set-up looks bankrupt. If the white rooks are not going to be linked up it's probably better not to seek a trade on the d-file, hence Gukesh's approach which notably avoids any notion of R-d1. In case you weren't sure, if one is tempted by 21.Nxf5?? -3.87/25 then *(21.Ng5∓* -1.29/21 *)* 21...Qf7!-+ comes like a shot! This tactic illustrates perfectly the 'less than ideal' placings of White's major pieces.]

[16.a5 a6 17.0-0 h5 18.Rfc1 Nf6 19.Ra4 Neg4 20.Ne4 Nd5 21.Nc5 Bxc5 22.Qxc5 Qe5 23.Nd4 Rh6 24.e4 Ne7 25.Bf3 Rhd6 26.Bxg4 Qxc5 27.Rxc5 hxg4 28.Nf5 Nxf5 29.Rxf5 Rd1+ 30.Kg2 Rb1 ½-½ (60) Fidalgo,A (2220)-Morais,M (2132) Portuguese Masters 2024 (4)]

16...Nf6N

[Following 16...h5 17.Ne4 Ng6 0.78/20 Black's interest in the kingside induced White to play *(17...Bb4=* 0.22/20 *)* 18.Rd1± in the following example, which worked well as there is no pressure on his position (compare with 16.Rd1 in the previous note): *(18.Bf3!?* 0.28/22 18.Rd1 0.91 *)* 18...Qe5 19.Nd4 Bb4? 3.33/21 *(19...Qc7±* 0.85/19 might work better. *)* 20.Nd6!+- A nice tactic hitting both f7 and b7. Bxd6

(Diagram)

21.Nxc6+! bxc6 22.Qxc6 Nc5 Esen, B - Petrosian, T Legnica 2013, and now b2-b4 comes with a decisive effect. The knight is influential on e5, so is often best left there. Against Qb7+]

[16...a5 17.Rd1 Bb4 B6-3...h6 Destroying the Dutch II: 2.Bg5! 2022]

17.a5 0.00/24

[In the following e-mail encounter, White is able to keep a grip on the light squares: 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Qa5 *(18...Bb4!? 19.Rd1* Inhibits Rd2. *Rxd1+ 20.Qxd1 a5* might be more robust*)* 19.Qb3 Qb4 20.Qxb4 Bxb4 21.Rc1 Against Nc4 Rd2 22.b3 a5 23.Rh4 h5 Tudor, V - Jensen, B e-mail 2019, with a mini-edge due to having the superior structure. Black's generally active forces, plus the opposite bishops, should however enable him to put up resistance, but the weak h5-pawn is an enduring problem.]

[17.Ne4± 0.55/23 Nxe4 18.Qxe4]

17...a6= **18.Ra4** The rook can certainly be useful on the fourth rank and already denies the opponent the use of the b4-square.

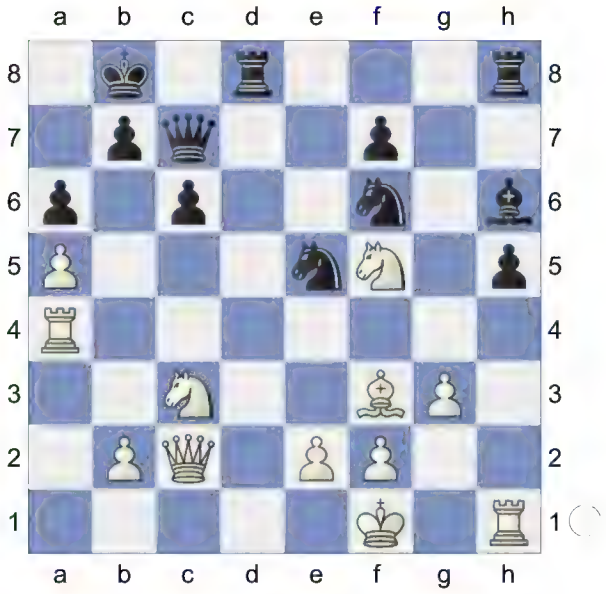
[In an earlier game White opted for an alternative rook shift: 18.Rh4 h5 19.Ne4 Nd5 20.Nc5 Ng4 21.Nd3? -1.60/23 Aimless? Inhibits Qe5. *(21.Bf3=* is better i.e. to threaten Bxg4*; 21.Bf3=* -0.26/24 *Qe5 22.Nb3)* 21...Qd7∓ 22.Bxd5 Qxf5 23.Bf3 Be7 24.Qb3? -4.55/20 *(24.Rh1* is a lesser evil, but *Ne5* still clearly favours Black*; 24.Rh1* -1.63/21 *Ne5 25.Ne1 Qxc2 26.Nxc2)* 24...Bxh4-+ 25.Bxc6 b5-+ Barsov, A - Georgiev, Ki. Athens 2007.]

18...h5 **19.Bf3** If White is going to place his king on f1 (with the notable advantage of maintaining pressure along the h-file) he generally has to accept the need to play this modest move which frees up the g2-square for his king.

19...Bh6 0.91/20

[The following 'more natural' sequence could be better: 19...Nxf3 20.exf3 Bc5 21.Ne4 Nxe4 22.fxe4 Ba7!∞]

[19...Nxf3= 0.00/21 remains equal. 20.exf3 Nd5]



Possibly not the best solution for the

bishop. **20.Nxh6!± Nxf3**

[Otherwise, 20...Rxh6 is reasonable when 21.Kg2 gives White the easier game but nothing concrete.]

21.Nf5 0.20/22

[Stockfish prefers 21.exf3! Rxh6 22.Qc1 Rg6 23.Kg2 with a 'clear advantage'. I can't see any immediate reason for such a dramatic assessment, but if Black runs out of things to do then his weaknesses will become a serious problem.]

[21.exf3± 1.30/22 Rxh6 22.Rhh4]

21...Ne5= 22.Kg2 Rhg8

[An unusual move for this line is 22...c5!⇄ (which might explain why it wasn't selected by Harikrishna). With the light-squared bishop now exchanged off, Black can aim to compete on the long diagonal.]

23.Ne4 Nxe4 24.Qxe4

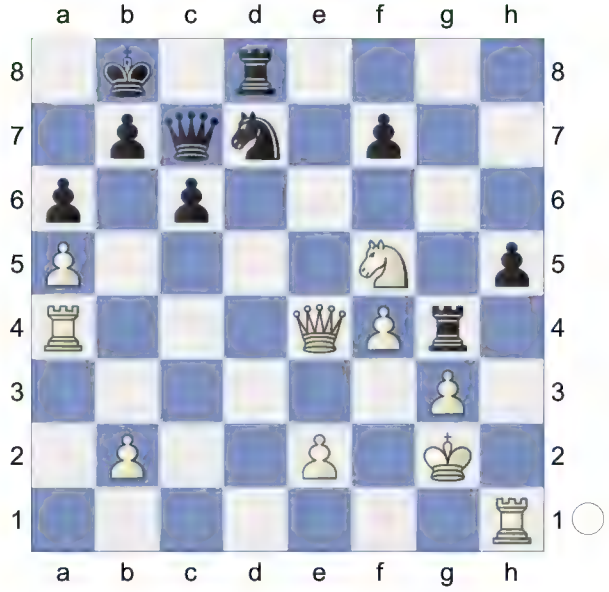
[24.Rxe4 Rg5 25.Nh6 Ng6= *(25...Qxa5 26.f4±)*]

24...Rg4!? The rook turns out to be misplaced here, but there is some merit in provoking White's next move.

[The more routine option would be 24...Rh8! just accepting a slight passive (but perfectly playable) game.]

25.f4! Nd7

[25...Ng6 26.Kf3± *(26.Rxh5 Nxf4+ 27.Kh2 Nxh5∓* Discovered Attack *)*]



and ...Nc5 should not be overlooked

26.Rd4 0.37/23 White is more active.

[26.Rxh5?! Nc5 27.Qf3 Nxa4= *(27...Rxg3+ 28.Nxg3 Nxa4 29.Rf5=)*]

[26.Qe7!± 1.33/23]

26...Rdg8?? 3.94/23 Definitely a case of the wrong rook!

[Black should come back with defence in mind with 26...Rgg8! (linking rooks on the eighth rank not the g-file) 27.Rhd1 Qd3 is the strong threat. (note that *27.Rxh5??* -2.62/22 27.Rhd1 0.43 is not possible here due to *Nf6)* 27...Rde8! 28.Qf3 Nf6!=]

[26...Rgg8!± 0.37/23]

27.Qe7!+- It's suddenly all over! The knight has five legal moves, but all of them lose trivially. Black is weak on the dark squares

[27.Rxh5? is the wrong capture. Nf6

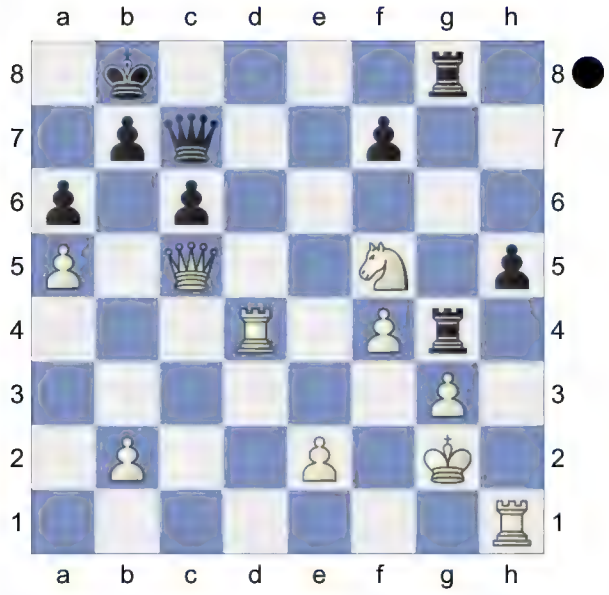
28.Qe5 Qxe5 *(28...Nxh5? 29.Qxc7+ Kxc7 30.Kf2-+)* 29.fxe5 Nxh5-+]

27...Nc5

[If 27...Rd8? 6.21/19 27...Nf6 3.71 then simply 28.Rhd1]

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.30

28.Qxc5



1-0

197 **D38**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2684**

■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2688**

Chess Olympiad | Open (10.1) 08.08.22

[Ta]

D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4)

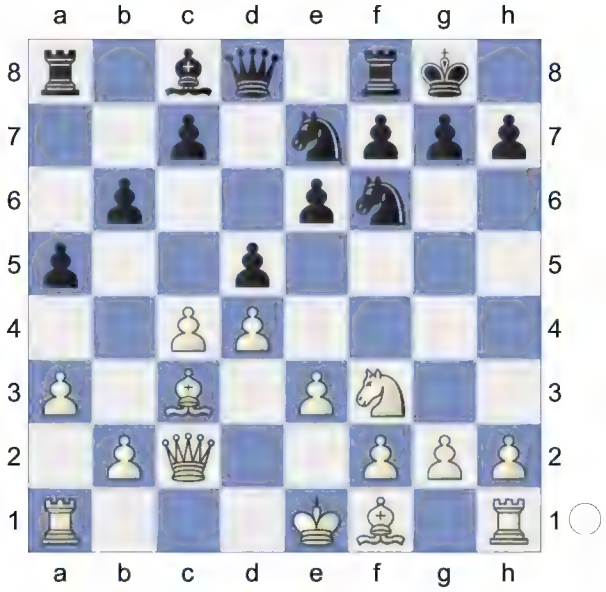
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qa4+ Nc6

(Diagram)

6.e3 0-0 7.Bd2 a5 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 Ne7 White is slightly better. **10.Qc2**

[10.Bxa5? b6 11.Qc2 bxa5-+ *(11...Rxa5? 12.b4-+)*]

10...b6

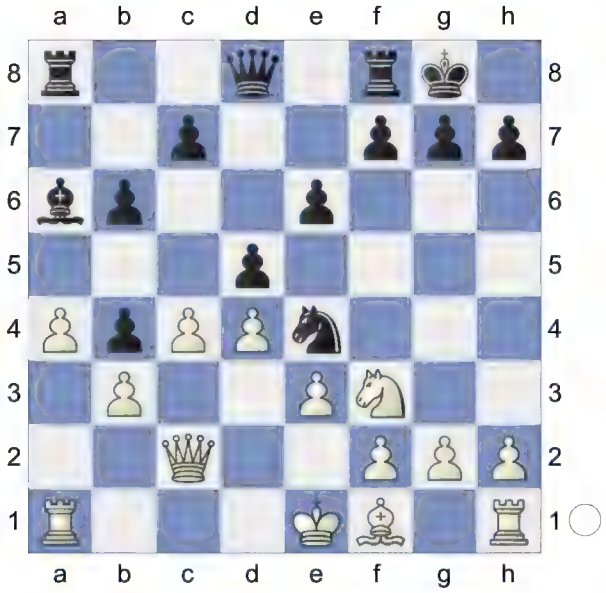


11.b3N

[11.cxd5 exd5 12.Bd3 Ba6 13.Bxa6 Rxa6 14.0-0 Ne4 15.Rac1 Re8 16.Ne5 c5 17.Qd3 Ra8 18.dxc5 bxc5 19.Rfd1 Qb6 20.Qe2 Nxc3 21.Rxc3 c4 22.Qc2 a4 23.h3 Ra5 24.Nf3 Nc6 25.Rd2 h6 ½-½ (45) Mohammad Fahad,R (2380)-Koustav,

C (2496) BAN-chT Premier 2022 (9.4)]

11...Ba6 12.a4 Ne4 13.Bb2 Nc6! 14.Ba3 Nb4 15.Bxb4 axb4

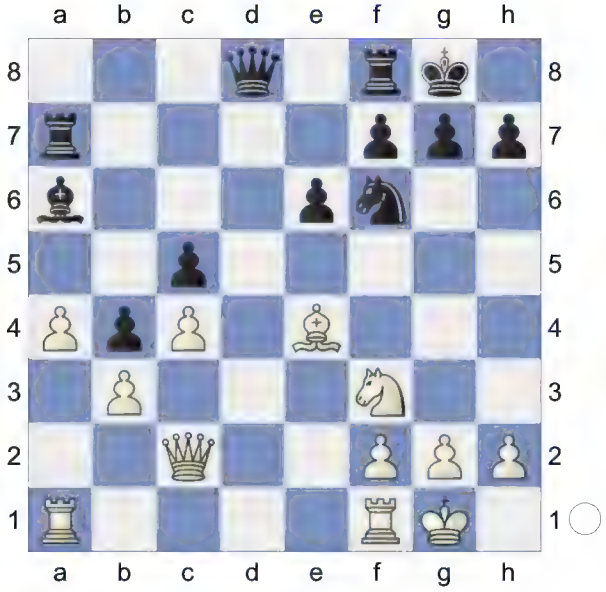


16.Bd3 Nf6 0.09/20

[16...Nc3∓ -0.47/22]

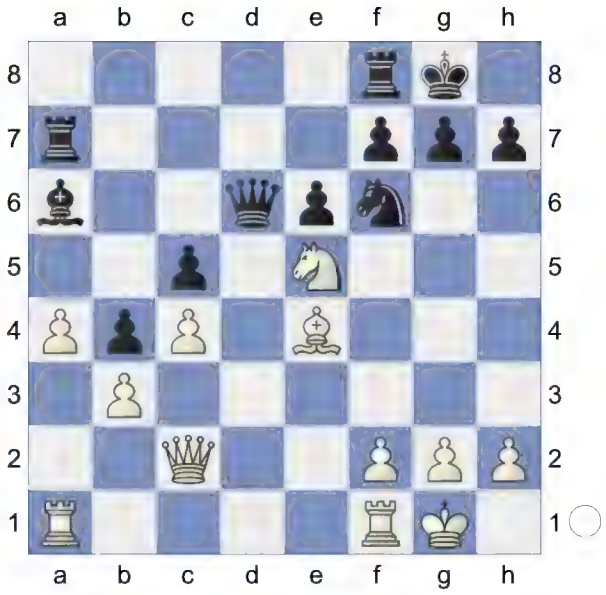
17.0-0= c5 18.dxc5 bxc5 19.e4 dxe4 20.Bxe4 Ra7 1.00/24

[20...Nxe4± 0.40/26 21.Qxe4 Qe7]

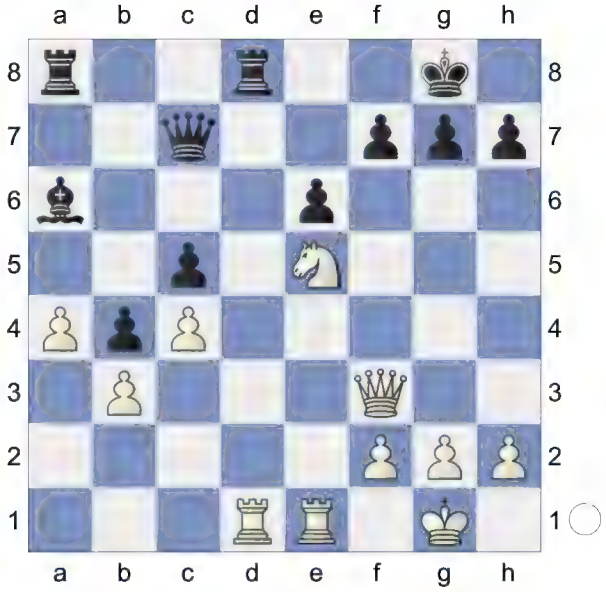


21.Ne5 Qd6

(Diagram)



22.Rfe1! Nxe4 23.Qxe4 Rd8 24.Qf3 Qc7 25.Rad1 Raa8



26.Rxd8+

[26.Rd7 Rxd7 27.Qxa8+ Rd8∓]

26...Rxd8 27.Rd1! Rc8? 3.90/26

[27...Rxd1+± 1.30/20 28.Qxd1 h6]

28.Qg3 2.16/22

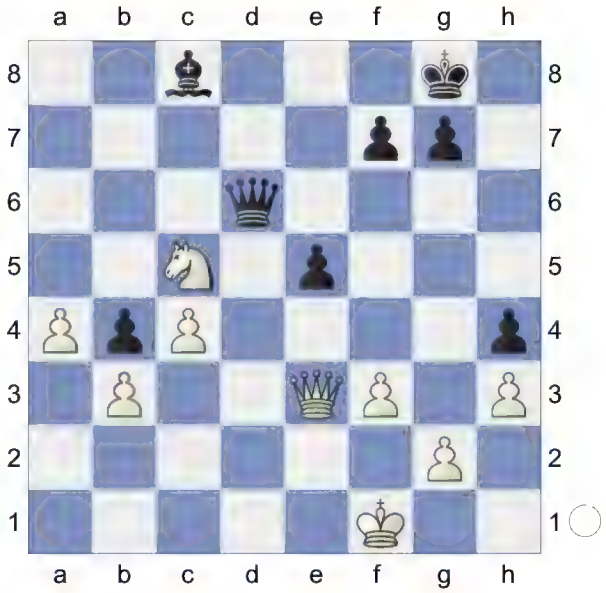
[⌓28.Qh5 3.90/26 Hoping for Rd7. Rf8 29.Rd7]

28...h5 29.h3

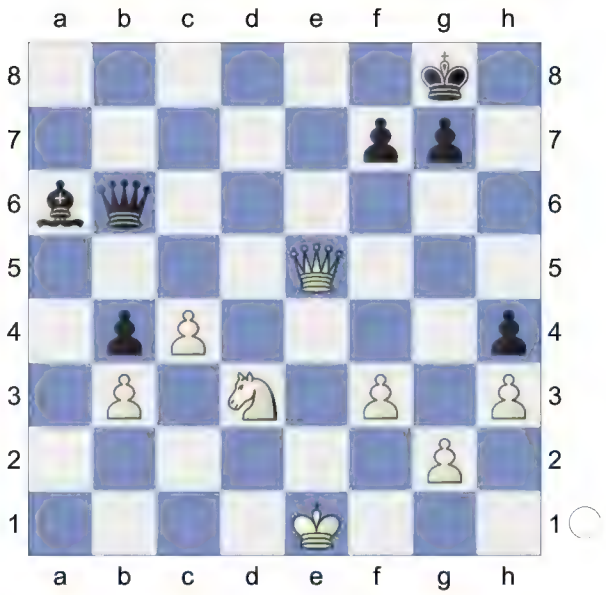
[29.Rd7?! Rd8 30.Rxd8+ *(30.Rxc7? Rd1#; 30.Qxg7+? Kxg7 31.Rxd8 Qxd8-+)* 30...Qxd8±]

29...Rd8 2.31/27 Repels Rd7
[⌓29...h4 1.71/25 30.Qe3 *(30.Qxh4? Qxe5 31.Rd8+ Rxd8-+)* 30...f6]
30.Rxd8++- Qxd8

Endgame KQB-KQN **31.Nd3 h4 32.Qe3 Bb7 33.f3** 1.39/24
[33.Nxc5+- 1.76/26 Qd1+ 34.Kh2 Qd6+ 35.f4]
33...Qd6? 3.33/24
[33...Qf6± 1.39/24 was worth a try.]
34.Kf1 1.84/23
[34.Qxc5 Qxd3 35.Qc7 Bxf3 36.gxf3 Qe3+ *(36...Qxb3 37.Qd8+ Kh7 38.Qxh4+ Kg6 39.Qg3+ Kh6 40.Qf4+ g5 41.Qf6+ Kh5 42.Qxf7+ Kh4 43.Qxe6=)* 37.Kg2 Qe2+ *(37...Qxb3 38.Qd8+ Kh7 39.Qxh4+ Kg8 40.Qd8+ Kh7 41.Qh4+ Kg6 42.Qe4+ Kg5 43.Qg4+ Kh6 44.Qh4+ Kg6 45.Qe4+ Kh6 46.Qh4+ Kg6=)* 38.Kg1 Qe1+ *(38...Qxf3 39.Qd8+ Kh7 40.Qxh4+ Kg8 41.Qd8+ Kh7 42.Qh4+ Kg8 43.Qd8+ Kh7 44.Qh4+=)* 39.Kg2 g6 40.Qd8+ Kg7 41.Qd4+ e5∓]
[⌓34.Nxc5 3.33/24 Bxf3 35.gxf3 Qg3+ 36.Kf1 Qxh3+ 37.Ke2]
34...e5 35.Nxc5
[35.Qxe5 Qxd3+ 36.Kf2 Bc6 *(36...Qxb3? 37.Qb8+ Kh7 38.Qxb7-+)* 37.Qb8+ Kh7-+]
35...Bc8

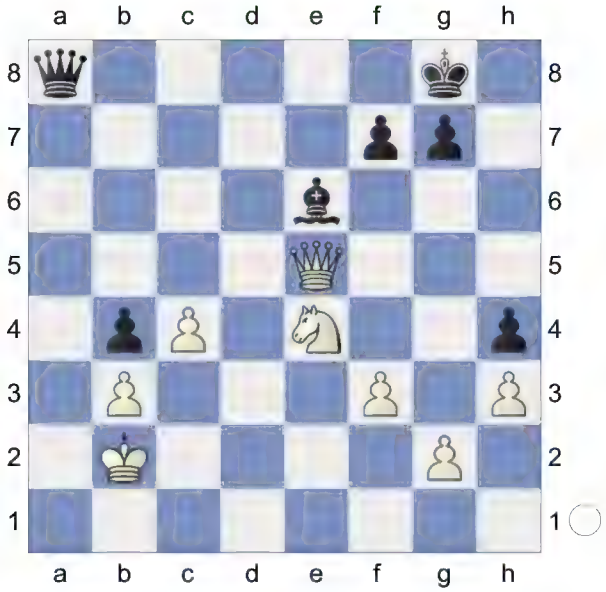


36.Ke1 Dodges Qd1+ **36...Bf5 37.a5 Qc7** 3.97/25
[⌓37...e4 2.83/21 38.Nxe4 *(38.fxe4 Qe5=)* 38...Qe5]
38.a6 Bc8 39.Nd3 Bxa6 40.Qxe5
[40.Nxb4 Qa5 41.Qc3 f5±]
40...Qb6

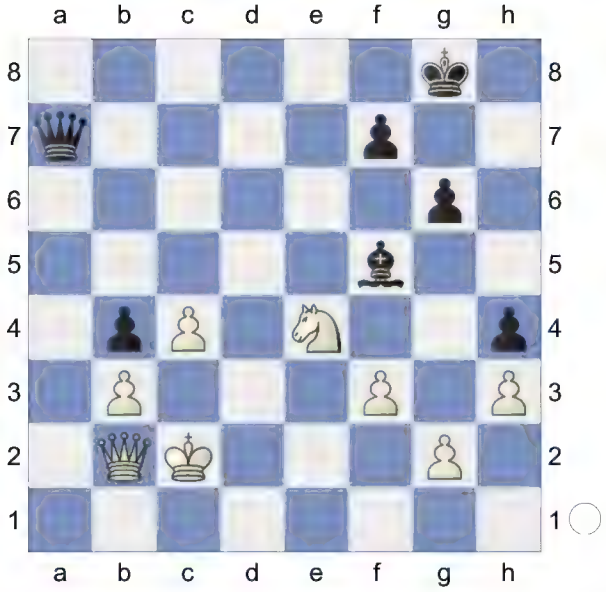


41.Nc5 Qa5 42.Kd1 Qd8+ 43.Kc2

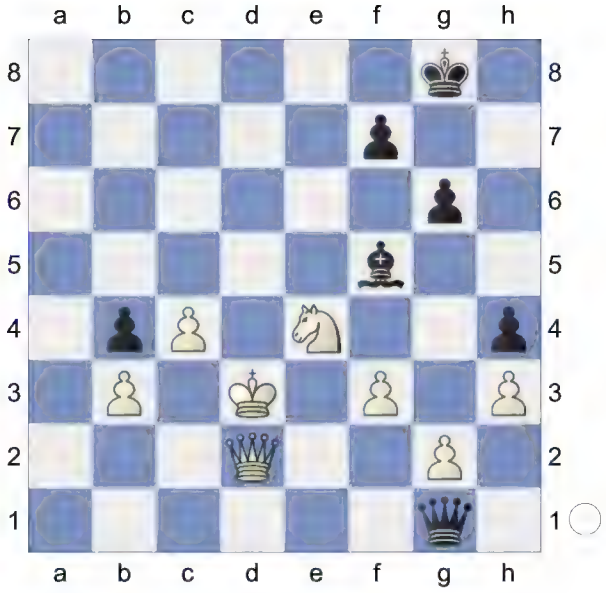
Bc8 44.Ne4 Be6 45.Kb2 1.54/23
[White should play 45.Ng5+- 2.68/20]
45...Qa8



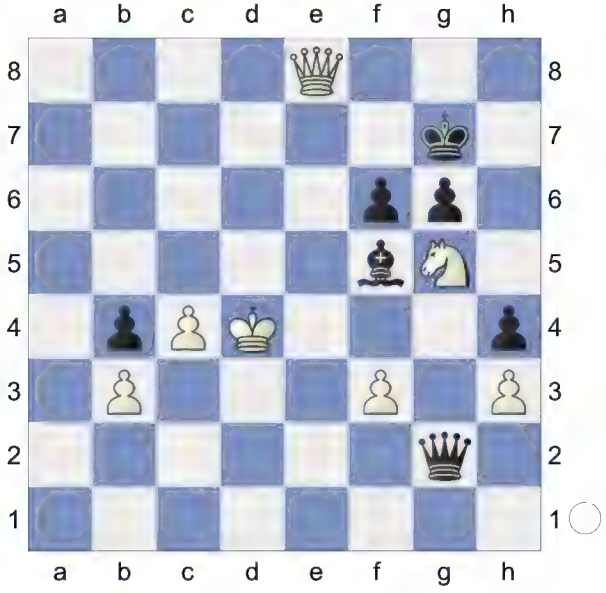
46.Nc5 0.40/25
[46.Ng5!± 1.27/25]
46...Qa3+ 47.Kb1 0.00/27
[47.Kc2!± 0.67/25 Qa2+ 48.Kc1 Qxg2 49.Nxe6 Qg1+ 50.Kd2 Qf2+ 51.Kc1 Qg1+]
47...g6= 48.Kc2 Qa2+ 49.Qb2 Bf5+ 50.Ne4 Qa7



51.Kd3 Qg1 52.Qc2 Qc5 53.Qd2 Qg1 54.Kc2 Qa1 55.Kd3 Qg1

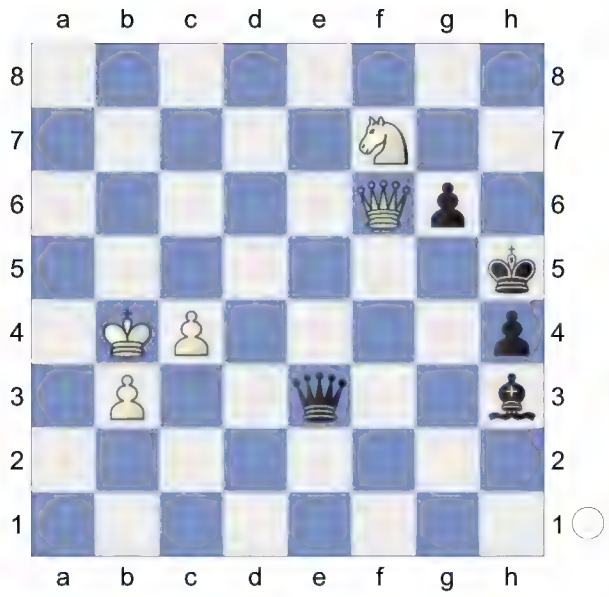


56.Qe2 Qa7 57.Qe3 Qa2 58.Kd4 Qxg2 59.Ng5 f6 60.Qe8+ Kg7

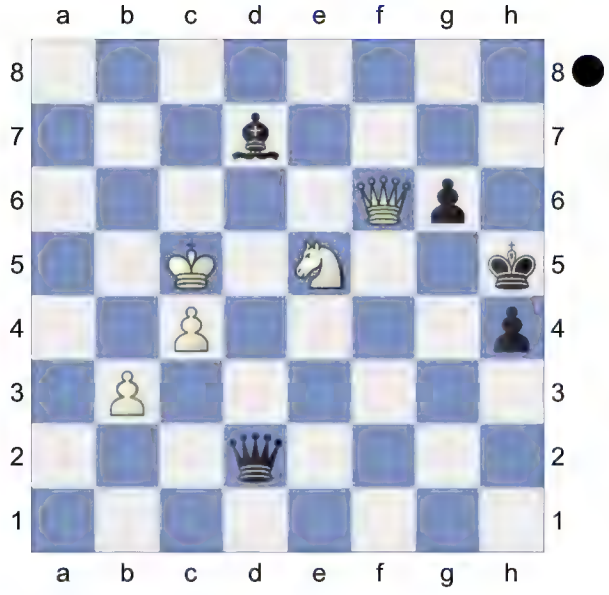


61.Qe7+ Kh6 62.Nf7+ Kh5 63.Kc5 -0.37/28
[63.Qe3= 0.00/24 g5 *(63...Qxh3 64.Qh6#)* 64.Qe8 Qd2+ *(64...Bxh3 65.Nh8+ Kh6 66.Qg6#; 64...Qf2+ 65.Kd5±)* 65.Kc5]
63...Qxf3∓ 64.Qxf6 Qe3+ 65.Kxb4 Threatening mate with Qh8+. **65...Bxh3**

(Diagram)

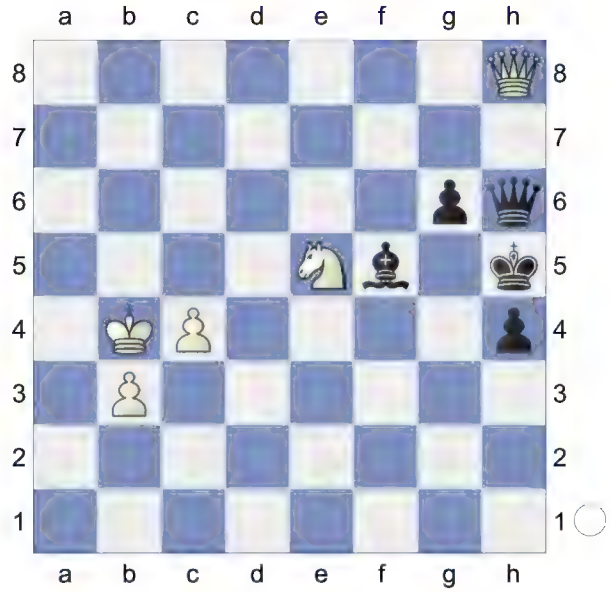


66.Ne5 Qd2+ 0.00/25
[66...Bf5!∓ -0.50/23]
67.Kb5= Bd7+ 68.Kc5 -0.96/21
[68.Nxd7= 0.00/26 Qxd7+ 69.Kb6]

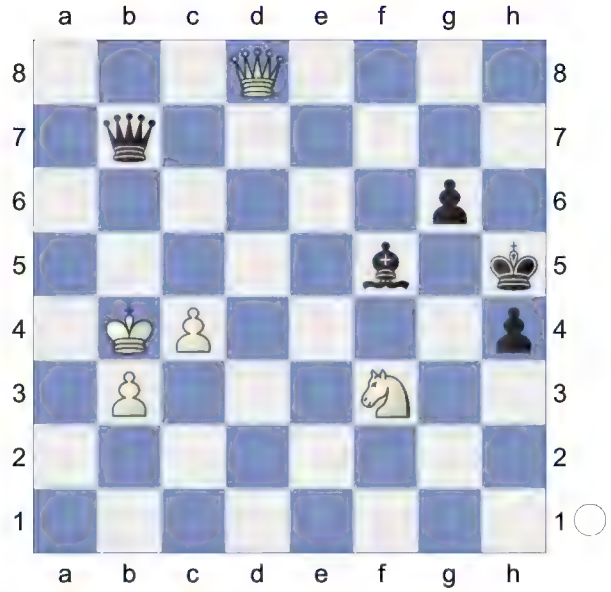


68...Qe3+ -0.23/23
[Black should try 68...Qa5+!∓ -0.96/21 69.Kd4 Bf5]
69.Kb4 -0.64/23
[69.Kd5= -0.23/23 Qd2+ 70.Kc5 Qa5+ 71.Kd4 Qa7+ 72.Kc3 Qe3+ 73.Kb4 Qe1+ 74.Ka3 Qa5+ 75.Kb2 Qd2+ 76.Ka3 Qc1+ 77.Kb4 Qe1+]

69...Bf5!∓ White must now prevent ...h3.
70.Qh8+ Qh6



71.Qd8 Qg7 72.Nf3? -6.70/21
[72.Qd1+∓ -0.60/19 Kh6 73.Qd4 Qe7+ 74.Kc3]
Quite a comeback for Black.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)
72...Qb7+

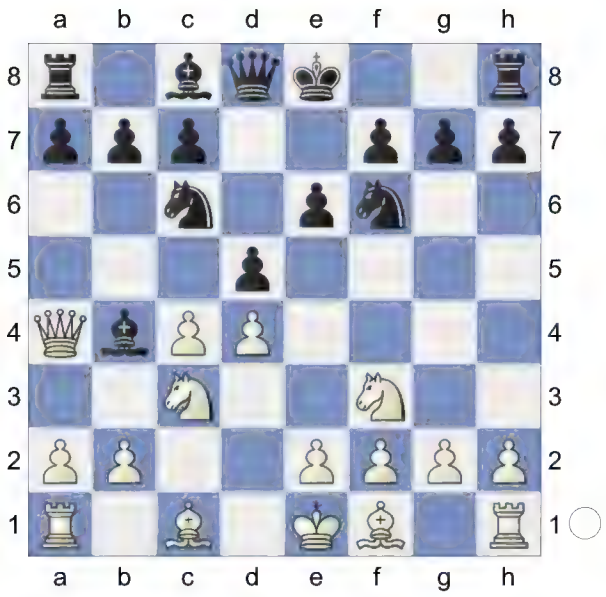


Skewer, Double Attack
0-1

198 **D38**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2684**
■ **Sargissian,Gabriel** **2698**
Chess Olympiad | Open (6.1) 03.08.2022
[Justin Tan]

Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'ELSHAN'S EXPLORATIONS 44th Chess Olympiad – Review Young blood prevails! No country for "older than teenager" men! The waits came to an end after the arbiters started the clocks in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, announcing the beginning of round 1 of the Chess Olympiad. After a long four years, players across the globe came to the hometown of Vishy Anand to celebrate the Royal Game. The US squad, composed of 5 super-GM seemed the natural favourite, even if Russia and China had participated. However, the US team wasn't at its best and conceded to the 5th place. The blow came against the India's second team (all youngsters at high school age) where the US team lost 3 : 1 after Caruana mismanaged his advantage against Gukesh and Dominguez did not handle his Sicilian well, especially after feeling the pressure that he needed to play for a win. While it seemed to be the Indian team's fairy tale, the young Uzbek team stole the show by finishing 19 out of 22 points, with eight wins and three draws, against India 2, India 1, and USA. The Uzbekistan team, played consistently the entire event and one cannot just name one player as their hero. It was an extraordinary team effort and they were recognized as national heroes on their way back home. The Armenians proved that team spirit is the greatest asset at the Chess Olympiad. After losing Aronian, who immigrated to the US, and not having their best second and third rated players, the Armenian team fought valiantly and only got bested by the Uzbek team in tiebreak. Similar to the Uzbekistan team, the Armenia played well as a team and came strong every round! The Indians would have won the event had Gukesh not blundered his winning advantage against Abdusattorov. That being said, the outcome of this Olympiad only shows that there is no country for old men in chess and team events! The event was well-received and the players and delegates made positive note and comment on the event. Let us hope the standard becomes a benchmark for future events! Dear readers, I hope you will enjoy my selection of the games from this event! Gukesh's fantastic performance almost got the gold medal for the Indian youngsters. Although their fairy tale ended with "just a bronze", Gukesh and Indian youngsters showed that we are experiencing a new shift in the world powerhouse map. This win against Sargissian is a good example of his rampant play in this event, which yielded the Indian phenomen a great result.' **1.d4** Moradiabadi,Elshan **1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qa4+** Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'Gukesh has a lot of experience in this position.' **5...Nc6**

(Diagram)



6.e3 Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'This is a safer choice. He has tried the more risky line earlier in the event against the regular member of top 10 club in the past 15 years, Levon Aronian.'

[6.a3 Moradiabadi,Elshan Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Ne4 8.Bf4 Nxc3 9.Qc2 Ne4 10.h4⩲ Gukesh,Dommaraju 2578 - Aronian,Levon 2781, chess24.com (Internet-rapid) 2021]

6...0-0 7.Bd2

[The game continuation bears resemblance to the line 7.Qc2 Re8 8.Bd2 Bf8 9.a3 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 *(* It is slightly more popular to start with *11...Nxf3+ 12.gxf3 Nxd5* which allows some additional options such as 13.Bd3 and 13.h4, but also avoids Le Quang's 12. Nxe5 against Navara. *)*

A) 12.Nxe5 Rxe5 13.e4 was a nice piece of preparation in Le Quang - Navara, Prague 2022.

A1) 13...c6 14.Be2 Nf6 *(14...Nxc3 15.Bxc3 Re8 16.0-0* is another plausible variation for both sides. White looks slightly better, but Black has some counterplay with their queenside pawns. *)* 15.Bf4 Re8 16.Rd1 Qa5 17.0-0 looks more comfortable for White.;

A2) 13...Nxc3 14.Bxc3 At this point Navara chose the most natural retreat 14...Re8, which had also occurred twice before in practice. In fact, it was an inaccuracy! The best move according to my engine is 14... Rc5, although 14...Re6 is also OK. Amusingly, the engine prefers both 14...Rh5 and 14... Rg5 to Navara's retreat. Re8?! *(14...Rc5! 15.Bd3 Bd6* The rook move to c5 causes some inconveniences to White, while b2-b4 would only help Black. *16.Qe2 Qg5 17.0-0 Bg4 18.f3 Be6 19.Bd4 Qh6 20.g3 Rc6* My guess is that whichever side has done their homework would be happy with their position. If both sides are familiar with this position, I guess it will be a draw!*)* 15.Bd3 Bd6 16.0-0-0 Qg5+ 17.Kb1 Be5 18.h4 Qf6 19.Bxe5 Qxe5 20.Qc1 Be6 21.f4 Qa5 22.Bc2± 1-0 (48) Le,Q (2709)-Navara,D (2681) Prague 2022;

B) 12.0-0-0 Nxf3 13.gxf3]

7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bd6 9.Qc2 e5 Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'Theory claims simple equality here but Gukesh have other things in mind.' **10.dxe5 Nxe5** Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'Diagram

(Diagram)

' **11.Be2!?** Entering a line in which absolutely everything is "0.00", but with some extra knowledge of the positions beforehand, the OTB advantage often remains! Here I have provided some good alternatives for Black that more or less nullify the idea for Ragozin players. Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'A rare move.'

[11.Nxe5 Bxe5 was covered in Mamedyarov,S - Aronian,L, Bucharest 2021. Gukesh himself had a rapid game in this line which continued 12.0-0 b6 13.f4 Bd6 *(13...Bxc3* (Moradiabadi,Elshan) Gelfand,Boris 2676 - Leko, Peter 2663, chess24.com (Int.-m/2-rapid) 2020 - 145/126*)* 14.Be2 Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'N' *(14.h3* Moradiabadi,Elshan*)* 14...Bb7 15.Bf3 Bxf3 16.Rxf3 Qd7 17.e4 Rad8 18.Be1 Bb4 19.e5 Nd5 20.Nxd5 Qxd5 21.Bxb4 Qd4+ 22.Rf2 Qxb4 23.Qxc7 Rd2 24.Qc3 Qxc3 25.bxc3 Rd3 26.Rc1 Rc8 27.Rfc2 Rc4 28.g3 h6 Moradiabadi, Elshan: ' ⩲' Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'Gukesh,Dommaraju 2684 - Le,Quang Liem 2722, Biel (rapid) 2022' 29.Kf2 g5 30.Ke2 Rd5 31.Ke3 Kg7 32.Rb2 Rdc5 33.Rd2 Rxc3+ 34.Rxc3 Rxc3+ 35.Ke4 Ra3 36.f5 Kf8 37.f6 Ke8 38.Kd5 b5 39.Kd6 b4 40.Kc7 Rc3+ 41.Kd6 a5 42.Rd5 a4 43.Rb5 Rd3+ 44.Kc6 b3 45.axb3 Rc3+ 46.Kd6 Rd3+ 47.Kc6 Rc3+ 48.Kd5 axb3 49.Rb8+ Kd7 50.Kd4 Rf3 51.Ke4 g4 52.Rb6 h5 53.Kd5 Kc7 54.Rb4 Rd3+ 55.Ke4 Rf3 56.Kd5 Rd3+ 57.Kc4 Re3 58.Kd4 Rf3 59.Rb5 Kc6 60.Rb8 Kc7 61.Rb5 Kc6 62.Rb4 Kc7 63.Kd5 Rd3+ 64.Ke4 Rf3 65.Kd4 Kc6 1/2-1/2 (65) Gukesh, D (2684)-Le,Q (2722) Biel 2022]

11...Nxf3+ Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'N?!''Not the best novelty. Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'N?!"

[Another playable move, among many, was 11...c6 12.0-0-0 Qe7 13.Nd4 Rd8 and the position is unclear. White's best bet is probably 14.f3. 14.h3 Moradiabadi,Elshan Bb4∞ seems easier.]

[11...Qe7 was a good, flexible choice in a previous game. 12.Nd4 *(12.0-0-0 a5⇄)* 12...c5 13.Nf5 Bxf5 14.Qxf5 Play was good up to this point, but here Black erred with Ng6?! 0-1 (29) Kjartansson,G (2456)-Sebenik,M (2534) Heraklion 2017 *(14...c4!? 15.0-0 Rfd8 16.Ne4 Nxe4 17.Qxe4 Nd3 18.Qxe7 Bxe7* is comfortably equal for Black since *19.Bc3* is met with *Nxb2 20.Bxb2 Rd2=; 14...Rad8∞)* 15.h4±]

12.gxf3! a6 Most logical. **13.0-0-0 b5 14.Rhg1 b4** Moradiabadi,Elshan: '?!''This is too much, now White has an easy task of mobalizing his play in the centre and on the kingside. Moradiabadi, Elshan: '?!"

[I prefer 14...Qe7 as played in the game 1-0 Zhao,J (2625)-Xu,Y (2516)

Liaocheng 2021. Even without being prompted, White chose

A) 15.e4 was better. White opens up the diagonal for the dark-squared bishop.

A1) 15...Bb7 is a less forcing continuation. 16.Bg5∞ *(16.Bh6?! g6* gives Black excellent compensation if White should take the exchange. *17.Bxf8?! Rxf8∓)* 16...Qe6 Moradiabadi,Elshan 17.Kb1 Rfe8∞;

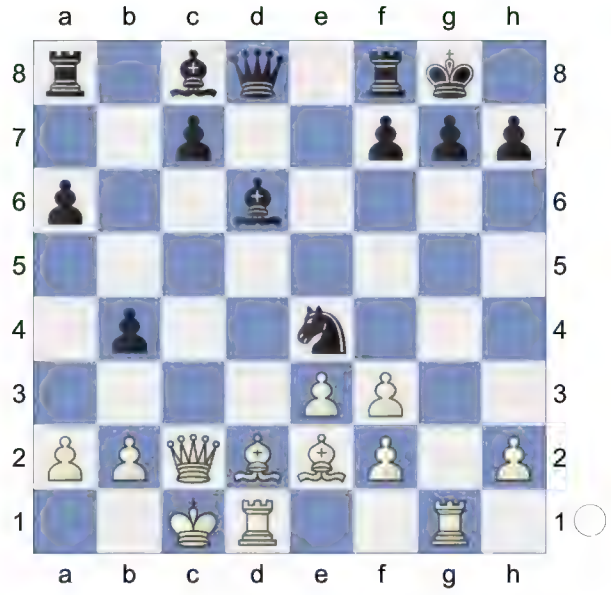
A2) 15...b4 16.Bh6! bxc3 This looks incredibly scary for Black but objectively it holds up. *(16...g6 17.Bxf8 Kxf8 18.Na4∞* If the knight could not jump to this active post, Black would be better. Here Black has enough compensation but no more. *)*

A2a) Perhaps more dangerous for Black would be 17.Rxg7+ Kh8 18.Qxc3 Qe5 The human choice. *(*The engine prefers *18...Bb7 19.Rg5 Rg8 20.Rf5 Rg6 21.Be3 Bb4* but White still has compensation with either 22. Qd4, 22.Qc4 or 22.Qb3 which is enough for me to search for a more practical option.*)* 19.Qxe5 Bxe5 20.Rgg1 Rg8 21.f4 Rxg1 22.Rxg1 Ng8! 23.Rxg8+ Kxg8 24.fxe5 Here it is safe to say that Black has equalised, although it is noteworthy that the engine gives White the "better side" of equality.;

A2b) 17.Bxg7 Bg4! 18.Bh6 Kh8 19.fxg4 Rfb8 20.b3 a5 Black holds on by a miracle and even creates some chances on the queenside. White can choose between 21. Bc4 a4 22.Rd3 or the more concrete solution 21.Rxd6 cxd6 22.Qxc3 a4 23.g5 axb3 24.Qxf6+ Qxf6 25.gxf6=;

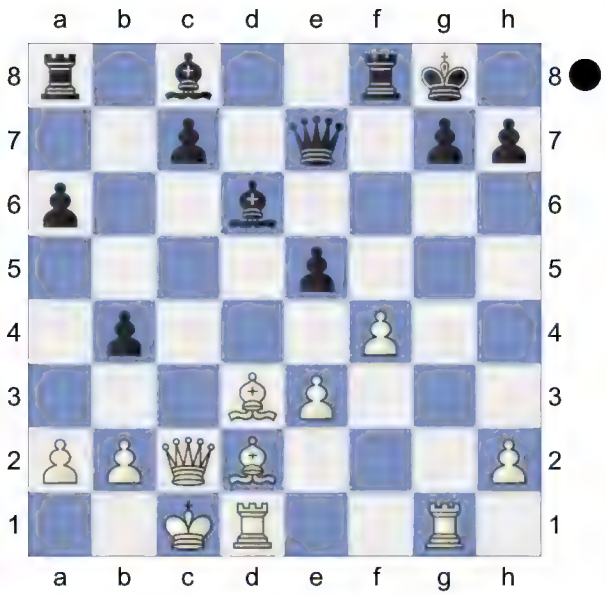
B) 15.Ne4 but this was not quite correct in view of 15...Nxe4 16.fxe4 1-0 (33) Zhao,J (2625)-Xu,Y (2516) Liaocheng 2021 Bb7 17.Bd3 Rfe8 18.e5 *(18.f3* Moradiabadi,Elshan *g6∓)* 18...Bxe5 19.Bxh7+ Kf8 20.Bc3 Rad8↑ and White has some coordination issues.]

15.Ne4 Nxe4



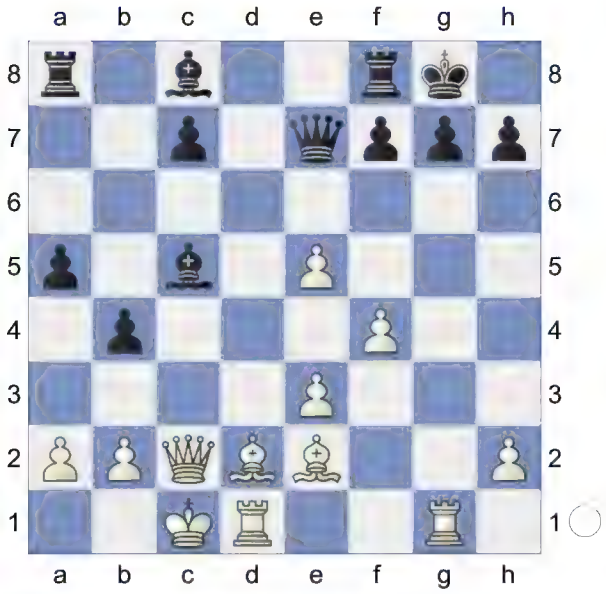
16.fxe4 Qe7 17.f4 a5? Moradiabadi, Elshan: '?!''White has a dangerous initiative. Moradiabadi,Elshan: '?!"

[17...f6= was necessary, but the position already looked a little bit dangerous. For example, White can play 18.Bd3 followed by 19.e5 or 18. Rg3 to double the rooks. 18.e5 Moradiabadi,Elshan fxe5 This is not fun to play after 19.Bd3 because now the only path to a draw is the engine-like play Diagram



Kh8! 20.Bxh7 exf4 21.exf4 Bxf4 22.Rde1 Bxd2+ 23.Qxd2 Qd6=]

18.e5 Bc5 Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'Diagram



' **19.Rg5** Obviously White should be looking to attack the opponent's king but Gukesh did not find the most efficient way. Moradiabadi,Elshan: '?!'

[The most natural continuation to me was 19.Qe4 but it is not so clear how to create progress after Ba6 20.f5 g6 21.Bxa6 Rxa6 22.Qf4± (Moradiabadi, Elshan) wasn't convincing enough for Gukesh but the engines love it.]

[Perhaps the most promising move is 19.h4!? Clearly increasing the pressure against the opponent's king. Kh8 20.h5 Bb7 21.h6 gxh6 22.Bc4± and Black is under considerable pressure.]

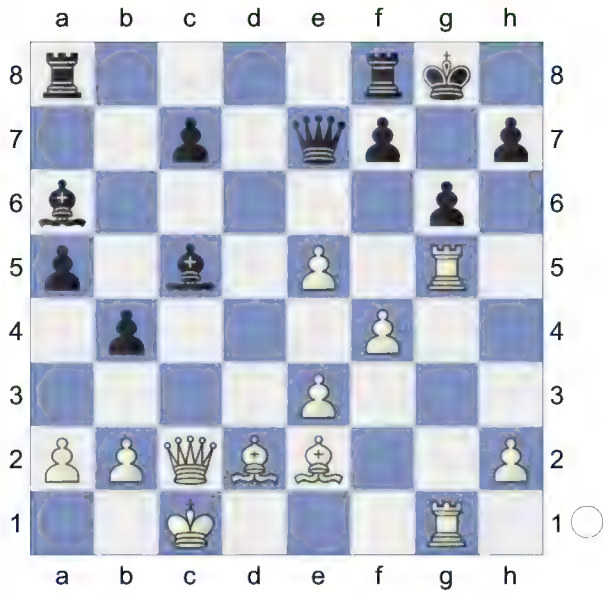
19...Ba6

[19...g6 is slightly preferred by the engine, and somehow it is even able to equalise: 20.h4 a4!⇄]

20.Rdg1

[Another good idea was 20.Bf3 Rad8 21.Be4! g6 22.h4 Black is able to equalise only with the very precise solution Qe6! 23.h5 Be7 24.Rgg1 f5! *(24...Qxa2?? 25.hxg6+-* Black has no counterattacking prospects in this version.*)* 25.exf6 Bxf6∞ The point is that after 26.hxg6 Qxa2 Black has tangible counterchances against the enemy king.]

20...g6

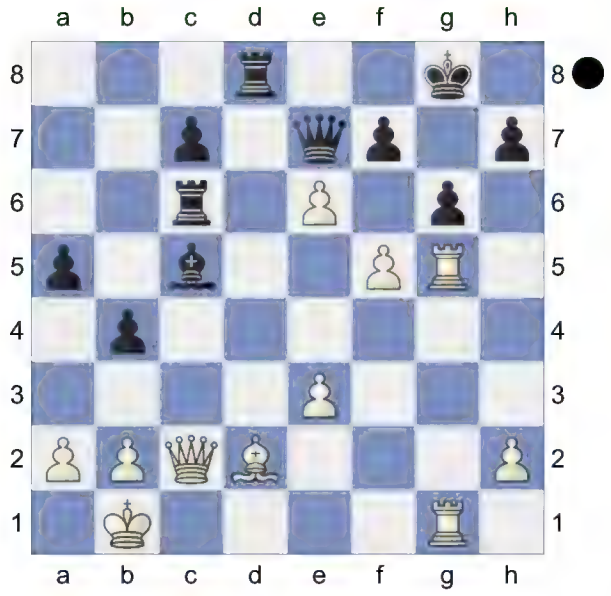


21.Bxa6

[21.Bc4!? Bxc4 22.Qxc4 also looked promising, but once again Black has adequate resources to defend.]

21...Rxa6 22.f5 Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'Gukesh goes full-steam but now Sargissian had a miraculous draw which he missed.' **22...Ba7??** 'Moradiabadi, Elshan: "?"

[The only move was 22...Rc6 23.Kb1 and here there are two moves which survive, both of which are hard to convince yourself to play: Qe8! This is the more natural defence, but it also looks too passive. I thought White would be much better after a move like *(23...Qd7??* loses to *24.e6 fxe6 25.fxe6!* and the bishop on c5 hangs. If *Qe7* White has a decisive attack with *26.h4;* The other solution was the calm *23...Rd8! 24.e6* Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'Diagram



' *fxe6* Moradiabadi,Elshan: '!!' *25.fxg6 h6 26.R5g2* Moradiabadi,Elshan *Qf6* No one in his/her right mind would enter this position thinking of it as equal but the engines believe it is just equal! *27.Rc1 Rdd6 28.g7 Qf7 29.Qd1 e5 30.e4 h5=* It might be a draw for an engine but could be lost at any point for Black.*)* 24.Qe4 but Black is able to bring another defender near the king in an elegant way: Be7! *(24...Qd7?? 25.e6! fxe6 26.fxg6 h6 27.Rh5! Qxd2 28.g7 Rd8 29.Rxh6+-)* 25.R5g2 *(* The only retreat which prevents ... Bf6 is *25.R5g4* but Black has a secondary resource *Qd7!* Hitting the bishop on d2 and planning ...Rd8 next. If *26.e6 fxe6 27.fxg6 h6* The position is unclear. White is not transferring a rook to the h-file while Black's pieces are well-coordinated.*)* 25...Bf6!∞]

23.e6?? Moradiabadi,Elshan: '?!'

[White should have played the prophylactic 23.Kb1+- Nullifying ... Qc5 which would have forced the trade of queens. Black simply has no defence. White has ideas of e5-e6 or simply transferring the white queen to the attack with 24.Qc4. If Moradiabadi, Elshan: '!' Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'is winning according to the engines.' Rd8 24.e6 Moradiabadi,Elshan: '- and now this is winning!' fxe6 25.fxg6 h6 26.Rh5+-]

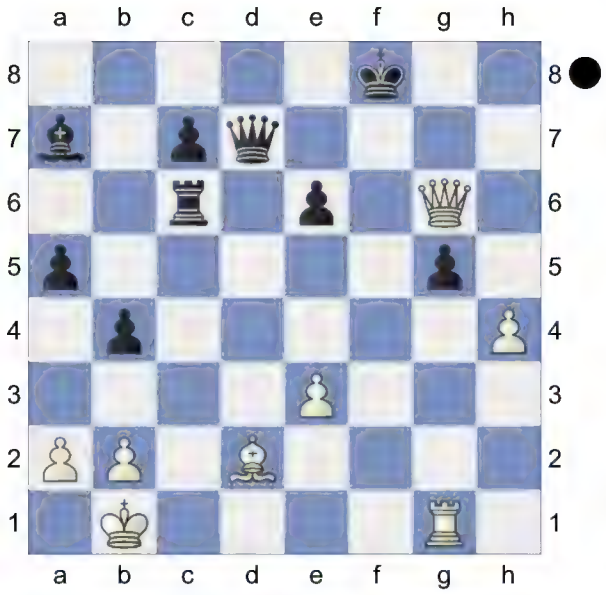
23...Kh8?? Not a great waiting move as Black will 'It's all over now. Moradiabadi, Elshan: "?" never be able to take on e6 without disastrous consequences (... fxe6 would be met with fxg6 and White threatens g7+). Moradiabadi,Elshan: '?'

[There was no time for waiting. Black needed to face the complications head first with 23...fxe6! 24.fxg6 h6

A) 25.Rh5 Rf2! is a key defence. *(25...Rf5!?)*;

B) 25.g7 hxg5 26.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 27.h4 Qd7! Black has just enough counterplay to be OK. 28.Kb1 Moradiabadi,Elshan Rc6 29.Qg6 Diagram

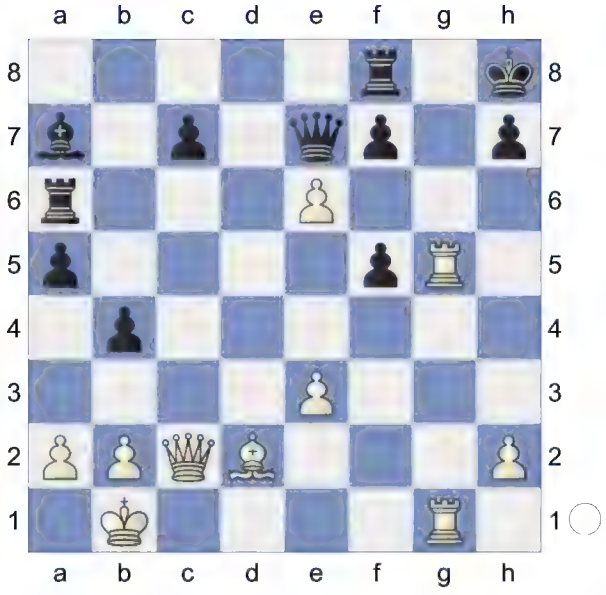
(Diagram)



Rc5!!∞ Finding these moves is almost impossible!]

24.Kb1+- Moradiabadi,Elshan: '!'

24...gxf5 'Gukesh finds the simple tactic and wraps it all up! Diagram

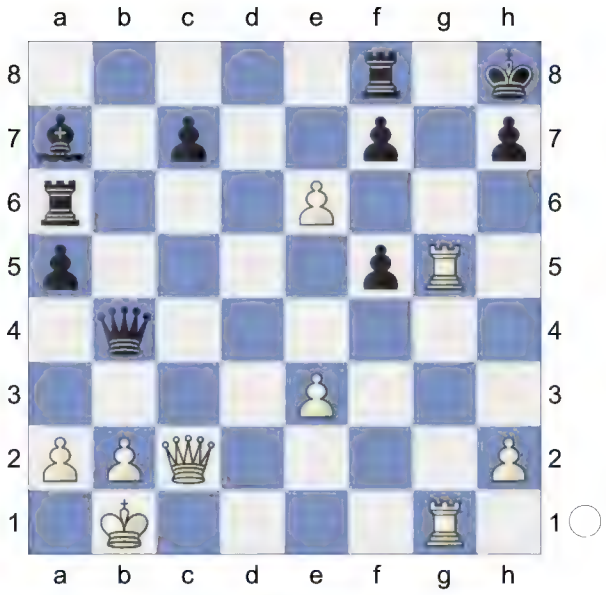


Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'Diagram [#]''

25.Bxb4! 'Moradiabadi,Elshan: '!"

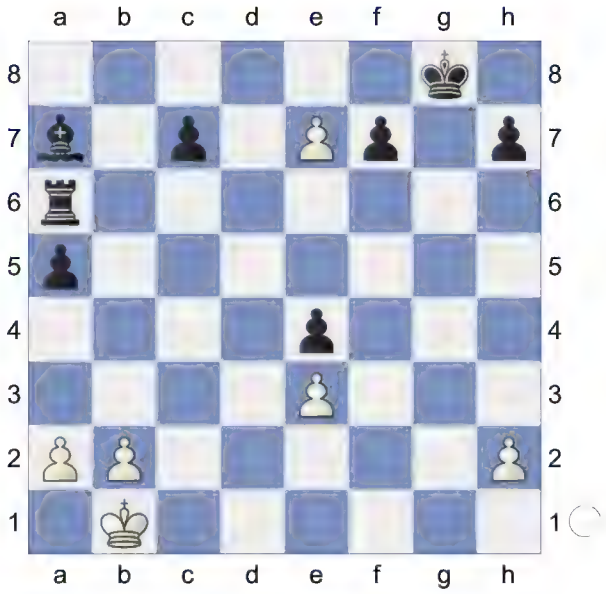
25...Qxb4

(Diagram)



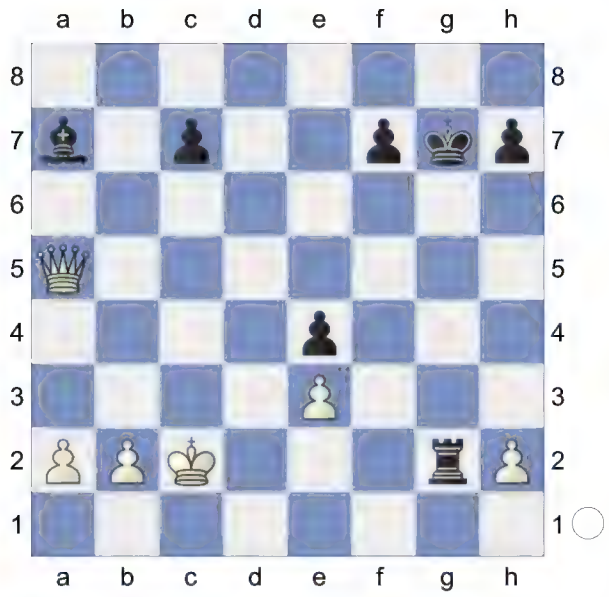
26.Qg2 Moradiabadi,Elshan: '+-'

26...Qe4+ 27.Qxe4 fxe4 28.e7 Re8 29.Rg8+! G a m e o v e r . **29...Rxg8 30.Rxg8+ Kxg8**

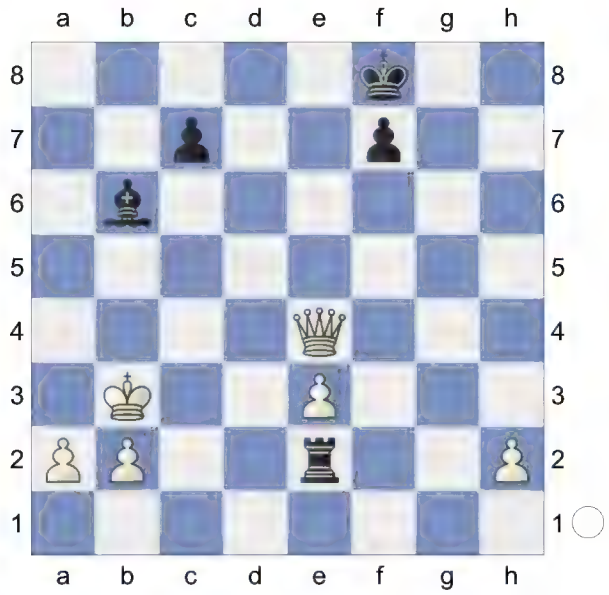


31.e8Q+ Kg7 32.Qe5+ Rf6 33.Qg5+ Rg6 34.Qxa5 Rg1+ 35.Kc2 Rg2+

(Diagram)

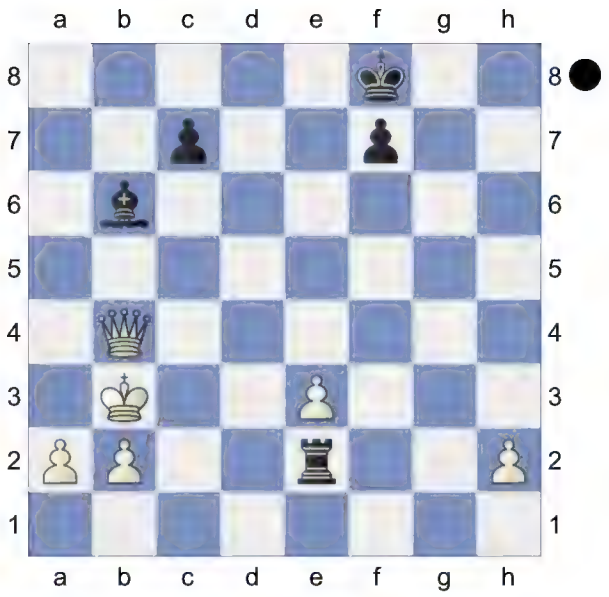


36.Kb3 Bb6 37.Qe5+ Kf8 38.Qh8+ Ke7 39.Qxh7 Re2 40.Qxe4+ Kf8



41.Qb4+

(Diagram)



Moradiabadi,Elshan: 'A convincing victory.'

1-0

199 **D50**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2684**

■ **Vocaturo,Daniele** **2616**

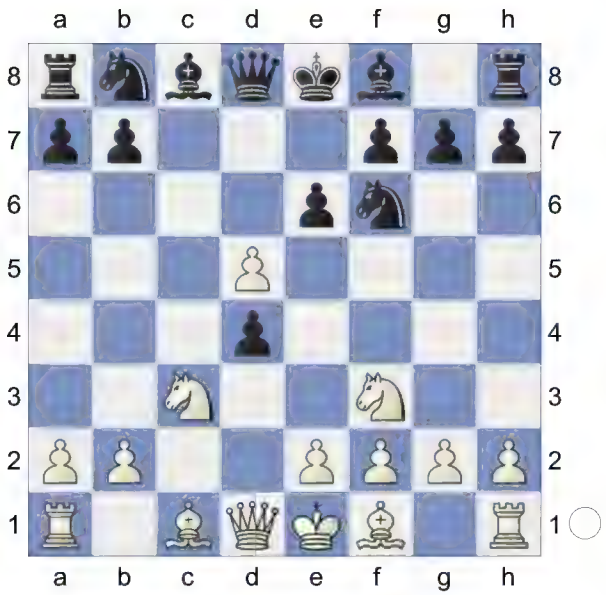
Chess Olympiad | Open (4.1) 01.08.2022

[Justin Tan]

D50: Queen's Gambit Declined: Dutch-Peruvian Gambit

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 cxd4

(Diagram)



6.Qxd4 exd5N

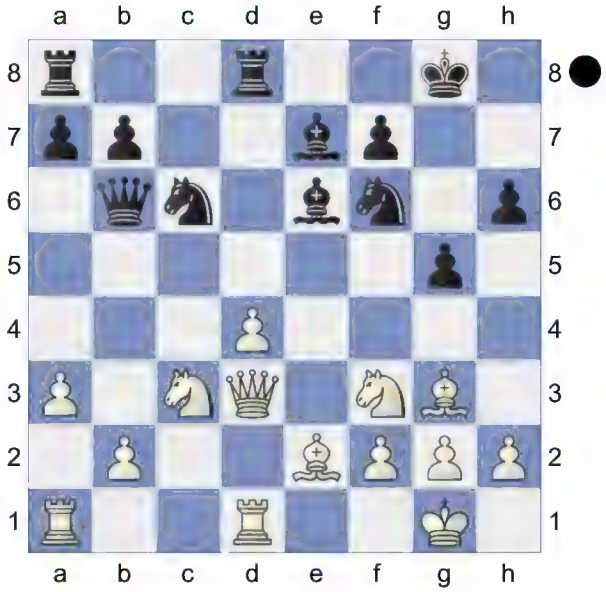
[6...Nxd5 7.e4 Nxc3 8.Qxc3 Nc6

A) 9.a3 Bd7 10.Be2 Rc8 11.0-0 Na5 12.Qd3 Ba4 13.Qxd8+ Rxd8 14.Be3 Nb3 15.Bd1 b5 *(15...a6 16.Bxb3 Bxb3 17.Rac1 Bd6 18.Bb6 Ra8 19.Nd4 Ba4 20.Rc4 Bd7 21.Rd1 0-0 22.e5 Bb5 23.Nxb5 axb5 24.Re4 Be7 25.Rd7 Rfc8 26.g3 Bf8 27.Rxb7* 7.♗d3 ♕h5 8.00-Ilivitzki,G Abu Dhabi Masters op 2001*)* 16.Bxb3 Bxb3 17.Rfc1 e5 18.Nxe5 a6 19.Nc6 1-0 Buchicchio,G (2795)-Baklan,N (2625) corr MN/75 ICCF 1999 (8);

B) 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.0-0 Qb6 11.a4 Qc5 12.Qd3 Qd6 13.Qe2 a6 14.Rd1 Qc7 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Bg5 h6 17.Be3 Bd6 18.a5 Qe7 19.Bb6 0-0 20.Nd4 Rfc8 21.Nxc6 (28) 7.Bd3 Qh5 8.00-Rodriguez,L Abu Dhabi Masters op 2001 Rxc6 22.Rac1 Rac8 23.Rxc6 Rxc6 24.g3 Bc7 25.Bxc7 Qxc7 26.Qd2 Qe5 27.Qb4 Qc7 28.Qd2 Qe5 7.♗d3 ♕h5 8.00-Rodriguez,L Abu Dhabi Masters op 2001]

7.Bg5 Be7 8.e3 0-0 9.Rd1

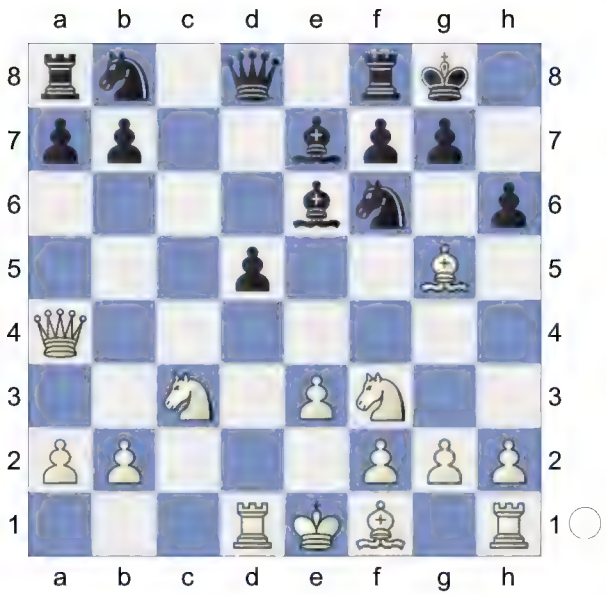
[9.Be2 was seen in Grischuk - Deac, Bucharest 2021 (in the archives). After Nc6 10.Qd3 h6 11.Bh4 Be6 12.0-0 Qb6 13.a3 Rfd8 14.Rfd1 1-0 Grischuk,A - Deac,B, Bucharest 2021, Deac missed the chance to play d4! 15.Nxd4 *(15.exd4? -1.08/21 15.Nxd4 0.00 g5! 16.Bg3*



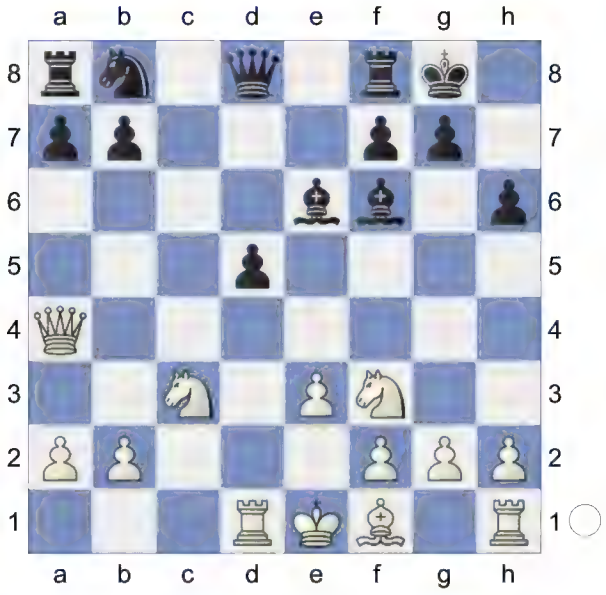
g4! 17.Ne5 Nxd4∓) 15...Nxd4 16.exd4 Rac8!⩱ when it is White who is slightly on the back foot.]

9...Be6 10.Qa4 I am not convinced that this was preparation as it was played after a 7-minute think. Nevertheless, it made for an interesting game: **10...h6**

(Diagram)



The position is equal. **11.Bxf6 Bxf6**



12.Nxd5! Bxd5 A strong pair of Bishops. **13.Qb5 Bxb2** Deflection **14.Rxd5 Bc3+ 15.Kd1!** It is notable that Gukesh had evaluated this to be playable for White, showing a dynamic understanding of king safety which was not previously seen before the era of Stockfish! **15...Qe7**

[15...Qf6 was possible (and probably better) since the pawn on b7 is not really touchable. 16.Bc4 *(Of course not 16.Qxb7?? Nc6-+* which would leave the white king in serious danger. *)* 16...Na6! Strongly threatening ...Rac8. *(16...Na6!? 17.Rf5 Nc7 18.Rxf6 Nxb5=)* 17.Rf5! Nc7! *(*Also fine is *17...Qe7* 0.34/18 17...Nc7 -0.06 *18.Ke2 Rac8* which is similar to the game.*)* 18.Rxf6 Nxb5 19.Rf4 Nd6 The ending is somewhat double-edged and gives both sides chances to play, so I think Black should be more happy here.]

[15...Qf6 keeps more tension. 16.Bc4 Na6 17.Rf5 Nc7]

16.Bc4 Na6 17.Ke2 Rac8 18.Qb3 Nb4 The most natural continuation, but so was Vocaturo's follow-up, which turned out to be an inaccuracy. **19.Rf5 Bf6** 0.32/19 It was a completely human reaction to block the white rook from the f7-pawn while consolidating the black bishop (indeed, it looked loose on c3). However, this allowed Gukesh to create pressure from another angle.

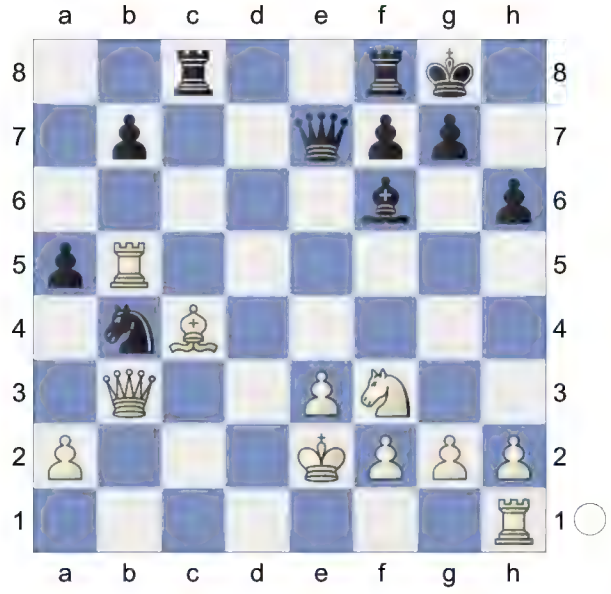
[19...Qc7? 0.61/20 19...Qd7 0.00 20.Rf4! g5 21.Rg4!+-]

[Gukesh has shown very strong practical play. In this position, Black's

most reliable continuation is 19...Qd7! 20.g4 Qc7! with the point that White cannot defend the bishop with 21.Rf4?? -2.46/18 due to (*21.Qxc3 Qxc4+ 22.Qxc4 Rxc4 23.Rd1 Rxg4 24.Rd7=;* *21.Qxc3=* -0.06/26 and White is okay. *Qxc4+ 22.Qxc4 Rxc4 23.Rd1*) 21...g5!-+ and because White was induced to play 20.g4, the white rook does not have an adequate escape square.]

[19...Qd7= -0.04/22 20.g4 (*20.Qxc3 Qxf5 21.Qxb4 Qc2+* Skewer, Double Attack *22.Nd2 Rfd8∓; 20.Rf4 b5∓*) 20...Qc7 21.Qxc3 Qxc4+ (*21...Nxa2 22.Bxf7+* Decoy *Rxf7 23.Qxc7=*) 22.Qxc4 Rxc4]

20.Rb5!± a5



21.Rxa5 Now the position is not trivial at all for Black. **21...Nc6?** 1.01/20

[21...Rc7! was correct. The point is that 22.Rb5 is answered by (*22.Rc1* Hoping for Bxf7+!. *Kh8* The game continues. It is objectively around equal, but I think there is plenty of play left in the position.; *22.Rc1!?*) 22...Na6!=]

[21...Rc7± 0.38/20]

22.Rb5 White is more active. **22...b6 23.Bd5**

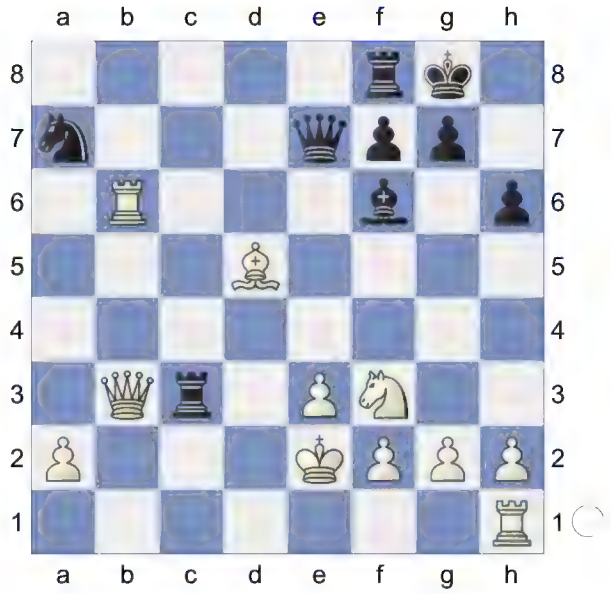
[23.Rxb6 Na5 24.Bxf7+ Qxf7 (*24...Rxf7?* *25.Qb1-+*) 25.Qxf7+ Rxf7-+]

A mistake that costs the game. **23...Na7?** 2.29/20 Now it is easily winning for White.

[23...Na5 24.Qa4 Most likely, Vocaturo didn't find a way to make this work. That's because the best line is Nb7! 25.Rxb6 Qd8! White takes on d5 with the rook, Black takes on d5 with the queen and there's still some realistic hopes to continue fighting. Moves like this are tough to find over the board!]

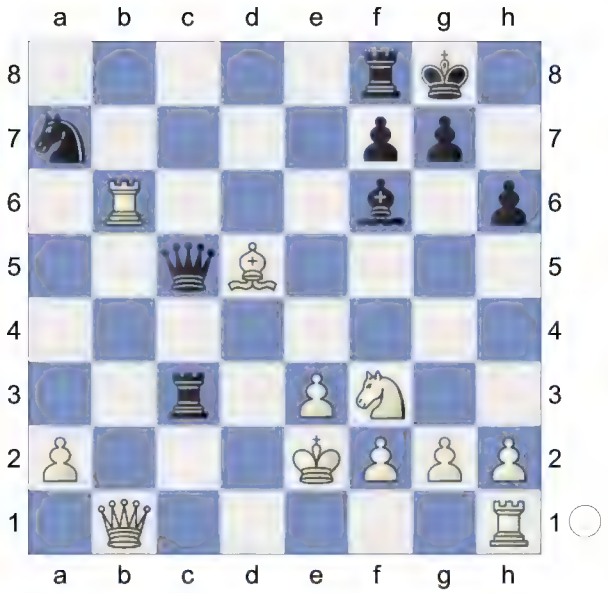
[23...Na5± 0.78/21 24.Qa4 Rfd8]

24.Rxb6+- Rc3



25.Qb1 Qc5

(Diagram)

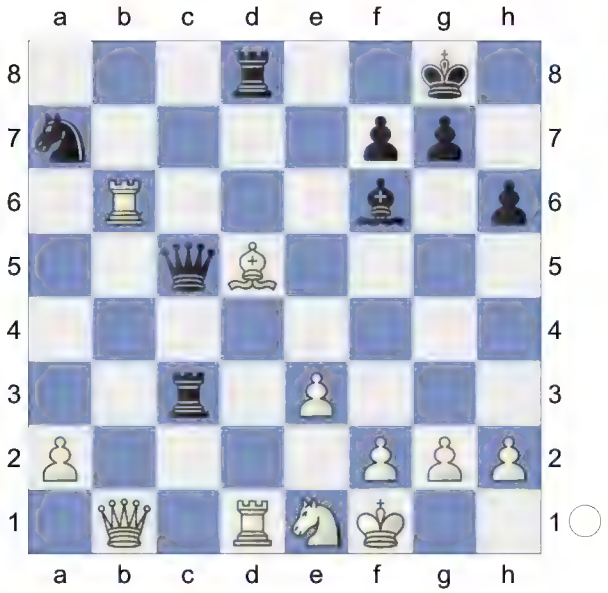


Black tries to make the case that his pieces are active, but both players are aware at this point that there is no hope:

26.Rd1 Rc2+ 27.Kf1 Rd8 28.Ne1

[28.Bxf7+ Kf8 29.Re1 Kxf7+-]

28...Rc3



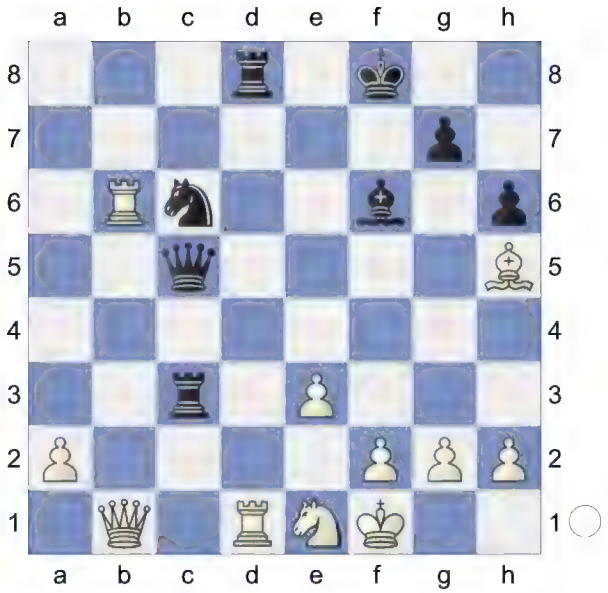
29.Bxf7+ Decoy **29...Kf8**

[29...Kxf7 30.Rxf6+! Kxf6 31.Rxd8]

30.Bh5 White wants to mate with Qg6!.

30...Nc6 5.10/16

[⌓30...Qc4+ 3.53/16 31.Kg1 Rxd1 32.Qxd1 *(32.Bxd1 Rc1±)* 32...Rc1]

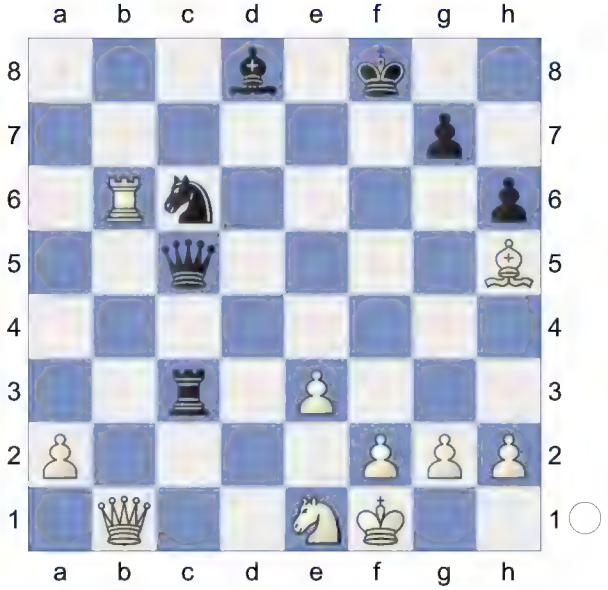


31.Rxd8+

[Not 31.Rxc6 Qxc6 32.Qg6 Qc4+ 33.Kg1 Ke7±]

31...Bxd8? 5.79/23

[31...Nxd8 3.60/18 was called for. 32.Bg6 Be7]



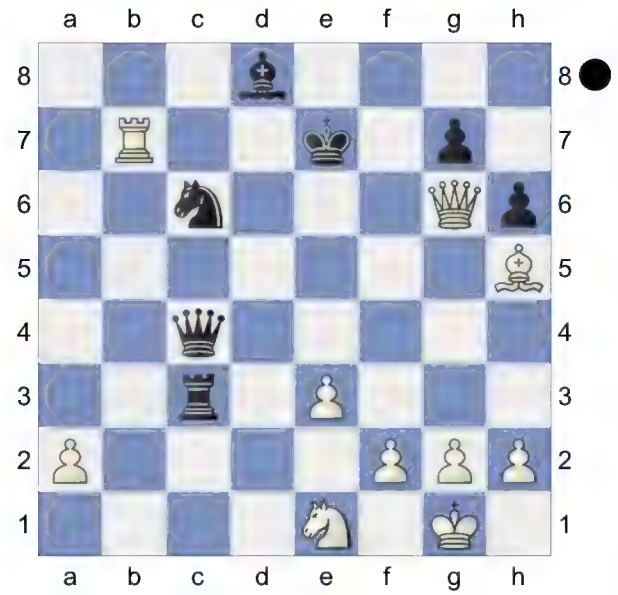
32.Qg6! Qc4+

[32...Qxh5 33.Qxh5]

33.Kg1 Ke7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.63

34.Rb7+



1-0

200 **B31**
Sasikiran,K **2650**
Gukesh,Dommaraju **2637**
I Sunway Formentera Open (9.1) 7.5.22
[Kitty Kat]

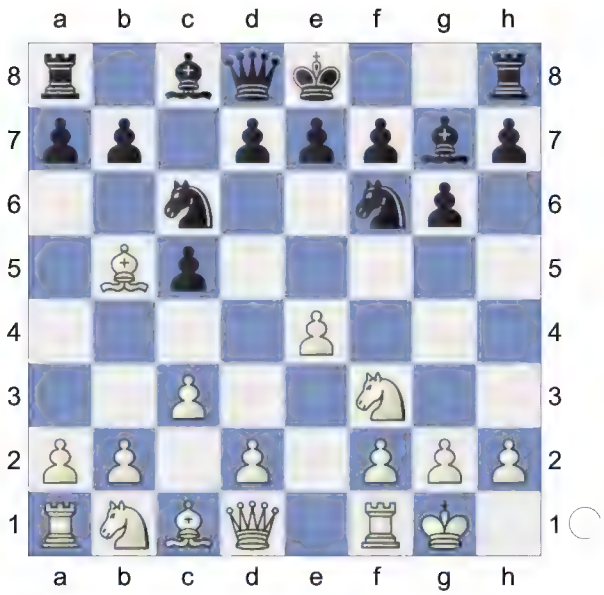
B31: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5 g6
Vasiukov,E: 'Inf 20/370' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5**

[3.c4 e5 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 f5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Ne1 Rb8 12.f4 exf4 13.gxf4 b5 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.Rb1 Bb7 17.b3 Qa8 0-1 (43) Buksa,J (2081)-Jun,R (2200) CZE-ch Amateur 2023 (8)]

3...g6N

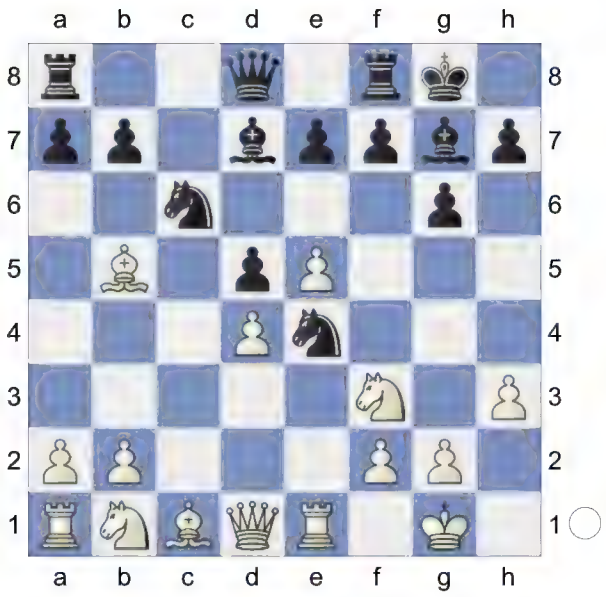
[3...e6 4.d4 Nge7 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.a3 *(11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Qb3 Nb4 13.Rxe7 Qxe7 14.Bxd7 Nxa2 15.Bf5 Nxc1 16.Rxc1 g6 17.Bh3 Rad8 18.g3 Rfe8 19.Ne5 Rd6 20.Rc5 Rb6 21.Qc3 f6 22.Rc7 Qd6 23.Rd7 Qf8 24.Nd3 Rd8 25.Nc5 Qe8* 1-0 (30) Vasiukov,E-Timoscenko,G USSR 20/370 1975) 11...Rc8 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Be4 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Qc7 17.c4 Red8 18.Rad1 1-0 (72) Grischuk,A (2709)-Radjabov,T (2728) World Blitz Rishon Le Zion ISR 2006 (2) Na5 19.c5 Bc6 20.h4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Rd5 22.Bf4 Qd8 23.Bd6 Nc4 24.Bg3 Rcxc5 25.dxc5 Rxd1 26.Qxc4 Rxe1+ 27.Nxe1 Qd1 28.Qf1 Qc1 29.a4 Qxc5 30.Nf3 Kg7 31.Qb5 Qxb5 32.axb5 a6 33.b6 1-0 (72) Hanke,L (2709)-10. ♗c2 c5 11.♘bd2 15267 (2728) NAICCC VIII 9600 1996 (2)]

4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 Nf6

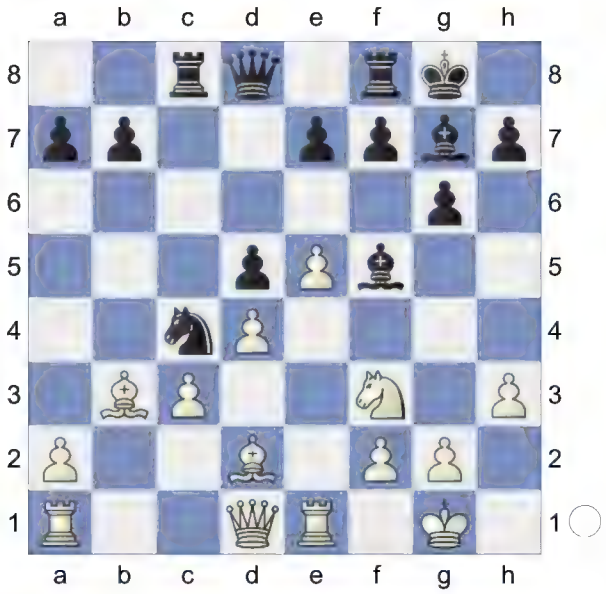


6.Re1 0-0 7.d4 d5 8.e5 Ne4 9.h3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bd7

(Diagram)



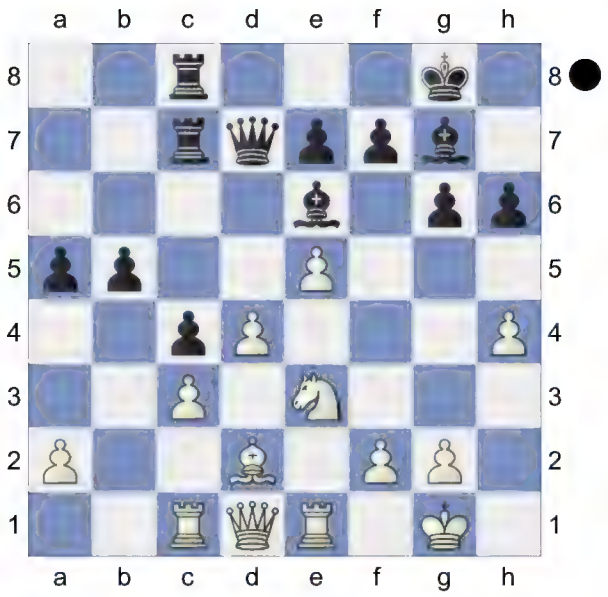
11.Ba4 Rc8 12.Bb3 Bf5 White is slightly better. **13.Nc3 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Na5 15.Bd2 Nc4**



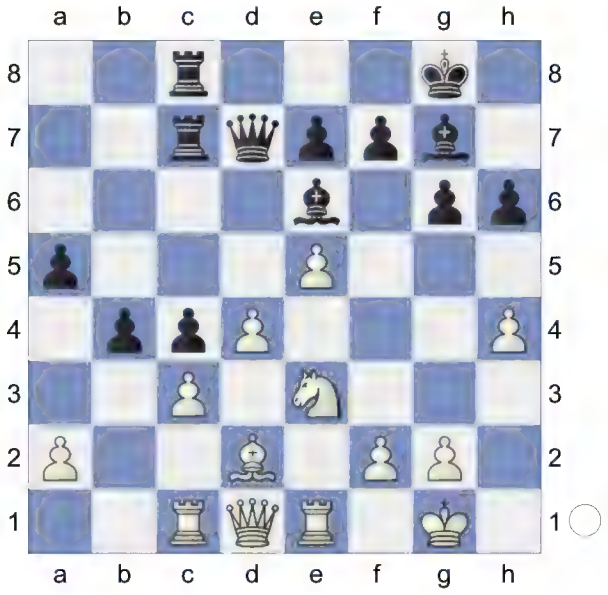
16.Nh4 -0.23/24
[⌓16.Bxc4 0.24/22 dxc4 17.Bg5]
16...Bd7 0.14/23
[⌓16...Nxd2 -0.23/24 17.Qxd2 Be6]
17.Nf3 -0.24/23
[⌓17.Bg5 0.14/23]
17...Bf5 0.19/22
[17...Nxd2 -0.24/23 might be stronger. 18.Qxd2 Qa5]
18.Nh4 -0.33/23
[18.Bxc4= 0.19/22 dxc4 19.Qa4]
18...Bd7 0.12/21
[18...Nxd2!∓ -0.33/23 19.Qxd2 Be6]
19.Nf3 -0.29/25
[⌓19.Bg5 0.12/21]
19...b5 20.Bg5 a5

21.Rc1 Bf5 22.Nh4 Be6 23.Nf3 Qd7 24.Nh2 Rc7 25.h4 h6

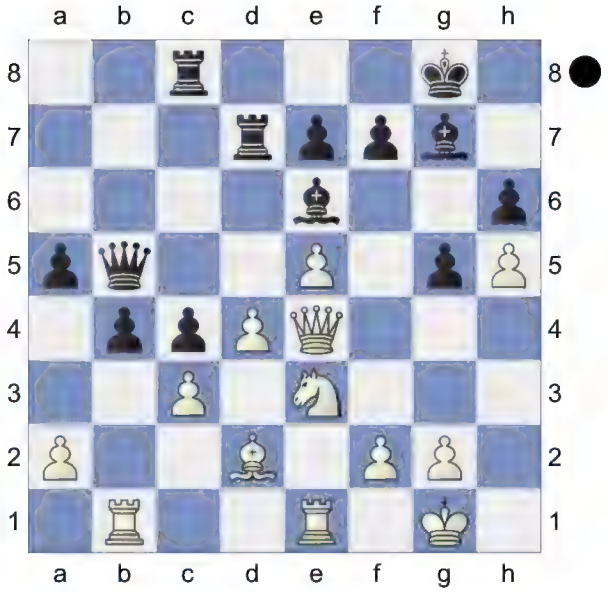
26.Bf4 Rfc8 27.Nf1 Nb6 28.Bd2 Nc4 29.Bxc4 dxc4
[29...bxc4 30.Rb1=]
30.Ne3
(Diagram)



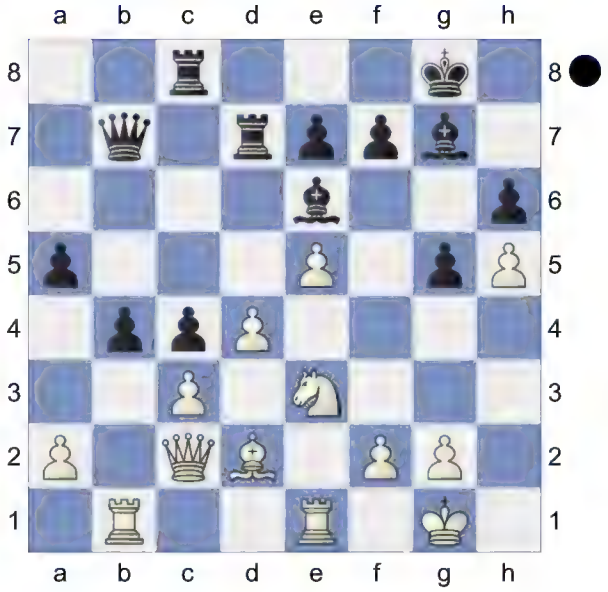
b4!



31.h5
[31.Qf3 Qa4]
31...g5 -0.25/21
[Black should play 31...a4∓ -0.70/21]
32.Qf3= aiming for d5. **32...Qb5**
[32...Bxe5?! 33.d5±]
33.Rb1 -0.70/23
[33.d5= -0.03/23 Bd7 34.Qe4]
33...Rd7 34.Qe4 -1.17/22
[Better is 34.cxb4∓ -0.51/20 c3 *(34...Rxd4 35.bxa5 Qc5 36.Bb4=)* 35.Bxc3 Bxa2 *(35...Rxc3 36.Qa8+ Bf8 37.bxa5∓)* 36.Rb2 Rxc3 37.Rxa2 Qxb4 38.e6 fxe6 39.Qe4]

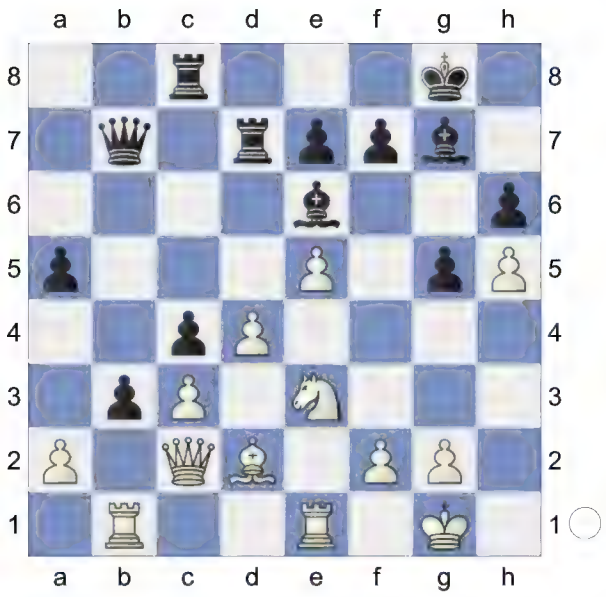


34...Qb7!↑ White is under strong pressure. **35.Qc2**

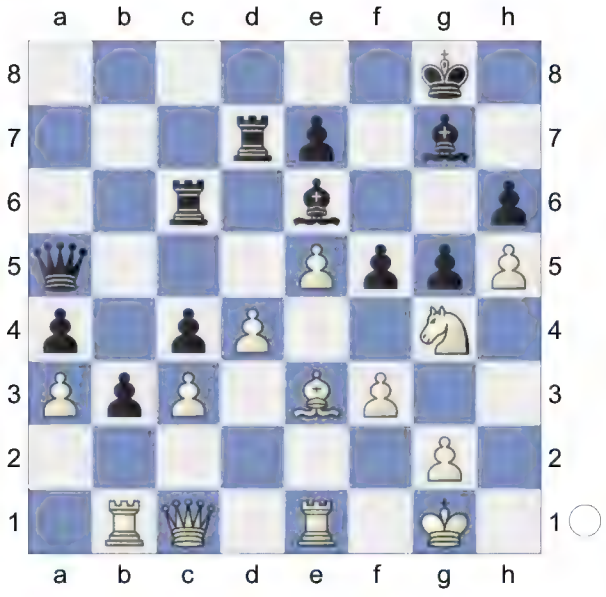


b3!

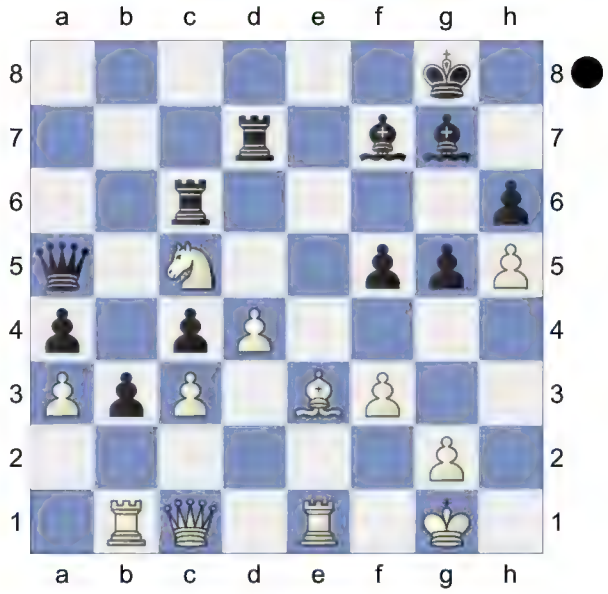
(Diagram)



Black is more active. **36.Qc1** -2.35/20
[36.axb3∓ -1.59/19 cxb3 37.Qd3]
36...a4-+ 37.f3 Qa7 38.Ng4 Rc6? -1.05/17
[38...bxa2 39.Rb2∓]
[38...a3-+ -2.77/19 And now ...Kh8 would win. 39.Bxg5 b2 *(39...hxg5? 40.h6-+; 39...bxa2 40.Ra1∓)*]
Loses the game. **39.Be3?** -2.77/19
[39.Nxh6+∓ -1.05/17 Bxh6 40.Bxg5]
39...Qa5
[39...bxa2 40.Ra1 Bxg4 41.fxg4∓]
40.a3 f5



41.exf6 -3.07/20
[41.Nxh6+ -1.78/19 was the only defense. Bxh6 42.Bxg5]
41...exf6 42.Nf2 Bf7 43.Ne4 f5
[Don't take 43...Bxh5 44.Nc5 Re7 45.f4-+]
44.Nc5



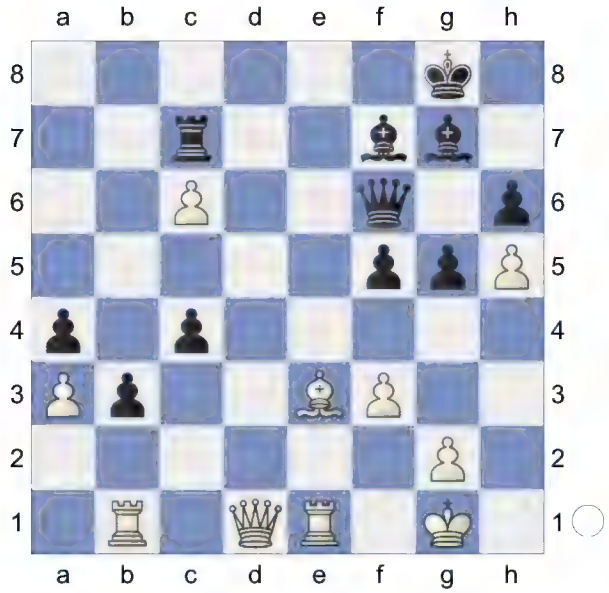
Rxc5 Black is clearly winning. **45.dxc5 Qxc3**
[45...Bxc3 46.Rd1 Rd3 47.Rxd3 cxd3 48.c6∓]

46.c6 Rc7 47.Qd1

Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.16 (very precise)

47...Qf6

[Not 47...Rxc6 48.Qd8+ Kh7 49.Qd7-+]



Prevents Qd8+

0-1

201 **E10**

□ **Heimann,An** **2583**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2637**

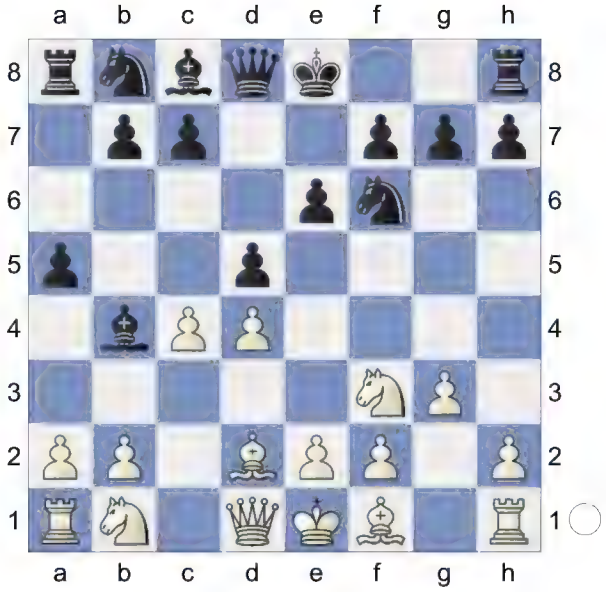
I Menorca Open 2022 (4.3) 22.04.2022

[TA]

E11: Bogo-Indian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 a5N

[5...Bd6 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Qc2 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Rd1 Ne4 10.Nc3 Nxd2 *(10...f5 11.e3 Qe7 12.Ne2 Nxd2 13.Rxd2 Nf6 14.Rdd1 Bd7 15.Nf4 Be8 16.a3 Ne4 17.Ne5 g5 18.Nfd3 h5 19.b4 Kh8 20.f3 Nf6 21.a4 Bxb4 22.Nxb4 Qxb4 23.Rab1 Qe7 24.a5 Rc8 25.cxd5* 1-0 (51) 11...♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2813)-Warlick,J (2727) (m/2) 94/(448) 2005 (6)) 11.Nxd2 f5 12.e3 Nf6 13.c5 Bc7 14.b4 e5 15.dxe5 Bxe5 16.Nf3 Bc7 17.Nd4 Qe7 18.Nce2 Ne4 19.Rac1 g5 20.Re1 ½-½ (39) Santos Usua,M (1898)-Odriozola Coscolin,A (2046) ESP-ch U18 Salobrena 2023 (6) Bd7 21.a4 Rf7 22.Nc3 h5 23.f3 Nxc3 24.Qxc3 Qf6 25.Rcd1 Raf8 26.f4 h4 27.Kf2 Rg7 28.Rg1 Qh6 29.Nf3 g4 30.Nd4 Re7 31.Rde1 Rfe8 32.Re2 h3 33.Bh1 Rf7 34.Rb1 Bc8 35.Qd3 ½-½ (39) Veres,E (1898)-Piekarz,P (2046) FRA-ch Accession 2003 (6)]

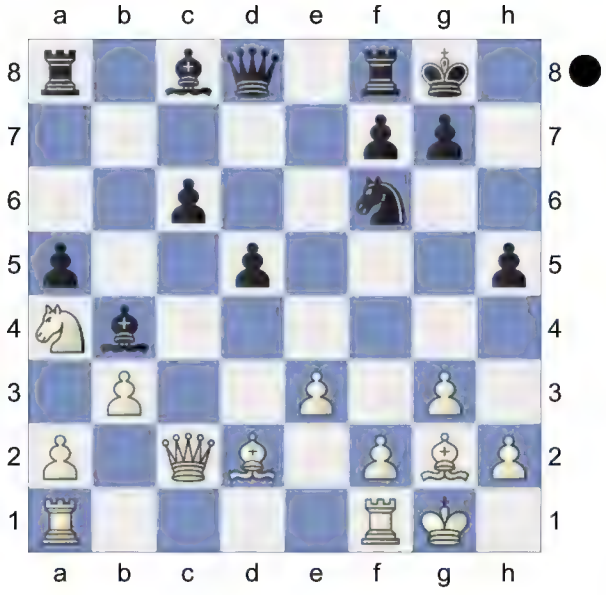


6.Bg2 0-0 7.Qc2 c5 8.cxd5 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Qb6 White has an edge. **10.e3** and dxe6 should not be overlooked **10...exd5**

(Diagram)

11.0-0 Nc6 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nc3 h5 14.Na4 Qd8 15.b3

[15.Qxc6? Bd7 16.Qc2 Bxd2 17.Qxd2 Bxa4-+]



15...h4!

(Diagram)

16.Bxb4

[16.gxh4 Bd6∓]

16...axb4 17.Rfd1 h3 18.Bf3 -0.98/23

[18.Bh1∓ -0.51/19 might be stronger.]

18...Ng4∓ 19.Qxc6 -1.08/21

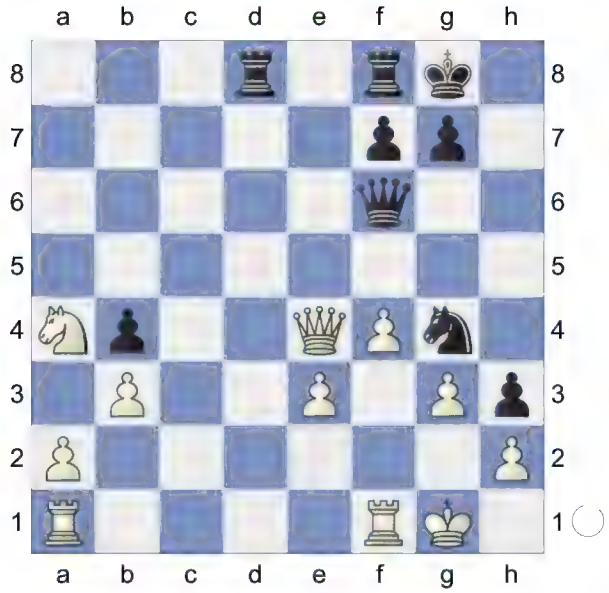
[19.Rd4∓ -0.61/21 Qf6 20.Qd1]

19...Ne5! 20.Qxd5 Qf6

21.Be2 Bg4 22.Bxg4 Nxg4 23.Rf1 Rad8 -0.44/23 Black is more active.

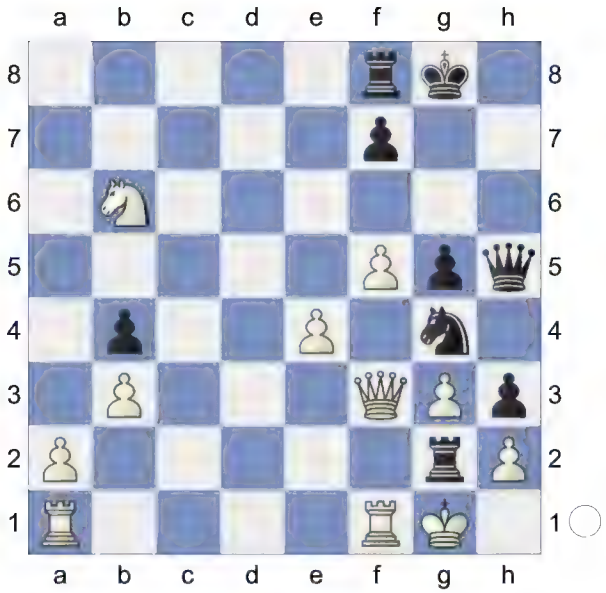
[Black should try 23...Ne5∓ -1.03/22 ...Rad8 is the strong threat. 24.f4 Ng4]

24.Qe4 -1.70/21
[24.Qh5!∓ -0.44/23 Qf3 *(24...Nxf2? 25.Qe2+-)* 25.Qxh3]
24...Ne5!-+ Black has strong compensation.
[Avoid the trap 24...Nxf2? 25.Qc2+-]
25.f4 Ng4↑

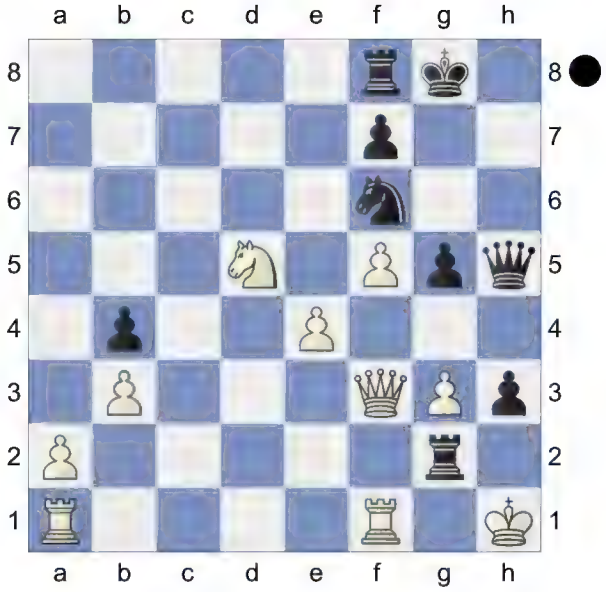


White is under strong pressure. **26.f5 Qg5 27.Qf4 Qh5 28.e4 g5! 29.Qf3** -2.25/22
[29.fxg6∓ -0.68/20 fxg6 30.Rad1]
29...Rd2 30.Nb6 Rg2+
[30...Rxh2 31.Nd5 Rc8 32.Ne7+ *(32.Nxb4 Rd2-+; 32.Nf6+ Nxf6 33.Kxh2 Rc2+ 34.Kh1 Qxf3+ 35.Rxf3 Ng4∓)* 32...Kh8 33.e5= *(33.Nxc8 Rg2+ 34.Kh1 Rh2+ 35.Kg1 Rg2+ 36.Kh1 Rh2+ 37.Kg1=)*]

(Diagram)

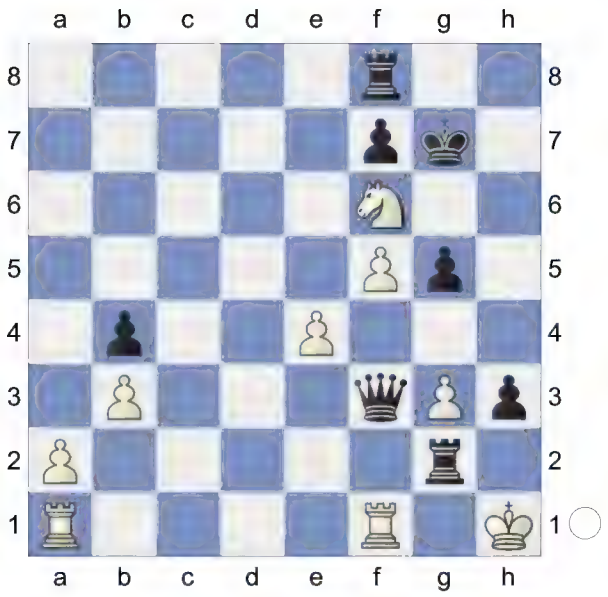


31.Kh1 Rxh2+ 32.Kg1 Rg2+ 33.Kh1 Nf6 34.Nd5

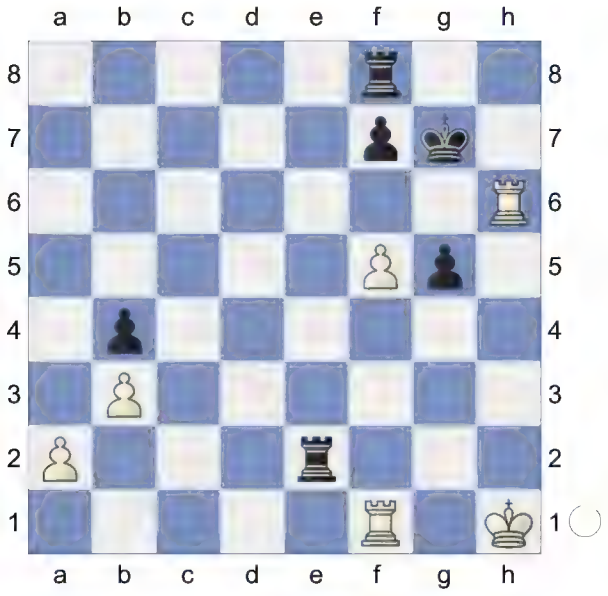


Qxf3! 35.Nxf6+ Kg7

(Diagram)



(-> ...Rf2+) **36.Rxf3 Kxf6** Endgame KRR-KRR. White is a pawn up. **37.g4 Rxg4 38.Rxh3 Rxe4 39.Rf1 Re2 40.Rh6+ Kg7**



41.Rh5 f6

[Weaker is 41...Rxa2 42.Rxg5+ Kf6 43.Rg4∓]

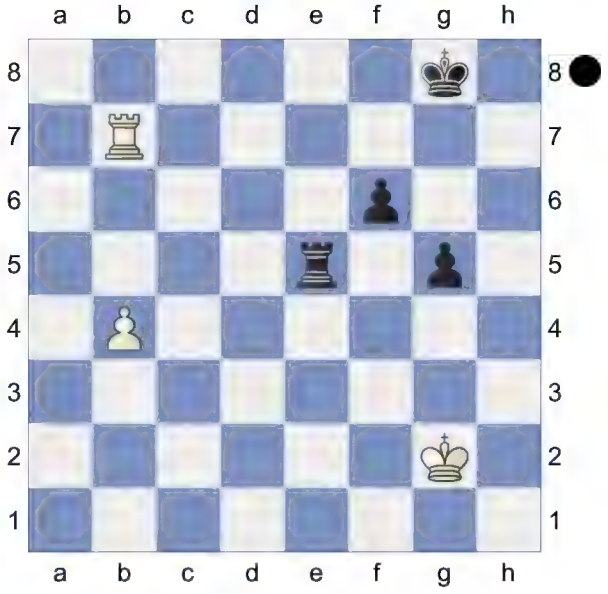
42.Rh2 -4.87/23

[⌓42.Kg1 -3.13/20 Rxa2 43.Rd1]

42...Rh8 43.Rxh8 Kxh8 KR-KR **44.Rc1 Rxa2 45.Rc4 Rf2**

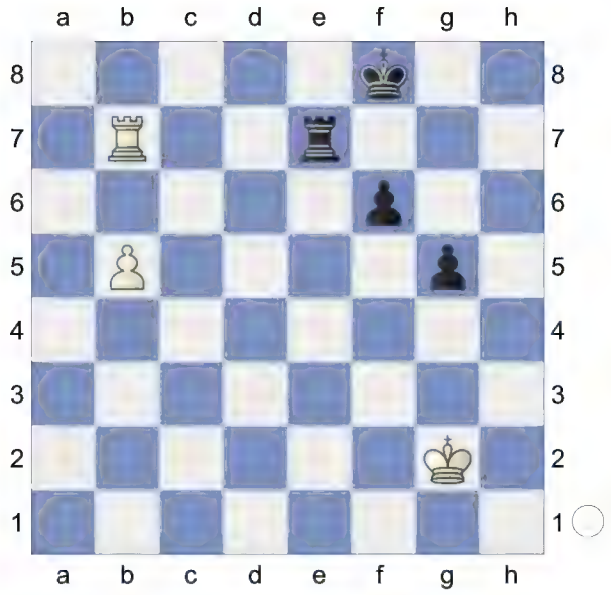
(Diagram)

46.Rxb4 Rxf5 47.Rb7 Kg8 48.Kg2 Re5 49.b4



Kf8! 50.b5 Re7

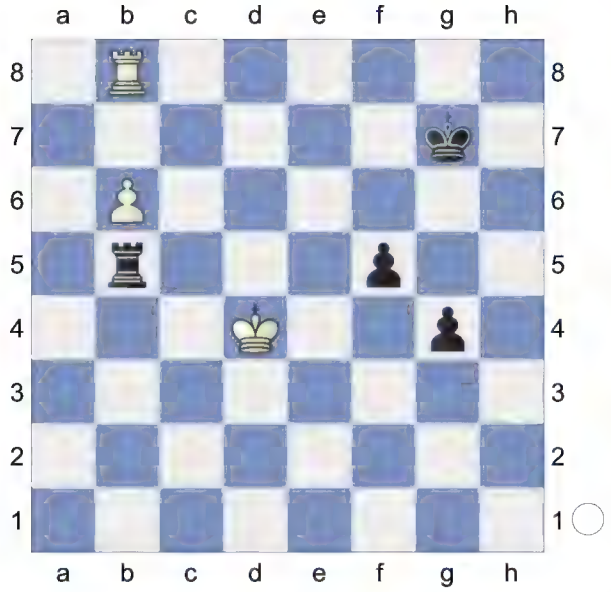
(Diagram)



Inhibits b6. **51.Rb8+ Kg7 52.Kf3 Re5 53.b6** -7.07/22

[⌓53.Kf2 -4.56/21 Re4 54.Rb7+ Kg6 55.b6]

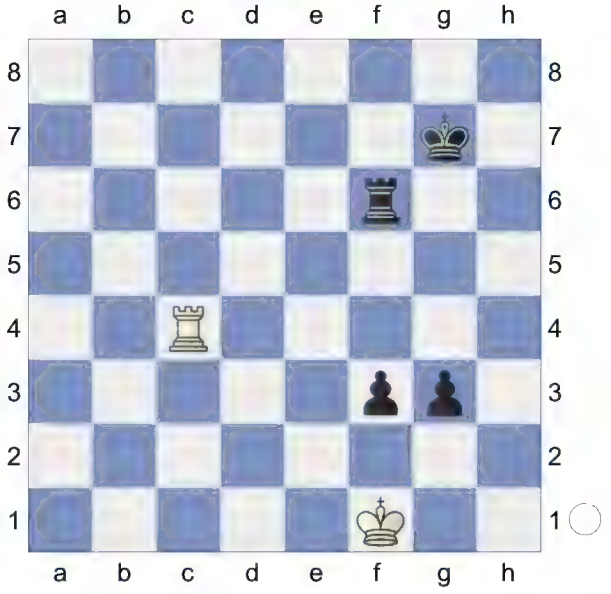
53...Rb5 54.Ke4 f5+ 55.Kd4 g4



56.Rb7+ Kh6 57.Ke3 Rb4 58.Rb8 Kg7 59.b7 f4+ 60.Ke2 Rb2+

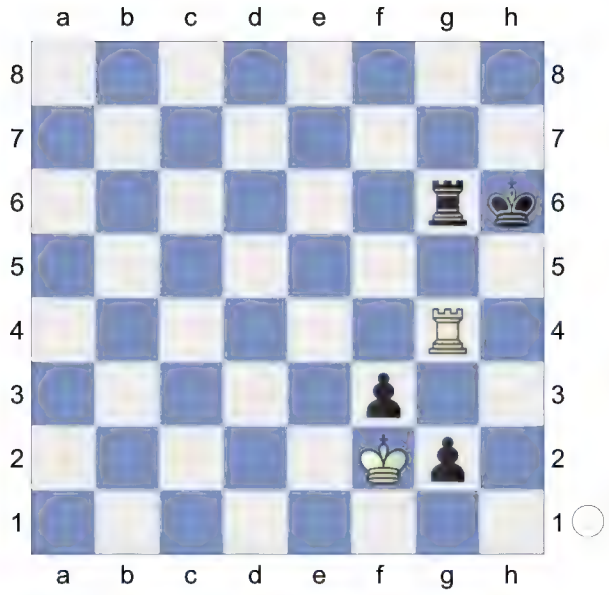
(Diagram)

61.Kf1 g3 (-> ...f3) **62.Rc8 Rxb7 63.Rc4 Rf7 64.Kg2 f3+ 65.Kf1 Rf6**



66.Rg4+ Rg6 Black mates. **67.Rf4 g2+ 68.Kg1 Rf6 69.Rg4+ Kh6 70.Kf2 Rg6**

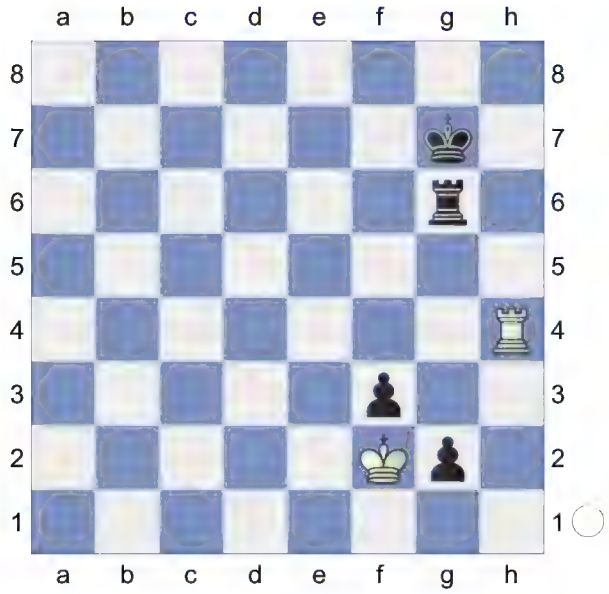
(Diagram)



71.Rh4+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.08 (flawless)

71...Kg7



0-1

202 **B31**

Aronian,Levon **2782**

Gukesh,Dommaraju **2621**

Tata Steel India Blitz (7.5) 20.11.2021

[Kitty Kat]

B31: Sicilian: 2...Nc6 3 Bb5 g6

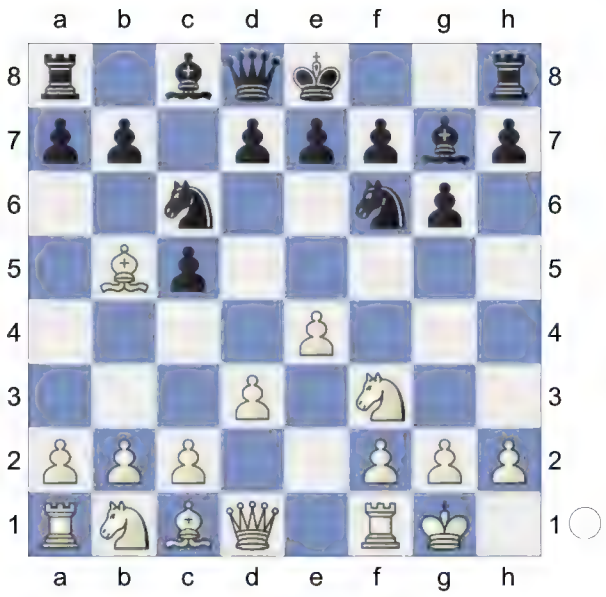
Vasiukov,E: 'Inf 20/370' **1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5**

[3.c4 e5 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nge7 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 f5 10.Qd2 Nd4 11.Ne1 Rb8 12.f4 exf4 13.gxf4 b5 14.Nxb5 Nxb5 15.cxb5 Rxb5 16.Rb1 Bb7 17.b3 Qa8 0-1 (43) Buksa,J (2081)-Jun,R (2200) CZE-ch Amateur 2023 (8)]

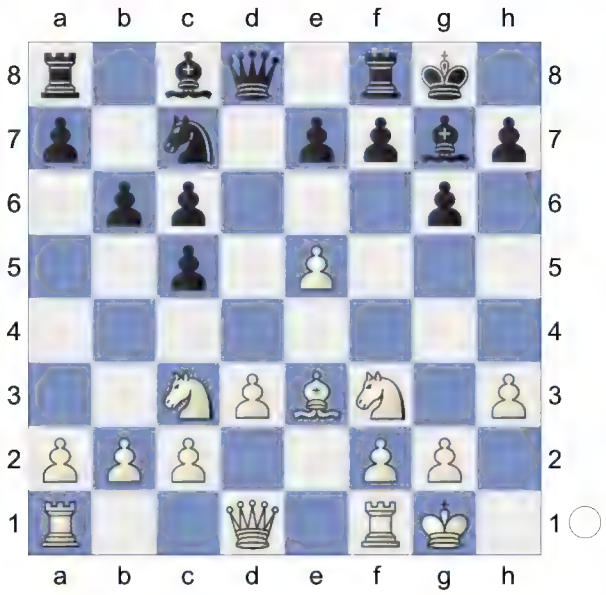
3...g6N

[3...e6 4.d4 Nge7 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.0-0 Bd7 9.Nc3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.a3 *(11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Qb3 Nb4 13.Rxe7 Qxe7 14.Bxd7 Nxa2 15.Bf5 Nxc1 16.Rxc1 g6 17.Bh3 Rad8 18.g3 Rfe8 19.Ne5 Rd6 20.Rc5 Rb6 21.Qc3 f6 22.Rc7 Qd6 23.Rd7 Qf8 24.Nd3 Rd8 25.Nc5 Qe8* 1-0 (30) Vasiukov,E-Timoscenko,G USSR 20/370 1975) 11...Rc8 12.Bd3 Re8 13.Be4 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 Qc7 17.c4 Red8 18.Rad1 1-0 (72) Grischuk,A (2709)-Radjabov,T (2728) World Blitz Rishon Le Zion ISR 2006 (2) Na5 19.c5 Bc6 20.h4 Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Rd5 22.Bf4 Qd8 23.Bd6 Nc4 24.Bg3 Rcxc5 25.dxc5 Rxd1 26.Qxc4 Rxe1+ 27.Nxe1 Qd1 28.Qf1 Qc1 29.a4 Qxc5 30.Nf3 Kg7 31.Qb5 Qxb5 32.axb5 a6 33.b6 1-0 (72) Hanke,L (2709)-10. ♗c2 c5 11.♘bd2 15267 (2728) NAICCC VIII 9600 1996 (2)]

4.0-0 Bg7 5.d3 Nf6

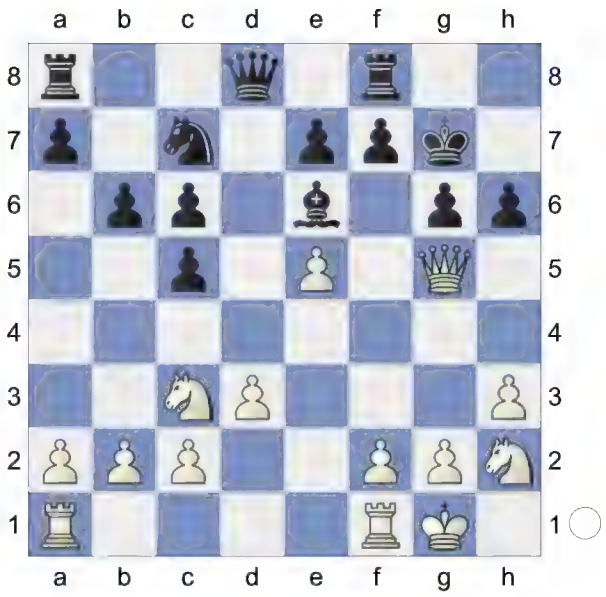


6.Nc3 0-0 7.e5 Ne8 8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.h3 Nc7 10.Be3 b6

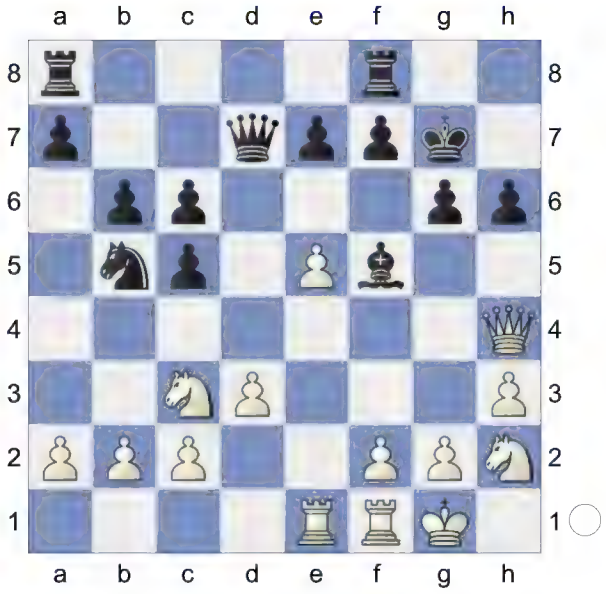


11.Qd2 Be6 12.Bh6 Bd5 13.Bxg7 White is slightly better. **13...Kxg7 14.Nh2 Be6 15.Qg5** 0.24/19
[15.Rad1± 0.63/18]
15...h6

(Diagram)

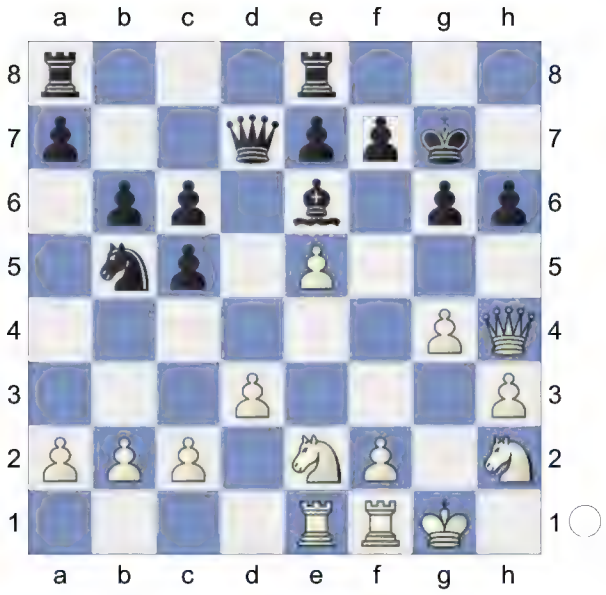


16.Qg3 Qd7 17.Rae1 Bf5 1.03/18
[17...Nb5± 0.34/19]
18.Qh4 0.66/21
[18.f4± 1.03/18]
18...Nb5 1.03/18
[18...Be6± 0.66/21]

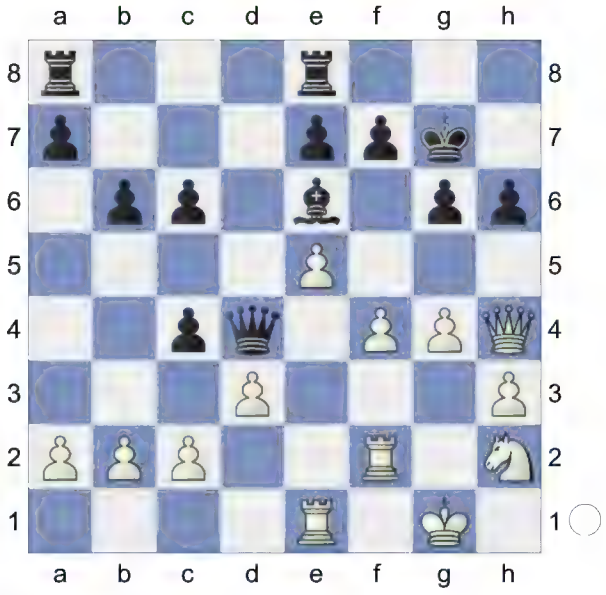


19.Ne2 0.37/19
[19.Nd1!± 1.03/18]
19...Rfe8 1.09/20
[19...Nd4± 0.37/19]
20.g4± Be6

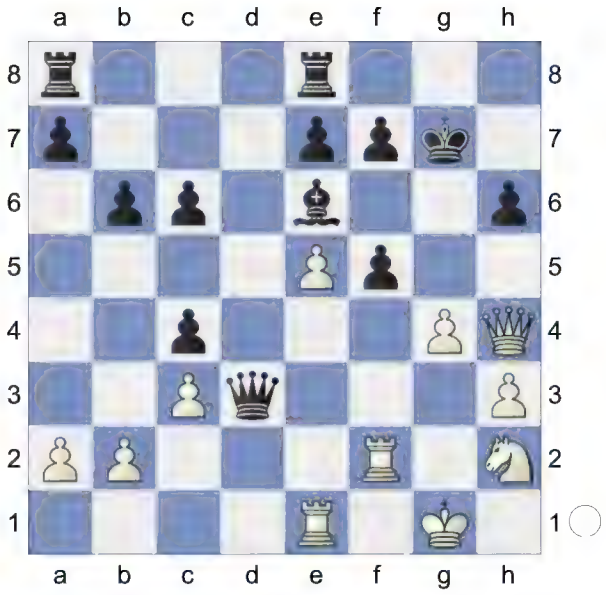
(Diagram)



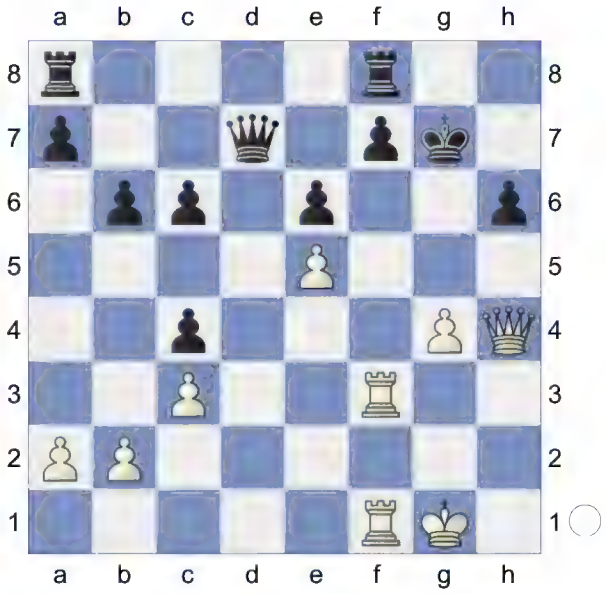
21.f4 Nd4 22.Nxd4 0.68/19
[22.f5!± 1.20/19 gxf5 23.Nf4 Nxc2 24.gxf5 Qd4+ *(24...Bxa2? 25.f6+ exf6 26.exf6+ Kh7 27.Ng4+-)* 25.Rf2 Nxe1 26.fxe6 Nxd3 Pin 27.Qg3+ Kh7 28.Nxd3]
22...Qxd4+± 23.Rf2! c4 1.40/18
[Black should try 23...Rad8!± 0.64/19]



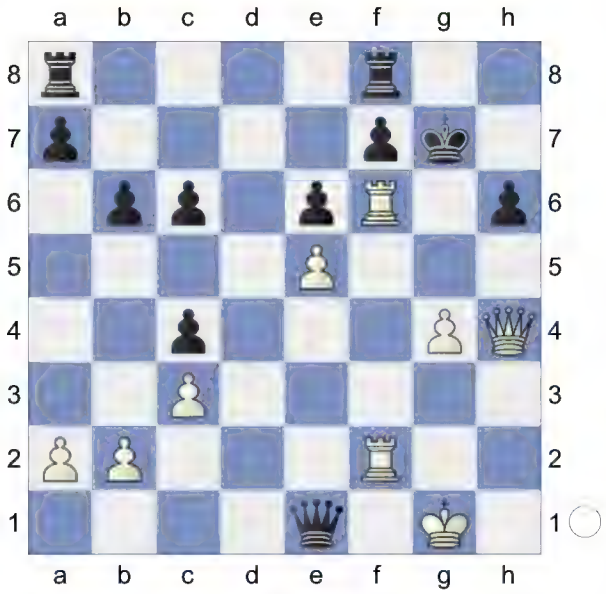
24.f5!± gxf5 25.c3 -0.06/21
[25.Nf3± 1.20/20 Qc5 26.gxf5 Bxf5 27.dxc4]
25...Qxd3=



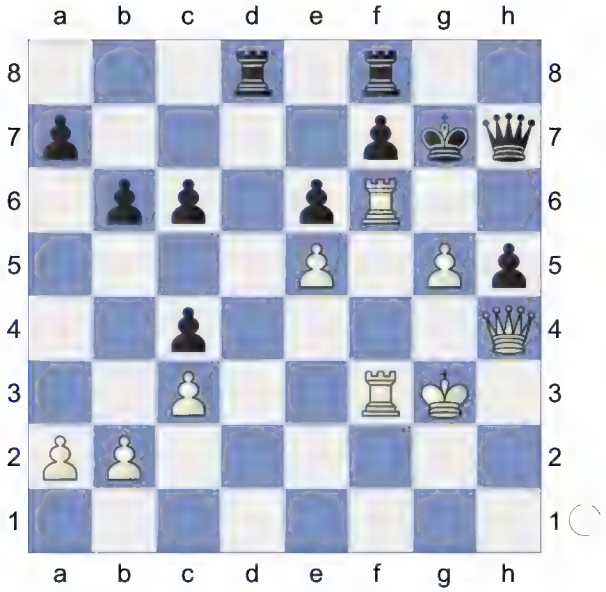
26.gxf5 Bxf5 27.Rf3 Qd7 28.Ref1 0.72/18
[28.Qxc4? Rg8 *(28...Bxh3? 29.Rg3+ Kh8 30.Qh4+-)* 29.Ng4 Qe6∓]
[28.Rg3+!= -0.01/19 Kh7 29.Nf3 *(29.Qxc4? Qe6-+)*]
28...e6? 5.46/20
[28...Bg6± 0.72/18 is tougher.]
29.Ng4!+-
[29.Qxc4 Rg8 30.Ng4 Qd2∓]
29...Bxg4 30.hxg4 White threatens Qf6+ and mate. **30...Rf8**



31.Rf6? 0.00/27
[31.Qf6++- 7.11/18 Kg8 32.Rh3 *(32.Qxh6 f5+-)*]
31...Qd2= 32.R1f4 Qc1+ 33.Kg2
Really sharp! **33...Qc2+?** 2.82/23
[33...Qd2+= 0.00/22 34.Kh3 Qe3+ 35.Kg2 Qd2+]
34.Rf2? 0.00/29
[White has to play 34.Kh3+- 2.82/23 Qd3+ 35.Rf3]
34...Qe4+ 35.Kg1 Qe1+

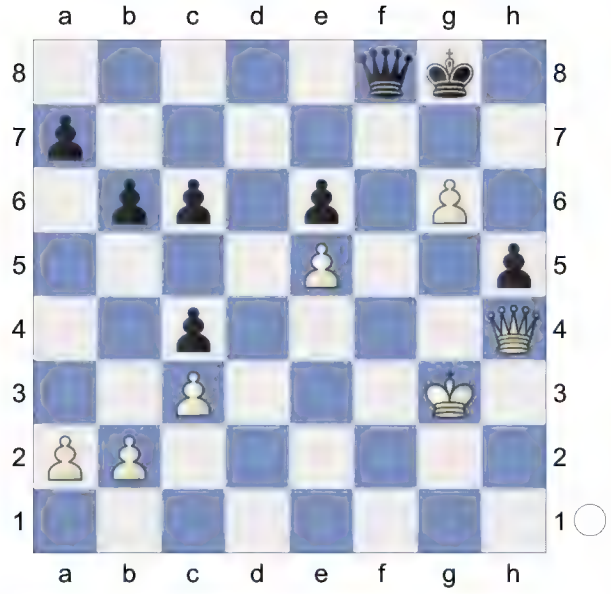


36.Kg2 Qe4+ 37.R2f3 Qc2+ 38.Kh3 Qh7 5.26/21
[38...Qc1= 0.00/19 and Black stays safe. 39.Qf2 Qh1+ 40.Kg3 Rad8 41.Rxf7+ Rxf7 42.Rxf7+ Kg8]
39.Kg3? 0.79/16
[39.g5+- 5.26/21 Threatens to win with g6. Qb1 40.Kh2 *(40.Rxh6 Qh1+ 41.Kg4 Qxh4+ 42.Rxh4 Rad8∓; 40.Qxh6+ Kg8+-; 40.gxh6+ Kh8±)*]
39...Rad8± 40.g5→ 0.00/18 White is up to no good.
[40.Qh5!± 0.52/22 Rd7 41.a4]
40...h5? 8.64/20
[40...Rd3= 0.00/18 41.gxh6+ *(41.Rxh6? Rxf3+ 42.Kxf3 Qd3+ 43.Kg2 Qe2+ 44.Kh3 Qxe5-+)* 41...Kh8]



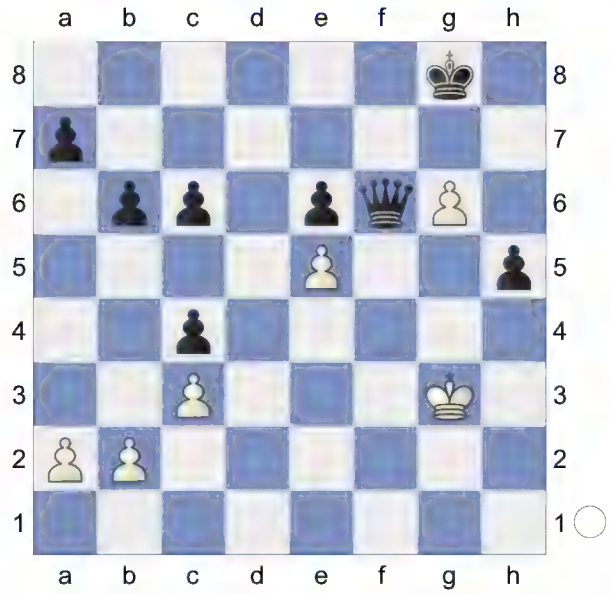
41.g6+-
[41.Qxc4 Qb1 42.Qf4 Qe1+ 43.Rf2 Qg1+ 44.Kh4 Qg4+ *(44...Qh1+ 45.Rh2=)* 45.Qxg4 hxg4=]
41...Qh6 42.Rxf7+
[42.Qxc4 Qg5+ *(42...fxg6 43.Qxe6 Qg5+ 44.Kh3∓)* 43.Kh3 Rd1 *(43...Qxe5 44.Rxf7+ Rxf7 45.gxf7∓; 43...fxg6 44.Rg3=)* 44.Rxf7+ Rxf7 45.Rxf7+ Kg8-+ *(45...Kh6 46.Qe4±)*]
42...Kg8 43.Rxf8+? 3.11/22
[43.Qxc4? Qxg6+ 44.Kh4 Rxf7∓]
[43.Qf6 11.18/23 a5 44.g7 *(44.Qxe6 Qg5+ 45.Kh3 Qg4+ 46.Qxg4 hxg4+ 47.Kxg4 Rfe8+-)* 44...Qxf6 45.gxf8Q+ *(45.gxf8R+ Rxf8 46.R7xf6 Rxf6+-)* 45...Rxf8 46.R7xf6 Rxf6 47.exf6]
43...Rxf8 44.Rxf8+
[44.Qxc4 Qg5+ *(44...Qxg6+? 45.Kf2-+)* 45.Kf2 Qd2+ *(45...Qxg6 46.Qxc6 Rxf3+ 47.Qxf3∓; 45...Qxe5 46.Rxf8+ Kxf8 47.Qxc6∓)* 46.Qe2 Rxf3+ 47.Kxf3 Qxe2+ 48.Kxe2 Kg7-+]

44...Qxf8



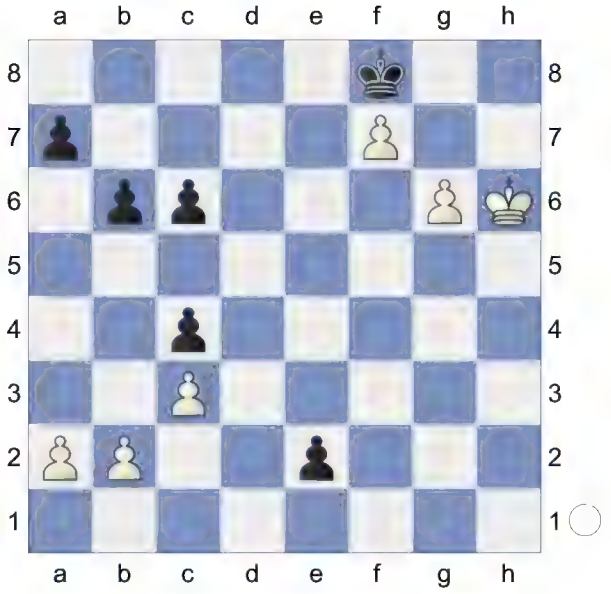
45.Qf6
[45.Qxc4 Qf5 46.Kh4 Kg7∓ *(46...Qxg6 47.Qf4∓)*]
[Don't do 45.Qxh5?! Qg7±]

45...Qxf6 7.50/17
[45...Qe8 2.22/19 46.Kh4 Qd7]



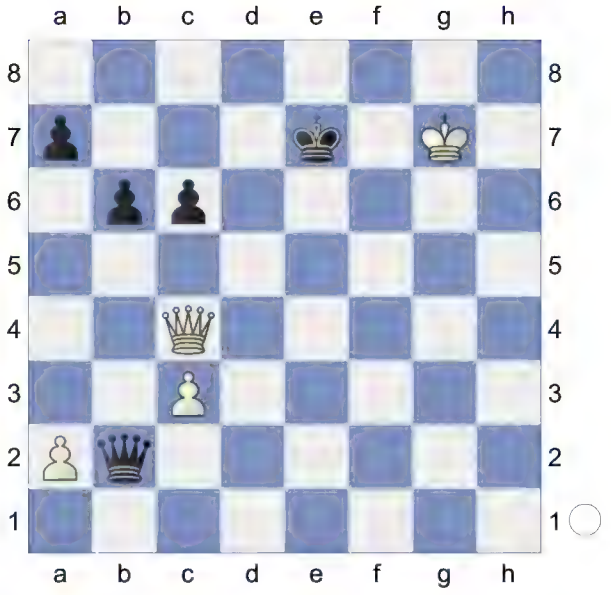
46.exf6 Endgame KP-KP. Black is a pawn up. **46...e5 47.Kh4 e4 48.Kxh5?** -0.02/20
[White should try 48.Kg3+- 7.46/21 a5 49.Kf4]

48...e3= 49.Kh6! e2 50.f7+ Kf8



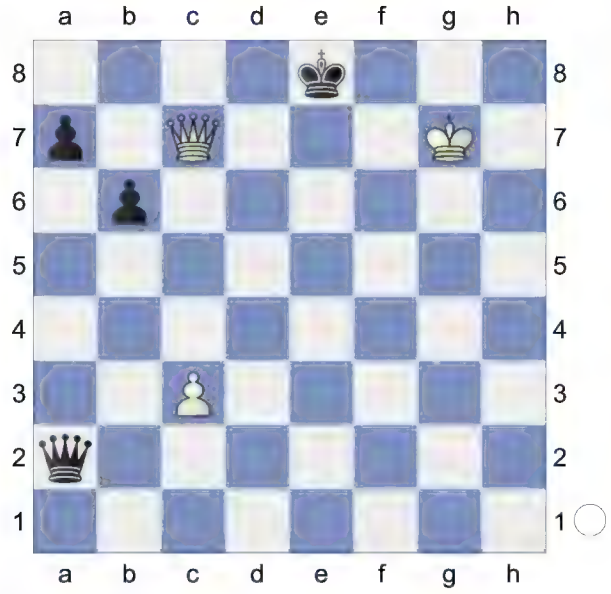
51.g7+
[51.Kh7!? e1Q□ 52.g7+ Kxf7 53.g8Q+ Ke7 54.Qg7+ Kd8 55.Qxa7∓]

51...Kxf7 52.Kh7 e1Q 53.g8Q+ KQ-KQ. Black is a pawn up. **53...Ke7 54.Qxc4 Qb1+ 55.Kg7** The position is equal. **55...Qxb2**



56.Qxc6 Qxa2 57.Qc7+ Ke8 58.Qc8+ Ke7 White must now prevent ...Qf7+.
59.Qc7+ Black escapes into a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.62/

Black=0.87
59...Ke8

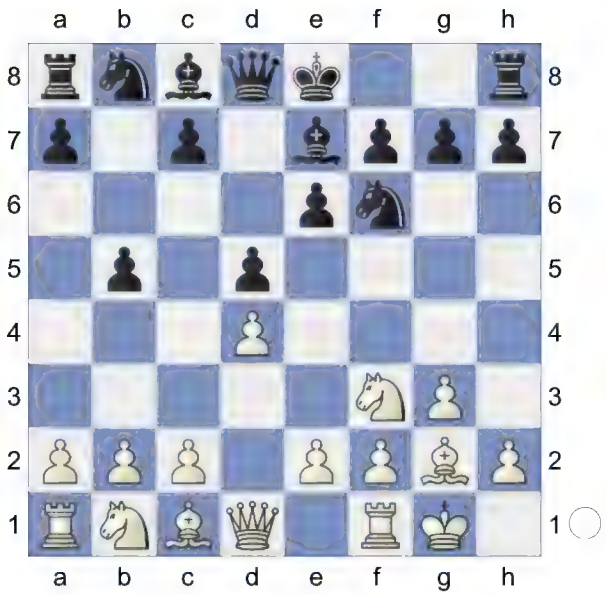


½-½

203 **A46**
□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2497**
■ **Howell,David** **2685**
Gibraltar Masters 2019 (8.12) 29.01.2019
[Dimitrijevic,Aleksandra]

The following game between the young Indian prodigy and strong English Grandmaster was really entertaining. Gukesh is a rising star, while Howell is an experienced player who played quite well throughout the event and shared the 3rd place in the end making the best of Aronian's reckless play in the last round.
A46: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6: Torre, London and Colle Systems
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Be7 5.d4N
[5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 b6 7.d3 Bb7 8.Nbd2 Nbd7 9.Re1 c5 10.e4 d4 11.e5 Nd5 12.Ne4 Qc7 13.h4 Bc6 Chapter Reti Opening-Reti/KIA Mix #3]
[5.d3 0-0
A) 6.Nbd2 Nc6 *(6...b6 7.e4 dxe4 8.dxe4 Bb7 9.Qe2 Qc8 10.e5 Nfd7 11.Ne4 Nc6 12.Bf4 Nc5 13.Nxc5 Bxc5 14.Rfd1 Ne7 15.Be3 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 Nf5 17.Qe2 c5 18.c3 Qc7* Chapter-Game Chapter 1957*; 6...Nbd7 7.e4 dxe4 8.dxe4 e5 9.Qe2 c6 10.Nc4 Qc7 11.Nh4 Ne8 12.Nf5 Nb6 13.Nxe7+ Qxe7 14.Ne3 Nd6 15.a4 a5 16.b3 Rd8 17.Ba3 Qc7 18.f4 exf4 19.gxf4 Re8 20.Qd3 c5 21.Rad1* 1-0 (22) Schoemans,R-Cluyts,M Lommel Summer op 22nd 2002 (4) *)* 7.e4 dxe4 8.dxe4 e5 9.Qe2 Bc5 10.c3 a5 11.Nc4 Qe7 12.Ne3 Bxe3 13.Qxe3 a4 14.Nh4 Be6 15.Qe2 Rfd8 16.Nf5 ½-½ Campos,J (2514)-Haapala,S (2564) Los Angeles 2011 (4.1);
B) 6.Bf4 Nc6 7.d4 b6 8.c4 Bb7 9.Nc3 Na5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.Qc2 Rc8 13.e4 Bb7 14.Rad1 Qd7 15.Ne5 Qb5 16.Rfe1 Rfd8 17.Bh3 Bb4 18.Re3 Bd6 19.d5 Bxe5 1-0 (36) Hantel,T (2812)-C 06/32 (2792) 4th London Classic Open 2012 (3)]
5...b5

(Diagram)



A very popular move nowadays. **6.a4 b4 7.c4**

[7.Nbd2 Ribli,Zoltan 2605 - Luther, Thomas 2510, Tilburg 1994 - 61/365]

7...bxc3 8.Nxc3 0-0

[Also, it is possible to continue with 8...Nbd7 9.Bf4 c6 Prevents Nb5. 10.Rc1 0.07/20 *(10.a5± 0.57/20)* 10...Ba6 11.b4

A) 11...Nh5 0.75/21 11...Bxb4 0.37 12.Bd2 0-0 1.03/23 *(12...Nhf6!± 0.60/22)* 13.b5± cxb5 14.axb5 Bb7 (Harikrishna,Penteala 2551 - Sasikiran,Krishnan 2670, Hastings 2002/03) 15.Ne5±;

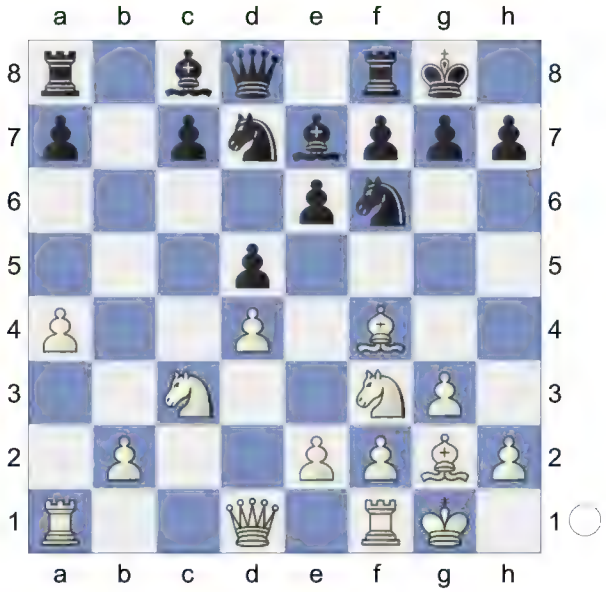
B) 11...Bxb4 12.Na2 Ba5 13.Rxc6 Bc4 14.Qc2 White wants to play Bd6. Rc8 15.Rxc8 Qxc8 16.Nd2 Nb6∞]

9.Bf4

[A rather interesting is 9.Ne5 Nfd7 10.Nd3 Nc6 0.58/17 *(10...a5=* 0.22/20 *)* 11.e4!± Nf6 12.exd5 exd5 13.Ne5± Leiva,Giuseppe 2427 - Santiago, Yago de Moura 2453, Florianopolis (zt) 2017. Wards off Bg4]

9...a5N

[Known moves are: 9...Nbd7 0.82/12 9...c6 0.38



10.Nb5! Ne8 11.Rc1 c5 12.e4↑ Dilanyan,Grigor 2281 - Kalashian, David 2409, Armenia 2013]

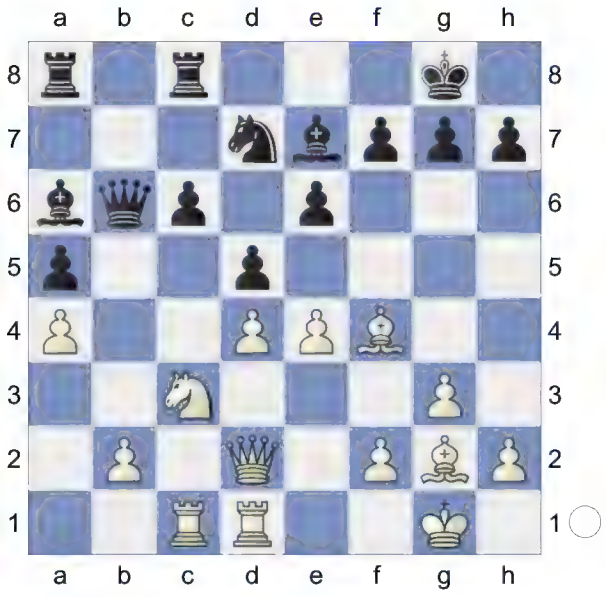
[9...c5 10.Rc1 *(10.Nb5* 0.16/5 10.Rc1 0.76 *Na6 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.Rc1=* Manog,Mondo - Rupp, Markus 2243, Internet (blitz) 2004*)* 10...Qb6 (Simonsen,Hans Kristian 2240 - Thinius,Marco 2389, Gausdal 2003) 11.e4!?↑]

[9...c6 10.Ne5 Nfd7 11.Nd3 a5 12.e4 Na6 13.exd5 exd5 14.Re1 Bf6 0.51/18 *(14...Nb4=* -0.01/9 *)* 15.Ne2± Re8∞ Bluebaum,Matthias 2620 - Prusikin,Michael 2510, Deutschland 2018]

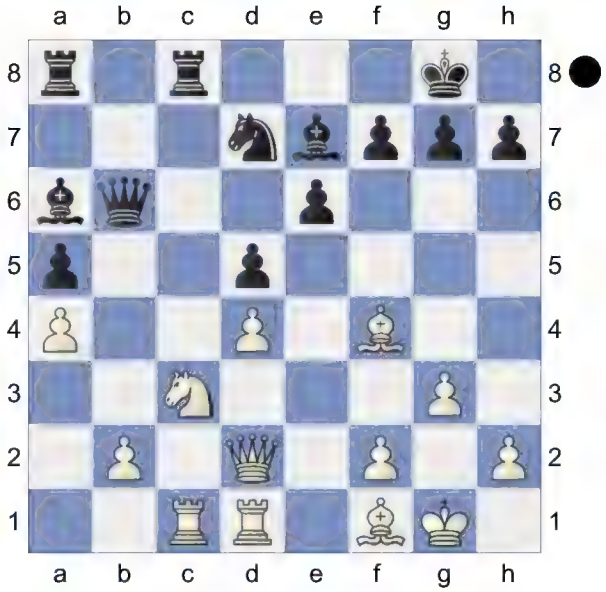
10.Rc1 c6

(Diagram)

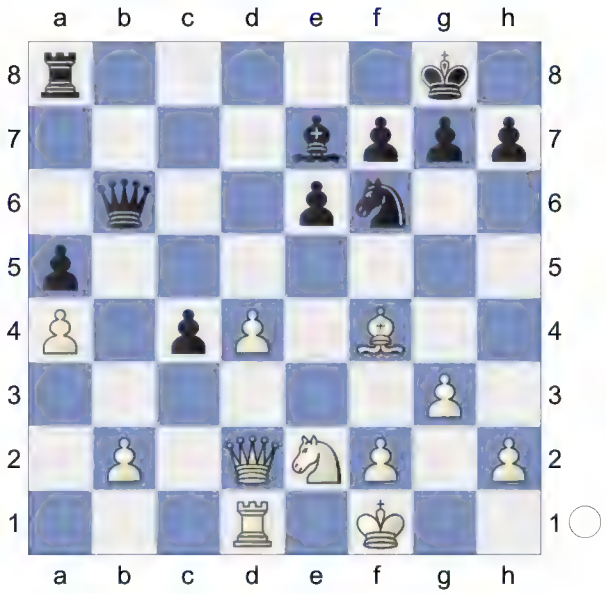
White is slightly better. **11.Ne5**
[White should play 11.Re1 and after Ba6 12.e4±]
11...Ba6 12.Qd2 -0.46/18
[12.Re1= 0.18/3]
12...Nfd7 13.Nxd7
[White is well advised to try 13.Nf3±]
13...Nxd7= 14.Rfd1 Qb6 -0.36/5
[14...Bc4∓ -0.81/17]
15.e4∓ Rfc8



16.exd5 Too early opening of the position.
[Interesting here is 16.h4=]
16...cxd5 17.Bf1



Bxf1! 18.Kxf1
[White should try to keep his king safe: 18.Rxf1 Rc4 19.Ne2∓]
18...Rc4 19.Ne2 Nf6 -0.58/18
Black has more active pieces.
[19...Rxa4∓ -1.01/19 20.Rc7 Rd8]
20.Rxc4 dxc4

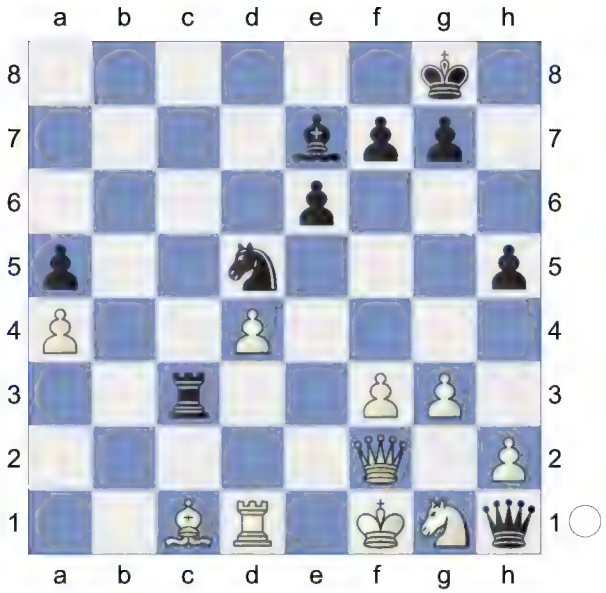


21.Be3 -1.49/4
[A bit better was 21.Nc3∓]
[21.Nc3∓ -0.58/22]
21...Qc6∓ 22.Qc2 -1.86/7
[22.Rc1∓ -1.79/20 22.Nc3 -1.36 was

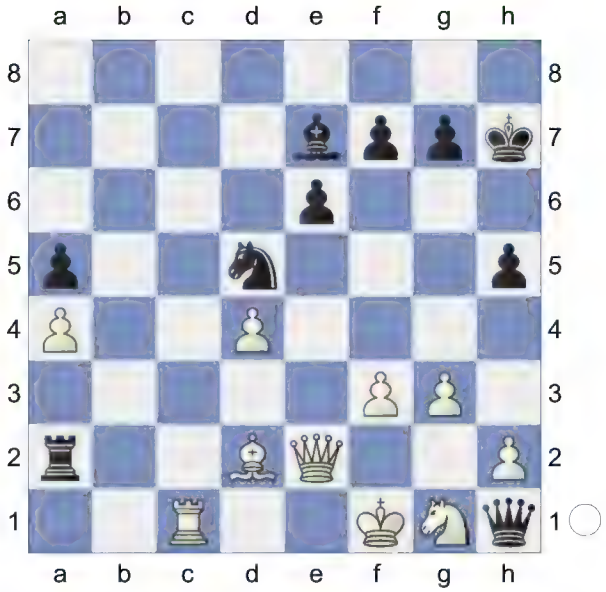
necessary at this point.]
[22.Nc3∓ -1.49/17]
22...Qh1+ 23.Ng1 Rc8 -1.18/16
[⌓23...Qxh2 -1.01/17 23...Ng4 -1.74 24.Nf3 -1.80/19 *(24.Qxc4∓ -1.01/17 Ng4 25.Ke2)* 24...Qh5∓]
[23...Qxh2 24.Qxc4 Ng4 25.Ke2∓]
[23...Ng4-+ -1.71/20 24.Qxc4 Nxe3+ *(24...Nxh2+ 25.Ke2∓)* 25.fxe3 Qxh2]
White does not recover from this. **24.f3?** -3.09/10
[24.Bg5∓ offers a better defence.]
[24.Bg5∓ -1.18/16 was worth a try.]
24...Nd5-+ 25.Bc1 h5 -1.59/3
[25...Bb4-+ -3.09/20 ...h5 would now be deadly. 26.f4 c3]

26.Qf2? -3.10/6
[26.Qg2∓ -1.59/3 Qxg2+ 27.Kxg2]
26...c3 27.bxc3 Rxc3 Diagram
[27...Nxc3 28.Re1-+]

(Diagram)



28.Bd2?
[28.Bf4]
28...Rc2 29.Rc1 Ra2 30.Qe2 Kh7
[A bit simpler for Black is 30...Bb4 31.Qd3? -6.41/2 *(31.Rc8+ -3.22/4 Kh7 32.f4)* 31...Ne3+!-+ 32.Qxe3 Strongly threatening Rc8+. Rxd2 33.Qxd2 Bxd2-+]



31.Rc8? -7.60/19
[31.Rc2 -3.51/3 31.Rc7 -2.41 Rxc2 32.Qe4+ Kg8 33.Qxc2 Qxh2]
[31.Rc2 -3.51/11 Rxc2 *(31...Rxa4*

32.Bc1∓) 32.Qd3+ g6 33.Qxc2 Qxh2 34.Qd3]

31...g6

[31...Bb4 32.Rc2 Bxd2 33.Qd3+? -8.90/19 *(33.Qxd2 -3.95/7 Ra3 34.Qf2 Ne3+ 35.Ke1 Ra1+ 36.Rc1* Decoy *Rxc1+ 37.Kd2 Rxg1 38.Kxe3)* 33...g6 34.Rxa2 Ne3+ 35.Qxe3 Bxe3]

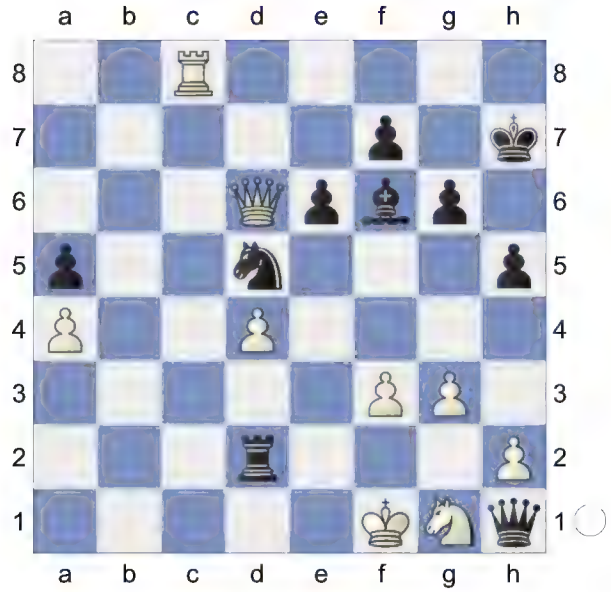
32.Qe5 Bf6 Skewer

[Inferior is 32...Rxd2 33.Qh8#]

33.Qd6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.86/ Black=0.40

33...Rxd2



0-1

204 **A49**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2456**

■ **Almasi,Zoltan** **2702**

chess.com IoM Masters (9.16) 28.10.18

[TA]

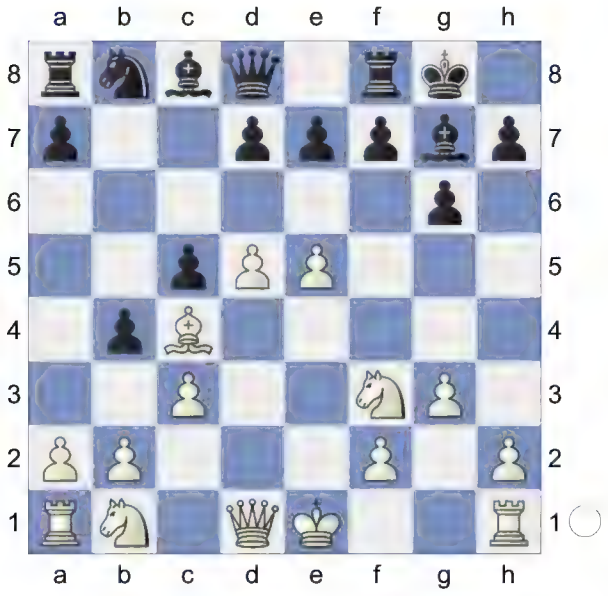
A49: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 g3: Anti-King's Indian systems

Belov,Igor: 'ChessCalisthenics: 'A39: Symmetrical English vs ...g6: 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 Nf3 Nf6 6 0-0 0-0 7 d4'' **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 c5 4.c3N**

[4.c4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc3 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.Qd3 *(10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Qe3 Bxc3 13.Qxc3 Qb6 14.Rad1 Be6 15.b3 Rfc8 16.h4 Rc5 17.Qf3 Rb8 18.Qf4 h5 19.Qh6 Qd8 20.Be4 Qf8 21.Qe3 a6 22.Bxg6 Bh3 23.Bd3 Bxf1 24.Kxf1 Re5* 1-0 (66) Englisch,C (2087)-Cobigo,J (1654) Sautron op 18th 2018 (2.30)*; 10.Qd2 Be6 11.Bxb7 Rb8 12.Bd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.cxd5 Qd7 15.e4 Rfc8 16.Qe2 Qa4 17.b3 Rxb3 18.axb3 Qxa1 19.Be3 Qa5 20.Rc1 Rxc1+ 21.Bxc1 Qc3 22.Be3 Qxb3 23.Bxa7 Bf6 24.Qe3 Qxe3* ½-½ (30) Skotorenko,V-Sher,M UKR-ch42 Dnepropetrovsk 1973 (6)*)* 10...a6 *(10...Bf5 11.e4 Be6 12.b3 a6 13.Bb2 Nd7 14.Qd2 Nc5 15.f4 Rc8 16.f5 Bd7 17.f6 exf6 18.Nd5 f5 19.exf5 Bxf5 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qd4+ f6 22.g4 Be6 23.Nxf6 Rxf6 24.g5 Bf5 25.Rad1* 1-0 (31) Smyslov,V (2545)-Timman,J (2620) Moscow_262537 1981 (2)*)* 11.Be3 Bf5 12.Qd2 Qd7 13.Bd4 Rab8 14.Rac1 Be6 15.b3 b5 16.cxb5 axb5 17.e4 Ng4 18.Rc2 Rfc8 ½-½ (65) Yuriev,V (2480)-Simpson,J (2515) SU 1970 (2) 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Rfc1 Qa7 21.Qe2 b4 22.Nd5 Rxc2 23.Rxc2 Bxd5 24.exd5 Ne5 25.h3 h5 26.Qe4 Rb5 27.Kh2 f5 28.Qf4 Ra5 29.Qd2 Nd7 30.Qe2 Ne5 31.f4 Nf7 32.Qd2 Qb6 33.Rc4 Qa7 ½-½ (65) Abramovic,B (2480)-Cebalo,M (2515) EUCup f Ljubljana 1995 (2)]

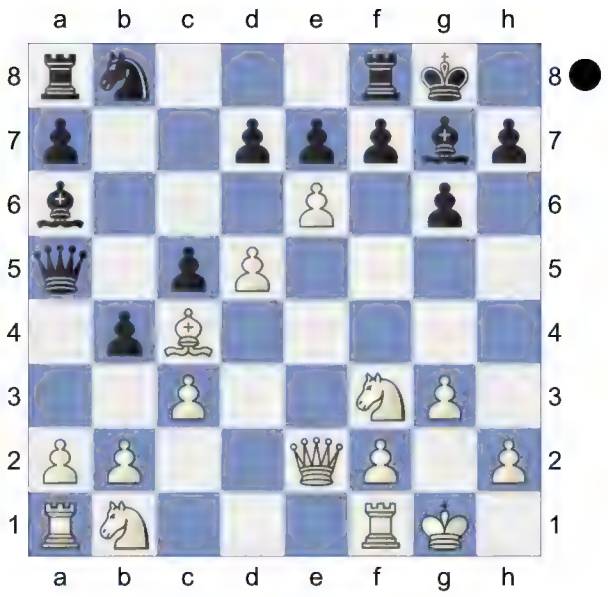
4...b6 5.Bg5 Bg7

6.Bxf6 -0.15/21
[⌓6.Bg2 0.29/21]
6...Bxf6= 7.d5 b5 8.e4 Black has an edge. **8...b4 9.e5 Bg7 10.Bc4 0-0**

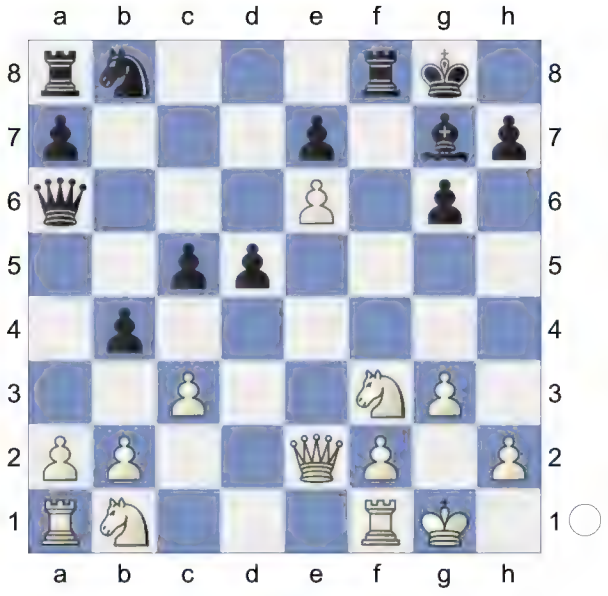


11.0-0 Qa5 -0.09/20
[11...d6∓ -0.89/19 12.e6 fxe6]
12.e6 Ba6 This move loses the game for White. **13.Qe2** -1.64/20
[13.exf7+= -0.18/18 and White is okay. Rxf7 14.Be2]

(Diagram)

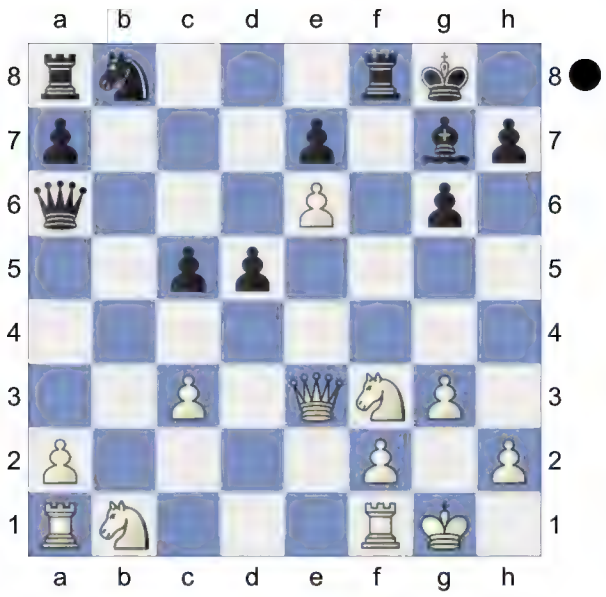


13...fxe6!-+
[13...bxc3 14.Nxc3 Bxc4 15.Qxc4=]
14.dxe6 d5
[14...bxc3 15.exd7+ Kh8 16.Nxc3±]
[14...Bxc4 15.Qxc4 Qa6 *(15...Rxf3? 16.Qd5+-)* 16.Nfd2∓]
15.Bxa6 Qxa6

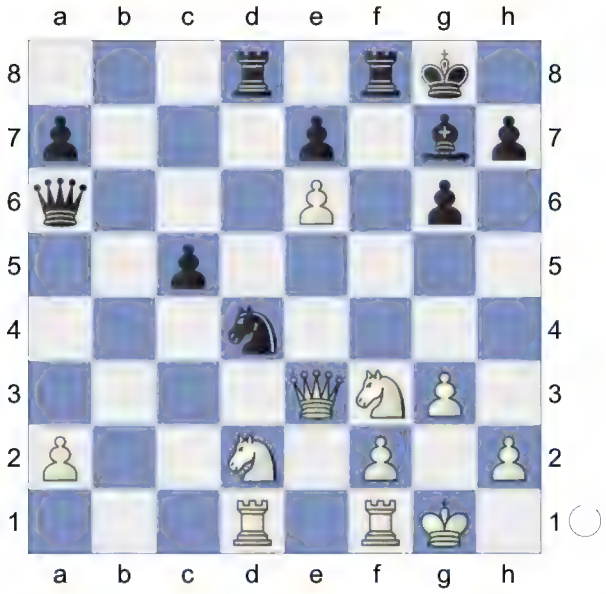


16.Qe3 -2.69/22
[16.Qd1 -1.89/17 was necessary.]
16...bxc3 17.bxc3

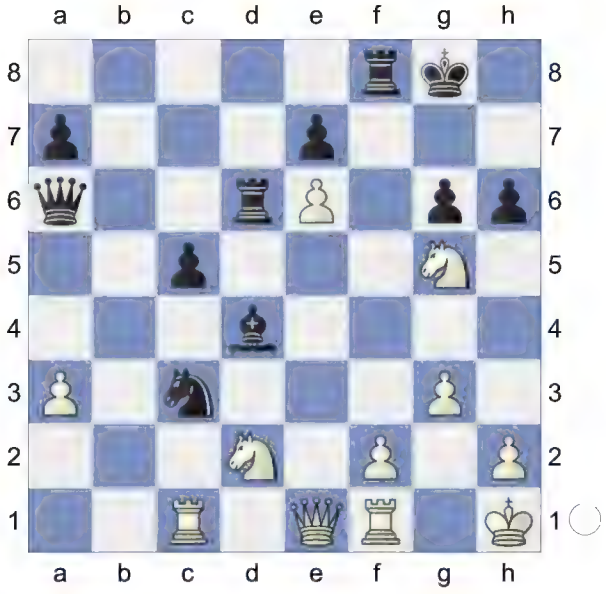
(Diagram)



d4! 18.cxd4 Nc6 19.Nbd2 Nxd4
[19...Bxd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Ne4∓]
20.Rad1 -2.92/20
[⌓20.Rae1 -1.65/19]
20...Rad8
[20...Nxe6 21.Rde1 Nd4 22.Nxd4 Bxd4 23.Qb3+ Rf7 24.Re6±]
[20...Qxe6 21.Qxe6+ Nxe6 22.Rde1=]
[20...Qxa2 21.Nxd4 Bxd4 22.Qb3 Qxb3 23.Nxb3-+]



21.a3 -3.00/18
[⌓21.Kg2 -2.03/17]
21...Rd6
[21...Nxe6 22.Rde1∓]
[21...Qxe6 22.Qxe6+ Nxe6 23.Rde1∓]
22.Ng5 Ne2+
[22...Nxe6 23.Nxe6 Rxe6 24.Qxc5-+]
23.Kh1 Nc3 Repels Nde4 **24.Rc1 Bd4**
[24...Qxa3 25.Nde4 c4 26.Nxd6 *(26.Nxc3 Rd3=; 26.Rxc3 Bxc3 27.Nxd6 Qxd6=)* 26...Qxd6 27.Rxc3 Bxc3 28.Qxc3=]
25.Qe1 h6
[25...Qxa3 26.Nc4 Qa6 27.Rxc3± *(27.Nxd6 Qxd6 28.f4 Qd5+ 29.Nf3 Ne4±)*]

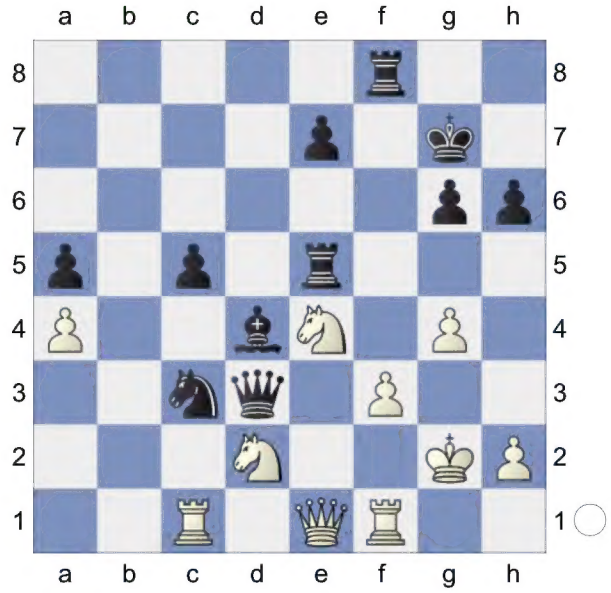


Deflection **26.Nge4** White is weak on the dark squares **26...Rxe6** and ...Nxe4 would now be decisive **27.f3 Re5**
[27...Qxa3 28.Ra1 *(28.Nc4? Qb4-+)* 28...Qb2 *(28...Qb4? 29.Rxa7 Qb2 30.Qc1-+)* 29.Rxa7]
28.Kg2 Qd3
[Don't play 28...Qxa3 29.Rc2 Qa6 30.Nb3-+]
29.a4 a5

[29...Nxa4? 30.f4 Re6 31.Rf3-+]

30.g4 Kg7

[Not 30...Nxa4 31.f4 Re6 32.f5∓]



31.h4 Rf7

[31...Nxa4? 32.f4 Re6 33.f5 gxf5 34.gxf5-+]

32.h5 g5 33.Kg3? -6.92/18

[33.Rxc3 -3.91/17 Bxc3 34.Qb1 Qxb1 35.Nxb1]

33...Rf4

[33...Nxa4? 34.Qd1-+]

34.Kg2 -8.89/21

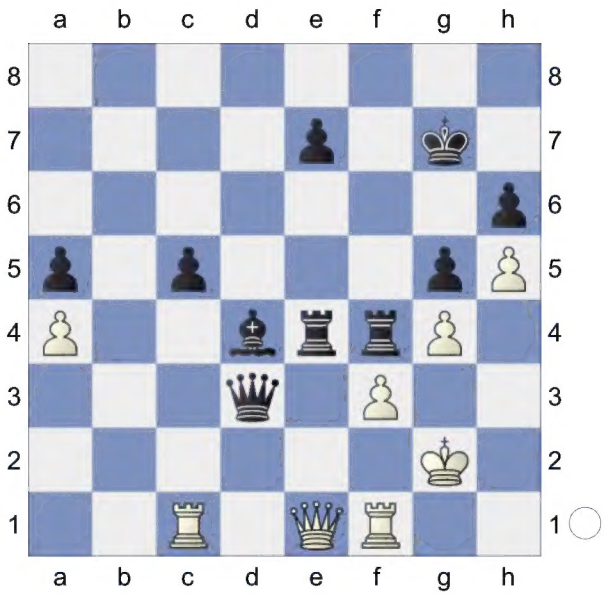
[⌓34.Rxc3 -4.11/18 Bxc3 35.Qb1 Qxb1 36.Nxb1 Rexe4 Pin 37.Nxc3]

34...Nxe4 35.Nxe4

Weighted Error Value: White=1.03/ Black=0.41

35...Rexe4

(Diagram)



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205 **A04**

□ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2360**

■ **Grinev,V** **2406**

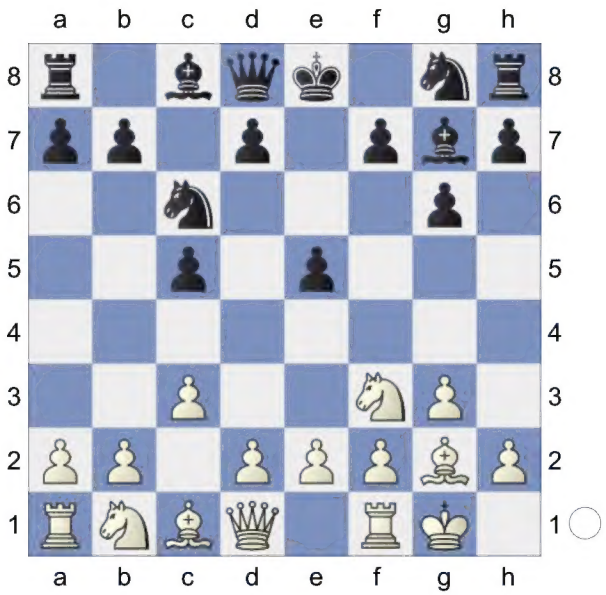
34th Cappelle Open 2018 (8.3) 09.03.18

[TA]

A04: Unusual lines after 1 Nf3 and King's Indian Attack

1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 e5

(Diagram)



6.e4 Nge7 7.a3 0-0 8.d3 d5

[8...d6 9.b4 b6 10.Nbd2 h6 11.Bb2 Be6 12.b5 *(12.Re1 Qd7 13.Qe2 Rad8 14.Rad1 f5 15.d4 fxe4 16.Nxe4 Bb3 17.Rc1 exd4 18.cxd4 cxd4 19.b5 Ne5 20.Nxd4 Bd5 21.f4 Bxe4 22.Bxe4 d5 23.Bb1 Nc4 24.Qxe7 Nxb2 25.Qb4 Rxf4 26.gxf4 Qg4+* 1-0 (33) Liang,A (2687)-Oberoi,S (2232) US Masters op 2024 (1)*)* 12...Na5 13.c4 Qd7 14.Ne1 Rad8 15.Nc2 f5 16.Ne3 f4 17.Nd5 Rf7 18.Bc3 Rdf8 19.f3 h5 20.a4 Bh6 21.Bxa5 bxa5 22.Kf2 g5 23.Qe2 0-1 (38) Damljanovic,B (2595)-Christiansen,L (2625) Interpolis Tilburg 1992 (1.1)]

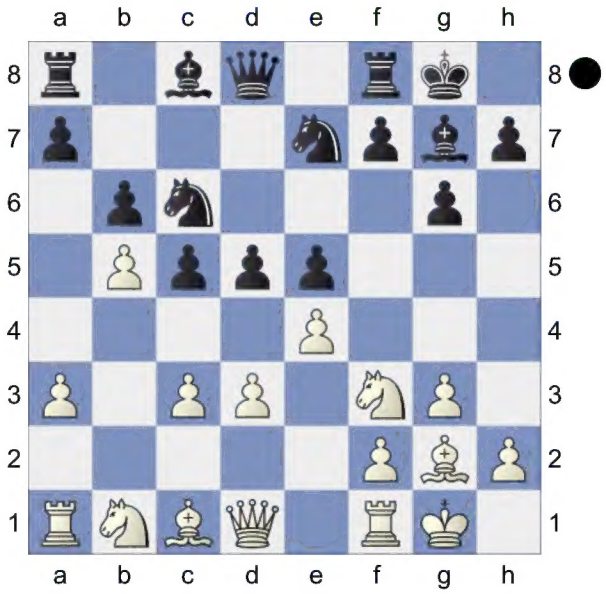
9.b4N LiveBook: 21 Games. A04: Unusual lines after 1 Nf3 and King's Indian Attack

[9.Re1 h6 10.b4 dxe4 11.dxe4 Be6 0.31/9 *(11...Qxd1∓* -0.38/2 *12.Rxd1 f5)* 12.Be3± c4 0.53/4 *(12...Qxd1=* -0.10/4 *13.Rxd1 cxb4)* 13.a4± Qxd1 14.Rxd1 f5 15.Na3 f4 1.13/15 *(⌓15...Rad8* 0.71/5 *)* 16.Bc5!± b6 17.Bxe7 Nxe7 1-0 (63) Radjabov,T (2710)-Bok,B (2598) Doha 2016]

[9.Nbd2 h6 10.b4 cxb4 11.axb4 Be6 12.b5 Na5 13.Ba3 Re8 14.Re1 Rc8 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.exd5 Bxc3 17.dxe6 Qxd3 18.Ne4 Qxd1 19.Rexd1 Bxa1 20.exf7+ Kxf7 21.Nd6+ Kf8 22.Rxa1 b6 23.Nxc8 Rxc8 1-0 (33) Ravikumar,V (2325)-Kirov,N (2475) Copenhagen Open-03 (Politiken Cup-02) 1981 (9)]

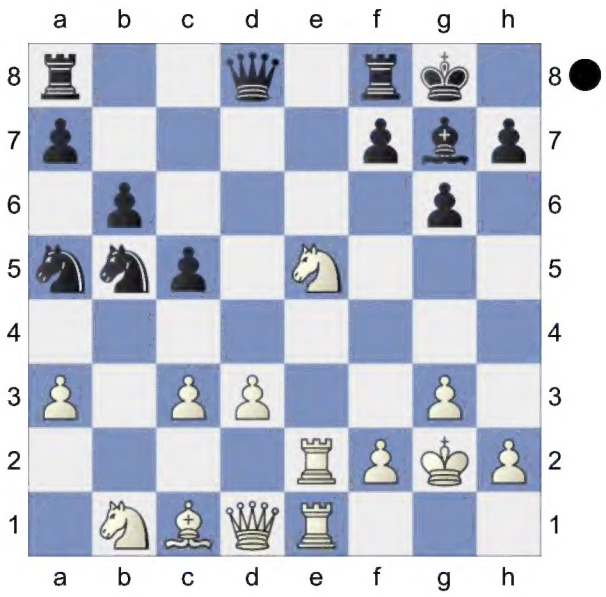
9...b6 10.Bb2N -0.54/5

[10.b5 -0.96/19 10.Qc2 -0.12

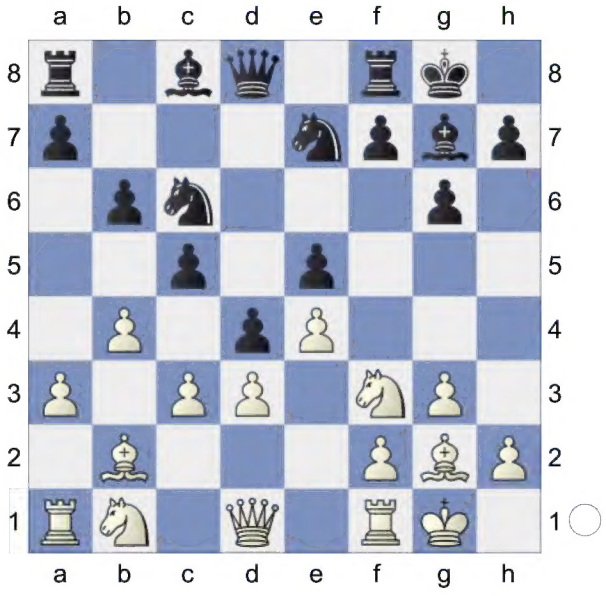


Na5 -0.33/4 *(10...dxe4!∓* -0.96/19 *11.dxe4 Na5)* 11.exd5∓ Nxd5 12.Ra2 Nc7 -0.43/4 *(12...Be6∓* -0.88/1 *13.c4 Nc7)* 13.Re1 -1.38/16 *(13.c4∓* -0.43/4 *)* 13...Bb7 -0.67/5 *(13...e4!∓* -1.38/16 *14.Rxe4 Bf5)* 14.Rae2 -1.23/5 *(White should play 14.a4∓* -0.67/5 *)* 14...Nxb5 -0.36/3 *(14...e4!∓* -1.23/5 *15.dxe4 Qxd1 16.Rxd1 Nxb5)* 15.Nxe5∓ Bxg2 16.Kxg2

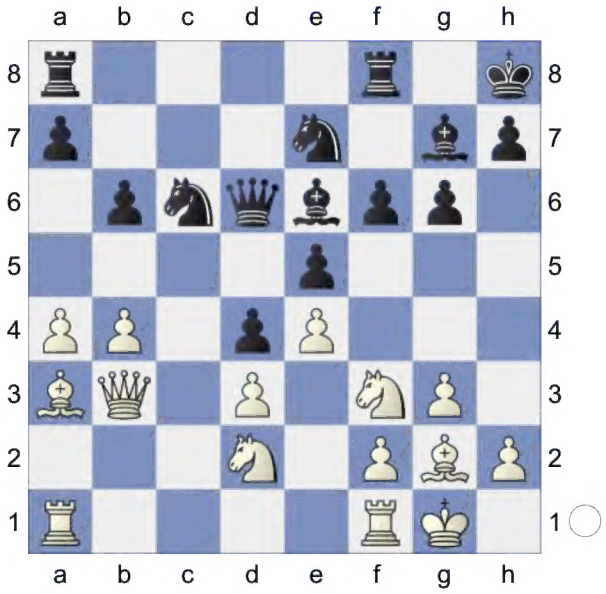
(Diagram)



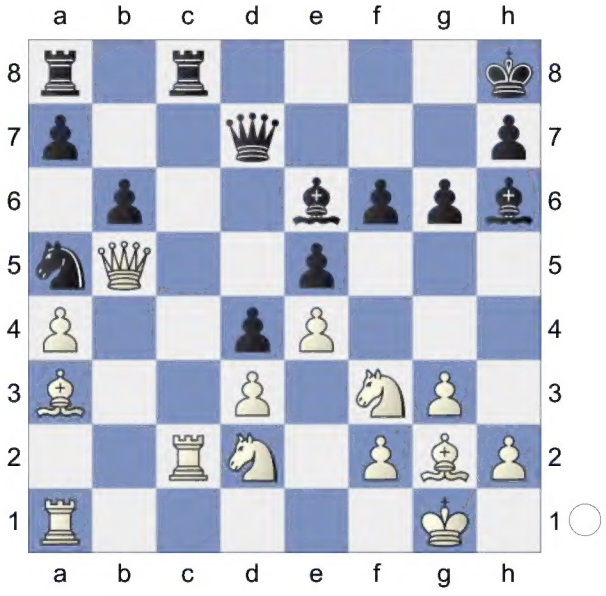
Nc6 -0.28/18 *(16...Re8!∓ -0.91/3)*
17.Nxc6 -0.92/18 0-1 (31)
Hovhannisyan,M (2507)-Szabo,G (2524) Germany 2014 *(17.Bf4!= -0.28/18* keeps the balance. *)*]
[10.Qc2= -0.12/3]
10...d4



11.cxd4 Black is slightly better.
11...cxd4
[11...cxb4? 12.d5+- *(12.dxe5 Ba6±)*]
12.Nbd2 f6 0.01/19
[12...a6∓ -0.44/7 feels stronger.]
13.Qb3+ Kh8 14.a4 Qd6 0.55/10
[Black should play 14...a6= -0.18/14]
15.Ba3!± This move loses the game for Black. **15...Be6?** 2.37/19
[15...Qd8± 0.78/14]



16.b5!+- Discovered Attack **16...Qd7 17.bxc6 Nxc6 18.Qb5 Rfc8 19.Rfc1 Bh6 20.Rc2 Na5**



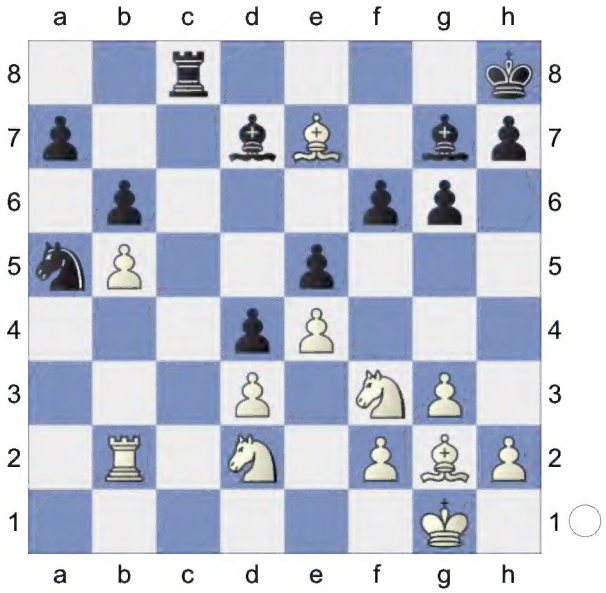
21.Rac1 Rxc2 22.Rxc2 Qxb5 23.axb5 aiming for Be7. **23...Bd7?** 2.16/4
[23...Rc8]
[⌓23...a6 1.69/4 24.bxa6 Rxa6]
24.Be7 Bg7 3.22/5

[⌓24...Kg7 1.87/3 25.Rc7 Be6]

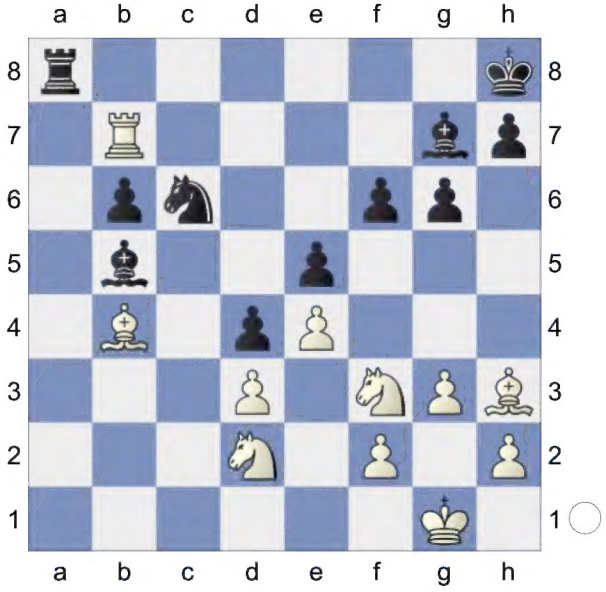
25.Rb2

[⌓25.Rc7 Bxb5 26.Nxd4! exd4 27.e5!]

25...Rc8

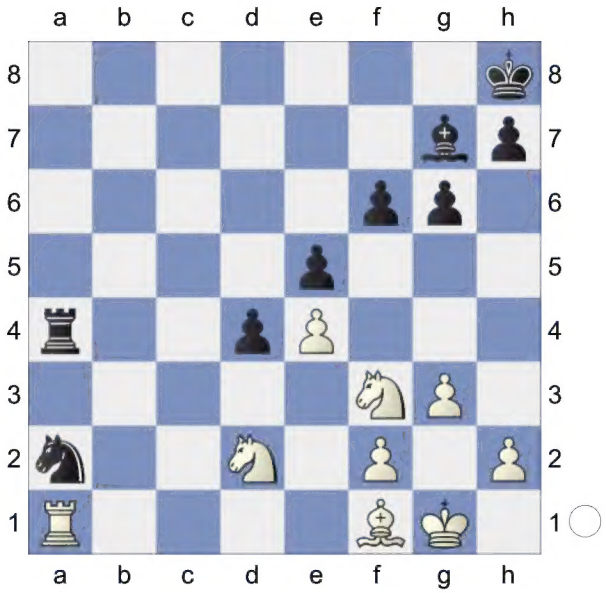


26.Bb4 Nb7 27.Ra2! Bxb5 28.Rxa7 Nd8 29.Bh3 Nc6 30.Rb7 Ra8



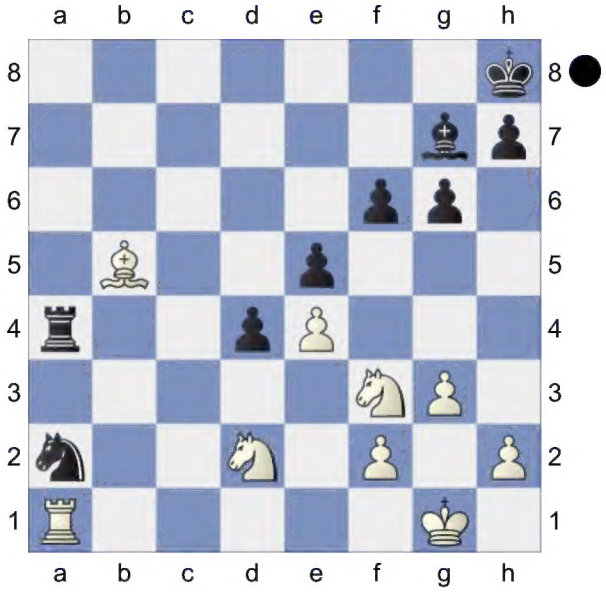
31.Rxb6 Nxb4 32.Rxb5 Nxd3 33.Bf1 Nc1 34.Rb1 Na2 35.Ra1 Ra4

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.38

36.Bb5



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